

Number 70

June 2011

Dersingham Village Voice

A close-up photograph of a flowering azalea bush. The image is filled with numerous bright pink, five-petaled flowers in various stages of bloom. The flowers are set against a backdrop of dark green, glossy leaves. The lighting is bright, creating strong highlights on the petals and deep shadows in the foliage. The background is slightly out of focus, showing a dark, textured surface that appears to be a brick wall.

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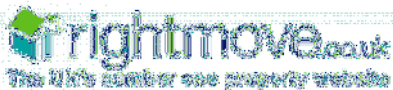
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Editor's Notes

It's not often that I get the chance to publish a picture of one of my relatives, but Elizabeth Fiddick's article on page 77 allows me to do this. It's of my grandfather. He is one of the policemen hiding behind Churchill at the Sidney Street siege. He was, in fact, the last living police survivor of this event. Well able to still touch his toes until his death at the age of 90 he had a long career in the police with his first duty being crowd control at Queen Victoria's funeral. After retiring in the late thirties he was called back for WW2 and got to patrol the Blackwall Tunnel for the duration, which he thought was a safe number. There was, of course, only the one tunnel then, lined with oblong white tiles and containing a number of angled bends with a pavement on the west side. Today the pavement has gone, the tiles are covered and the bends have been eased, not to mention that they dug another tunnel, but even now it's not a very pleasant place to spend your time.

But enough of that, you want to get stuck in to the magazine. All sorts of goodies this time with swimming, hang gliding, Elizabeth Fiddick looking back 100 years, a visit to WW1 battlefields and all the regular contributions.

As you probably know, we have a team of deliverers who are tenacious and thorough, but who are never the less human, so they might just be missing one of your front doors. If you know of any one who is missed out do please let Steve Davis - 543138 - aware so that he can make amends.

Brian Beers, the garden farmer, feels that he has run full circle with his column but is pleased to answer questions sent C/O the magazine when we will publish the answers. If you get them in in time for him to get the answers back to me for the deadline, then we can keep fairly up to date.

Don't forget that there are things for you, the reader, to do. There is the naming of the Sandringham View open space, our photographic competition and we want your suggestions for the Favourite Front Garden. So there is lots to enjoy this time, as ever, in your Village Voice. □

Can I take this opportunity to thank the 955 people who voted for me in the recent borough elections and say that I will try to look after the interests of everyone for the next 4 years.

Tony Bubb

DERSINGHAM OPEN GARDENS 29th and 30th May 2011. 2.00p.m. to 6.00p.m.

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

The gardens that are open are inspiring and all uniquely different. Added to this Cream Teas and a variety of other refreshments will be served in the Church Hall from 2.00 to 5.00p.m.

We are always interested in including new gardens for viewing, as well as the several favourite ones. Do you have a special garden feature that you would like to show others. If you would like to discuss the possibility of opening, please give me, Neil Adams, a call on 01485 540857.

Dersingham Village Voice is published by Dersingham Parish Council

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Dear Village Voice

The West Norfolk Singers are a small four part choir, looking for an accompanist to assist our Musical Director, Nigel Wickens. Nigel has an excellent pedigree as an accomplished professional singer and also as a singing teacher at Peterhouse, Cambridge.

The choir has been in existence in Heacham, in one form or another, for many decades and has improved greatly under Nigel's leadership.

From the beginning of September to the end of April, we rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 19.30 until 21.00 at the Methodist Church in Heacham. Concerts are performed at various churches in the West Norfolk area at Christmastime and also in the spring. Our choice of music is varied, encompassing both sacred and secular pieces. Our numbers vary between 25 – 30 members and although the majority of singers are "mature", we are enthusiastic, loyal and above all enjoy making music.

If you feel that you are able to help in anyway, or alternatively know of anyone else who would be interested in this role, could you please contact me, so that we could discuss the matter in more detail.

Many of the choir, including myself, live in Dersingham, so if you are a singer and looking for something different to do, we would be delighted to welcome you.

Heather Titcomb, Chair, 01485 542960

This group were part of the Wesley Chapel Sunday School on a day out at Hunstanton, I think the photo was taken in front of the old Blue Lagoon pool, around 1950. The man in the photo was Walter Senter who lived at 2 Manor Road, he had a carpenters shop on the rear of the house and one night a week we would go there for woodwork and a drink and cake afterwards.

A group of girls also used to go to house and do needlework with Mrs Senter.

As some of the people on the photo write to Village Voice perhaps they have memories of this.

Bernie Twite



Rear L to R Bob Reid, David Lines, John Playford, Peter Hooks, Malcom Nurse.
Front Dick Melton, Ivan Green Alan Goff, Mr Senter, Melvyn Green, Bernie Twite.

We would like to thank the kind person who has left us bags of apples on two occasions as we cannot recognise the name on the note - unfortunately our door bell is erratic! We have tried asking the neighbours to no avail so it is obviously someone who knows us by sight.

Terry & Margaret Shorter, The Green.

Many years ago the blame would be put on the cinders thrown out from the steam trains and now it could be fag ends thrown out of a car window on the bypass, what am I talking about, the cause of the fire on the fen on Good Friday.

This was rather a bad fire covering about 20 acres and of course it came at the wrong time of year, early summer when there is an abundance of wildlife on the fen.

There has over the years been many fires large and small on the fen, before 1960 most of them were caused by the firemen throwing cinders out on the side of the track, then when the village dump was moved to the first hill on the fen, the dump would get alight and spread to the fen.

A fire break/track was constructed from the sand pit gate to the cutting at Wolferton to allow the fire engines to get on to the fen. I well remember one large fire that started near the railway line and spread across the road to the open common and the shut up common, also one fire on the open common, near Hoddy's Hole, when the heat was so intense that it cracked the brick work on the end cottage at Pleasant Place. Another fire in August 1982 threatened the homes in Manor Side and the residents used garden hoses to keep the flames at bay till the fire brigade arrived.

At one time the fire engine was stationed in Miss Manns' barn at the top of Heath Road so it was handy for the fires on the fen and common. You will always get fires, maybe it would be an idea to make a fire break around the perimeter of the fen.

Dick Melton

From the Parish Council Office....



As I write this, the spring sun is shining and the May elections are just about to be held. By the time you are reading this, the results will be history! However, there are no surprises with the Parish Council as, due to there being fewer candidates than there are places on the council, all were elected unopposed.

By now the annual Parish and Parish Council meetings which will have taken place – hopefully many of you came along to meet your councillors and find out what the parish council is doing with your money! If you have any suggestions for improvements for next year's meetings, please let me know at the parish council offices.

The new council will be settling down again to summer village business, ensuring the environment is clean and tidy, grass is cut and the playground equipment maintained safely for children to enjoy throughout the holidays.

Hopefully the recreational land by the Sandringham View Estate will now belong to the parish, and will have been given its new name - with thanks to all who sent in their suggestions. The County Council will be soon be beginning their new policy of switching off streetlights after midnight in selected Dersingham streets, after consulting all those affected. If you have strong feelings about this policy, please do let the Parish Council know, as well at the Norfolk County Council, so parish councillors are aware of your views too – you can help shape the Parish Council policy on the streetlights it is responsible for.

And finally, let's all hope for a lovely, hot summer so we can all get outside and enjoy the village and the surrounding countryside.□

Rosie

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DERSINGHAM BROWNIES 2011 PACK HOLIDAY



Twenty two members of the 1st & 2nd Dersingham Brownies and 6 leaders enjoyed their Annual Pack Holiday from 15th -18th April. The group stayed at Swaffham Junior School and had a busy and fun packed time. The theme was “The Jungle Book”. The brownies were divided into 4 Sixes named after animals: elephants, lions, monkeys and tigers and the leaders were named after popular Jungle book characters- Bagheera, Shere Khan, King Louie, Kaa, Colonel Hathi and Raksha. On the first day they began a number of theme linked crafts including making Jungle animal masks, puppets and dressing soft dolls. They played games outside, held a pyjama parade and sewed

badges onto their camp blankets.

The brownies had the opportunity to help with the cooking, laying the table, washing up and keeping their own possessions and the holiday home tidy.

They worked towards a number of interest badges including pack holiday, cook, toymaker and pack holiday advanced.

On the second day they enjoyed a coach trip to the Icen Valley at Cockley Cley where they saw the museum, Saxon church, cottage and village. They also enjoyed a picnic lunch and games. They then travelled on to the High Lodge Forest Centre at Thetford where they took part in a squirrel scamper trail and enjoyed an ice cream.

Sunday morning saw them taking part in a “Brownies Own” to mark Palm Sunday. Seven brownies participated in a dramatised version of the Palm Sunday story, everyone wrote and read their own prayer and they sang two well known songs.

They continued their craft activities by decorating pencil pots, making hama bead coasters, door hangers, painting jungle animal models and completing Easter cards, toys and baskets. In the afternoon they had an Easter Egg hunt and on the Sunday evening they enjoyed an outdoor singsong and they toasted marshmallows over t-lights.

Everyone went home happy but tired and the leaders have already discussed ideas for next year.□





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Local Election Results Parish Council

There were only fourteen nominations out of a possible eighteen for the Parish Council. This means that they were all deemed elected. The following are all now Parish Councillors leaving four places to be filled.

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Chris Berry | 3 Robert Balding Road PE31 6UR | 07747 040756 |
| Tony Bubb | 7 Centre Vale PE31 6JR | 01485 542638 |
| Suzu Daniels | 54 West Hall Road PE31 6JF | 07753 685463 |
| Steve Davis | 22 Glebe Road PE31 6QA | 01485 543138 |
| Julian Freeman | 12 Centre Vale PE31 6JP | 07760 414522 |
| Paul Groom | 35 Kings Croft PE31 6QN | 01485 541757 |
| Roy Johnston | 10a Fern Hill PE31 6HT | 01485 540498 |
| Luke Loades | 8 Bewick Close, Snettisham PE31 7PJ | 01485 544740 |
| Keith Manship | 48 Doddshill Road PE31 6LP | 01485 541979 |
| Dick Murrell | 16 Viceroy Close PE31 6YR | 01485 543235 |
| Edward Phillips | Amber House, Manor Road PE31 6LD | 01485 545778 |
| Gill Sergeant | 30 Cedar Grove, N Runcton, PE33 0QZ | 01553 841350 |
| Andrea Smith | 3 Post Office Road PE31 6HR | 07749 801971 |
| Dennis Wright | 11 Kings Croft PE31 6QN | 01485 542509 |

Borough Council

Dersingham ward sends two representatives to the Borough Council. They now are:-

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Tony Bubb | 7 Centre Vale, PE31 6JR | 01485 542638 |
| Judy Collingham | 10 Fern Hill, PE31 6HT | 01485 540271 |

A Bit Of Norfolk Squit

Oi hent never rit tew the pearper afor but thass the woif who hev got me tew dew this here. She say “Heh yew sin the squit theyer bin roitin in this here Willage Voice?” Oi say “No” she say “ Oi reckon yew orter roit suffen”, Oi say “Roight yer be”. So here yer are tergather. About a month ago Oi wuz out in the back garden when him fun nex door shouted “Hoi” he say, Oi say “Wot?” he say “ Oi’m gornta trickerlate up moi frunt rum” Oi say “Oh ar”, “ Well” he say “yar frunt rum is the same soize as moin, so how many rolls uv pearper did yew git when yew done yars?” Oi say “ Twelve” he say “Roit” un went in. Tew weeks learter he wuz out there agin he say “ Hoi” he say, Oi say “Wot?” he say “Oi thowt yew say yew got twelve rolls uv pearper when yew did yar frunt rum” Oi say “Yis” he say “Well Oi hed four rolls left over” Oi say “Yis so did Oi” he say “Blaast!” un went in. Sorft fule!. Well thass it tergather Oi moit hev a mardle agin, thass if she let me! So fer now “ dew yew kip a troshen moi ol bewty”. Fare yew well tergather.

Willy Ever



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The Gables New Extension

Words & pictures by Steve Davis

The Gables may be a small privately owned residential care home in our village, not part of any large company, but in response to the ever increasing demand for places from Dersingham residents and their relatives, they embarked on an impressive side-wing extension to their premises. I enjoy the occasional visit there to do a spot of musical entertainment and was interested to monitor the building progress during the last year. However at my most recent visit I was treated to a conducted tour of this very elegant completed project. It provides an extra eight ensuite bedrooms, some with showers, a new larger lounge, a wet room and even a hairdressing salon! This brings the new maximum number of residents at any one time to 24 in addition to their day care visitors. Facilities for residents have been further enhanced by the recent purchase of a minibus.

I understand that the inspection reports for the Gables are of the highest 3 star standard – a tribute to the work of manager Mandy Sadler and her dedicated team of staff. But to me the Gables just always seems such a very appealing, happy, friendly and well run place buzzing with activity.

Unfortunately I usually find my self leaving just as the appetising wafts of lunch emanate from the kitchen! I would certainly like to get my name down for a place if and when the time comes!

Maybe I should talk nicely to my children!□



Parish Council Report

The March meeting of Dersingham Parish Council began, as usual, with a report from the police of crimes in the village during the previous month. This month, these comprised breaking of the window; a car being scratched; an assault; criminal damage to three 'For sale'; and damage to a vehicle. Anyone with information about any of these should contact the police.

Another regular item on the Council agenda is consideration of planning applications and a report on planning decisions taken by the Borough Council. In March, there was just one application for a proposed extension which the Council recommended for approval. Members of the public are encouraged to let the Parish Council know of any concerns they have about applications so that they can be considered and possibly included in the comments sent to the Borough.

The Council agreed to change the existing arrangements for its website, which will enable Council staff to post information directly rather than through a third party. This should ensure that the website is more up-to-date.

The Council expressed its sadness at the news of the death of Len Matthews, who had served as a Parish Councillor.□

PB



Dick Melton

A lot of people ask me about The Emblance. Well if you say to most people who live in the village of Dersingham today that you were going to have a walk around The Emblance, or that you are going to take a short cut across The Emblance to St George's School, they would wonder what you are talking about.

Way back in the forties, when I went to Dersingham Primary School, The Emblance was one of our favourite places to go and play. It is still there today. Just climb over the five bar gate opposite the Feathers hotel and you enter 60 acres of wild paradise. When I was a boy it was not like this at all: there was a large pond in the middle that was full of small fish and all sorts of wildlife, like newts, frogs and many ducks and water hens. If you went up the slope in the direction of Dersingham Wood in the springtime, this area was a mass of wild primroses and daffodils, also lots of wild rabbits, deer and pheasants.

There was a footpath that went all the way from the Feathers gate to St George's School playing field. The best time of year on The Emblance was wintertime when the pond froze over and it snowed; then we would skate on the pond and sledge down the slopes.

The word emblems is taken from the word emblements that means the annual crops or profits of land cultivated by a tenant farmer. The house and buildings, also the land to the west of the emblems, was at one time a smallholding.

Local ports in the past

In the Lynn News on the first of April there was an article about a yacht club being built at Anmer and also a canal and harbour at Heacham. Of course, it was an April Fools Day joke, but a few hundred years ago this could have been a reality. Castle Rising was a much bigger port than Kings Lynn; Wolferton was also a port with room for up to six ships; and, as we all know, Dersingham was a fishing village. Small boats went up the Babingley river to Hillington and also up the Heacham river as far as Fring. There was a harbour at Heacham until about 1938 when it got silted up and was blocked off from the sea. There was also a port at Ringstead with the river coming through the Downs and into the sea at Hunstanton, where the Parish of Ringstead still has about 200 yards of beach near to the Hunstanton/Heacham boundary.

The best part of that story is this: I was going along the beach road to Heacham on the 3rd of April when a gentleman in a silver 4x4 stopped me and asked if I was a local, so I said yes. He then said maybe you can tell me where this new harbour is being constructed at Heacham as I cannot find it, I am a digger driver and I have come forty miles looking for work. Well I did not know whether to wind him up or tell him the truth, but me being a decent old boy told him the truth. He then drove off down the road looking rather disappointed.

The Great Rhubarb Disaster

It was very nice to see a letter from Peter Hooks. That's what the Village Voice is all about, bringing people together again. Now I must say a big thank you to Barry Beales for reminding me of the great Dersingham rhubarb disaster. This, as Barry said, was a great shock to the village of Dersingham and also to some of the surrounding villages. It is one of the reasons that the great treacle mines at Fring had to close down, because in those days there was very little sugar about due to the sugar cane shortage in the Artic, so people would spread treacle on there sticks of rhubarb. This disaster also affected all the growers of ginger in the village that was used to make the famous Dersingham rhubarb and ginger crisps. It really was a bad time for the village, but one good thing came about when a man was clearing up the wilted leafs on the Sandringham Hill allotments found an elephant kidding in them that had escaped from a circus in the grounds of the old Hall. So this was a little ray of sunshine to come out of a very sad and gloomy time for the people of Dersingham.

Baldings Moat

So the Parish Council want a name for what is left of the old moat area down The Drift. Well it was always known to us boys as Baldings Moat which, as it was on the land of Dun-Cow farm that was owned by the Balding family, seems most appropriate. It was a much larger area of water when I

was a lad, surrounded by trees and bushes with lots of ducks and water hens on it. I can never work out why that area is called Sandringham View as the main view is of Dersingham marshes, Dersingham Woods and Dersingham Fen.

Population figures

I have been trying to find out the population of Dersingham at the present time but I cannot come up with the exact number. So I shall have to wait until the census has been gathered in and published. I was looking back at the census for 1921, when there were just 1,412 people living in the village and the area of the parish was 3,573 acres with 8 acres of water, but I think we have lost a bit or two of land since then. One interesting fact was that Wolferton, with only 199 people, covered 2,947 acres and Flitcham covered 4,223 acres. Of course, the largest parish by far in our area is Snettisham with 5,592 acres of land, 16 acres of water, 37 acres of tidal water and a massive 1,342 acres of foreshore and beach.

Well my foot and leg are on the mend now so I am getting out and about again I have been down the Shingle Pits and across the Fen, so I will soon be back in full harness. Make the best of the sunny days as we do not get to many, be back again in August.□

Banana Bread Recipe **by Caroline Bosworth**

8oz SR flour
½ teaspoon salt
4oz Butter
6oz Caster Sugar
4oz Raisins
1oz chopped walnuts
4oz chopped cherries (rinsed and dried on kitchen paper to remove their coating)
2 eggs
1lb Bananas (weight with skins) Mashed - I use a potato masher – odd I know, but it works



1. Rub in butter to flour and salt. Or whizz in a food processor.
2. Mix all dry ingredients.
3. Add eggs and bananas – stir well.
4. Line a 2lb loaf tin with greaseproof paper.
5. Bake 180C for 1½ hours

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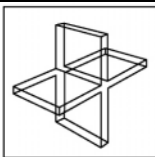
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Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes

On March 14th the members of the Sandringham Lodge of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB) presented a £500 cheque to Dersingham Infant and Nursery School.

The cheque was presented by Bro Ken Conley, Worthy Primo of the Sandringham Lodge to Dersingham Infant and Nursery School headteacher Gayle Platt and school governor Sara Vertigan.

The money will go towards a school project to convert a mobile classroom into a arts and philosophy studio.

For more information concerning the Sandringham Lodge, please contact the Lodge Secretary

Bro Danny Callaghan on 01485533015 or email: dannypcallaghan@aol.co.uk



Red Hair Day at Thaxter's

Customers at Thaxter's donated money to comic relief in return Roger, the Spar shop manager, committed to dying his hair red if we raised £100 or more.

In the end we raised £230 and Roger had a very red hair style. Thank you to all our customers who donated.

| Village Voice Sudoku No 17 | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 8 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | |
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| 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 9 | |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 4 | |
| 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 8 | |
| 1 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 | |
| 6 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | |

Village Voice Live Musical Evening



*Can you sing
or play an instrument?
Do you like to entertain?*



Village Voice Live on Tuesday 6th September is to be an evening of music and song provided by local musicians. From the proceeds a donation will be made to the Norfolk based charity:



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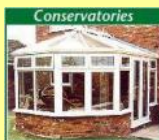


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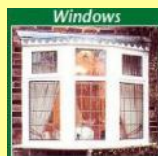
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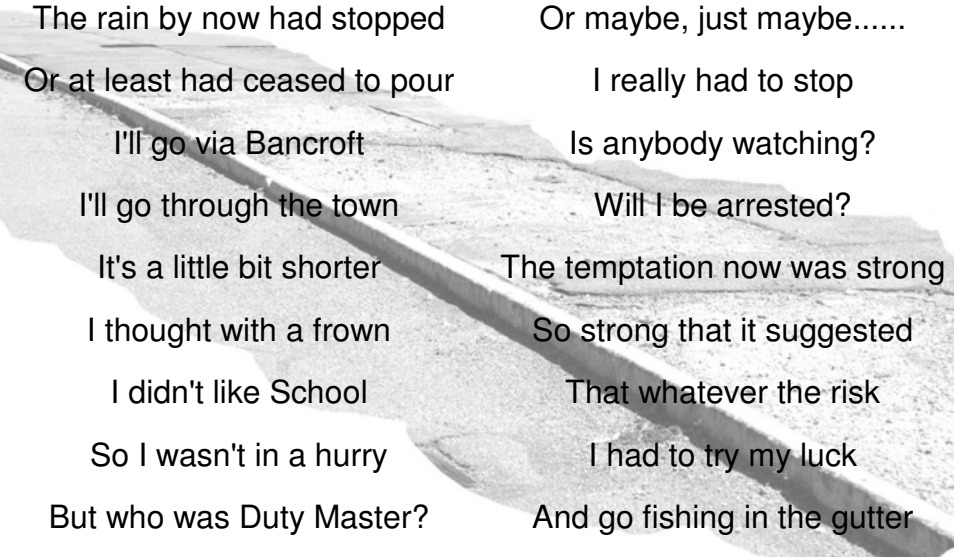
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A Flutter in the Gutter?

A young boy goes to school on the 1950's

© Hugh Mullarkey March 2011



| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Butt's Close or Bancroft | But just past the Police Station |
| My two ways to School | Something bright caught my eye |
| 'Wear your School cap properly!' | It was lying in the gutter |
| Oh Mum you can be cruel | The glitter I had spied |
| I slung on my satchel | Was it silver paper? |
| And was out of the door | Or a milk-bottle top? |
| The rain by now had stopped | Or maybe, just maybe..... |
| Or at least had ceased to pour | I really had to stop |
| I'll go via Bancroft | Is anybody watching? |
| I'll go through the town | Will I be arrested? |
| It's a little bit shorter | The temptation now was strong |
| I thought with a frown | So strong that it suggested |
| I didn't like School | That whatever the risk |
| So I wasn't in a hurry | I had to try my luck |
| But who was Duty Master? | And go fishing in the gutter |
| Now that really was a worry | In the middle of the muck |
| I passed the Town Hall | I might be late for School |
| Then all the usual shops | And smell a wee bit ripe |
| Saw familiar faces | Maybe I would qualify |
| Didn't make any stops | As a genuine gutter-snipe |

DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP



The number of people taking part in our walks over the last couple of months has ranged from 9 to 33 with the highest number walking with Valerie and Michael at Snettisham in early March. We hope to see high numbers for our six walks in June and July, particularly for the '**Nightjars and Glow-Worms**' walk on 20th July.

The programme (Please note the different **starting times**) is:

WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE

Start at 6.30pm from Thornham Harbour car park (map ref. LI32/727 444). A 5 mile circular walk around Thornham and Holme led by Steve Martyn (07879 885516).

WEDNESDAY 22ND JUNE

Start at 2.00pm from Bircham Windmill (map ref. LI32/760 327). A 4 mile circular walk around Great Bircham (with tea afterwards at the windmill, if wanted) led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940).

SUNDAY 26TH JUNE

Start at 11.00am from East Rudham green (map ref. LI32/827 283). An 8 mile circular walk around the Rudhams led by Steve Martyn. (07879 885516). **Bring a packed lunch.**

WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY

Start at 6.30pm from Syderstone church (map ref. LI32/833 327). A 4.5 mile circular walk around Syderstone led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807).

WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY 'NIGHTJARS AND GLOW-WORMS'

Start at **7.30pm** from Dersingham village sign (map ref. LI32/686 295). A circular walk, including a guided walk around Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve led by Ash Murray (the Warden). The walk is expected to end at about 10.00pm and it is hoped to hear the Nightjars and see the glow-worms. No **dogs, please**. Keith Starks (542268) will lead the group from the Village Sign to the Nature Reserve.

WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY

Start at 2.00pm from Great Massingham green (map ref. L132/ 798 229). A 4.5 mile circular walk around Massingham led by Pat Reed (540757).

There is **NO CHARGE** for these walks: just turn up on the day (wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear). **WELL-BEHAVED** dogs are welcome (except on 20th July) provided they stay at the rear of the group.



Walkers on a bright 31st March walk around Ringstead & Hunstanton Hall

The leaders are happy to organise and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking & take responsibility for their own safety. Should you have a problem with transport to the starting point, if you let me know a few days before the walk, I will see if a lift can be arranged. If you would like more information please contact me or the walk leader. □

Keith Starks (542268)

That's my business - Potter & Dibble

Potter & Dibble is my new store at 61 Manor Road, Dersingham (PE31 6LH just at the foot of the hill from Sandringham). Inside the bright and airy shop you will find a wide range of fabulous products for the home and garden, as well as gifts and accessories. A further exciting development is the inclusion of a gallery area with a selection of original artworks in a variety of media available for purchase.

My first shop, opened after a long career doing just about everything else but retail, was a cute little studio at Creake Abbey. I had a really good time there, and it helped me discover what people wanted from an independent outlet, but when the chance came to move in to No.61 I didn't hesitate. It's quite a brave (or foolish) time to embark on a bigger shop, but I think people are always looking out for quality and something different. Dersingham and the surrounding villages are well-served by the existing local businesses, but I think Potter & Dibble will offer something extra.

I've always loved searching out quirky but useful things for the home and garden. The theme will always be 'pretty and practical'. A lot of the products on sale are either recycled or recyclable, many are made locally and all are from ethically sound sources. There will be some familiar names on the shelves, but also some truly original pieces and some wonderful gift ideas for all the family. I want everyone to feel that there's something at Potter & Dibble for them.

With much of the stock being made in-house or to order from small producers, there will always be something new to discover inside, be it vintage fabrics for the picnic table, slate labels for the garden or gorgeous pictures for the home. There are also some more indulgent treats such as lovely toiletries, handbags from the Royal Horticultural Society, scarves and a superb range of greeting cards.

Apart from being a fantastic space to work in, I am hoping that the location will prove popular with villagers and visitors alike. There is on-street parking, and dogs and accompanied children are very welcome, in fact my terrier x spaniel puppy is often on duty to meet and greet, or to act as lookout in the window!

Since moving to Hunstanton eight years ago, I've been lucky enough to meet a lot of very talented artists and 'creative types', and this has made me particularly keen to promote local artists through the gallery. My opening exhibition is by a Holme-next-the-Sea painter, Wendy Long, who has produced a series of six amazing pictures of sheep.

With accurate images of newborn lambs she brings a realism which is frequently missing from such scenes. Supporting the pictures are some very special pots thrown by Tel Turnbull who has a very distinctive style. Prices range from £40 for a print or small pot, through to several hundreds for the original.

Throughout the coming months there will be various exhibitions - so look out in local publications and the website www.potteranddibble.com for further information or email hello@potteranddibble.com if you would like to be included on the mailing list.□

Angela Meakin



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The Sandringham Newsletter

*by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate
compiled by Helen Walch*

With Easter falling so late this year, Sandringham House waited till then to be opened to the public, although the Gardens and Museum have been open since the start of the month and hundreds of people have been coming every day to enjoy the drifts of daffodils and the stunning displays of blossom in the Woodland Walk.

The exhibition in the Ballroom of Sandringham House marks the Duke of Edinburgh's 90th birthday this year with a display on the theme of "Prince Philip and the Sea" which brings together paintings, photographs, cartoons and documents from his career in the Royal Navy, which started when he boarded HMS Ramillies as a midshipman on 1st January 1940. There are also mementos of the Royal Yacht Britannia and of some of the dozens of maritime organisations of which he is Patron or President, as well as some rarely-seen photographs from his childhood, making a fascinating look back at his more than 70 years connected with the Royal Navy and the sea.

In the Gardens, the Head Gardener spent a fascinating week in America representing Sandringham as part of the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the twinning of the city of Norfolk, Virginia with the county of Norfolk here. Before he departed, the Gardens team completed work removing the bridge and causeway to the island in the Lower Lake near York Cottage. This was in order to find a secure place to plant several young walnut trees being propagated at Broadlands in Hampshire, as they were hard pressed to find a location to plant the trees where they will escape the attentions of grey squirrels. The removal of access to the island other than by boat neatly solved this problem and we hope the walnuts will establish well.

Dry weather in both March and April has been both a help and a hindrance; on the farm, the sugar beet sowing was completed in two weeks flat as there were no interruptions for rain. On the other hand, now that all the crops have been sown, rain is badly needed to help with germination.

On the fruit farm, the dry and mild weather has encouraged a lot of early blossom in the orchards, but hasn't helped the cuttings to root in the new blackcurrant fields. Visitors to the Gardens and the Country Park will always be grateful for fine and sunny weather, of course.□

Castle Rising & the Babingley River Village Voice Live - Tuesday April 5th

As a relatively recent arrival in Dersingham, I have been keen to expand my knowledge of the local area by attending relevant Village Voice Live talks. The subject of this talk, therefore, seemed as if it could be of particular interest to me. Up to then my limited knowledge of Castle Rising extended to the Castle, which was only briefly referred to in the talks, and the Tea Rooms which were not mentioned at all! Clearly others shared my interest, resulting in a record attendance of 121 people.

The three speakers were from the Castle Rising History Group and the first, Fred Cooke, introduced us to the actual subject of the talk, namely the establishment and early importance of the settlement of Castle Rising, how this was influenced by the Babingley River and the proximity of the settlement to sea at that time. He explained how the early harnessing of the power of the river by the establishment of mills and the consequent diversion of flows into leats, led to the deepening of a channel to the sea allowing a staithe to be established at Castle Rising. This resulted in Castle Rising becoming the predominant port for the region, pre-dating King's Lynn; used by the Romans to export stone for their fort at Brancaster and the Normans for importing stone from France to build the castle in 1138. He then traced the decline of the village's importance as the estuary silted up, more and more land was protected for agriculture use by sea walls, and finally by the diversion of the Great Ouse by the Lynn Channel.

Sylvia Cooke then told us more about the history and working of the mills on the Babingley River and Kevin Elfleet described the early salt workings on the tidal marshes adjacent to Castle Rising and

their importance, not just originally as an essential source of salt for preserving food over the winter, but later how the build up of spoil from these workings into mounds formed safe refuges for farm animals in times of high tides when the marshes were being transformed into the agricultural land we know today.

Unfortunately, although all the speakers showed great knowledge and enthusiasm for their subjects, I sensed that most attending had come to hear about another subject - the castle. I also feel that the speakers sought to provide too much detail for the audience, leading to the last speaker having hurry his talk and the length of evening exceeding the attention span of many present.

Finally I should finish with compliments to the organisers who, as more and more people kept arriving, managed to keep producing chairs, seemingly out of thin air, to satisfy everyone attending and to the ladies in the kitchen who managed to produce a record number of teas and coffees with improvised water boiling facilities.□

Whiffler.

Invasion of the Giant Hogweed Village Voice Live May 3rd

It was a great pity that so few attended this meeting of Village Voice Live. The usually well filled hall hosted but a handful and the tea fairies for once had an easy time. However those of us who were there were treated to an extremely interesting and thought provoking illustrated talk from Mike Sutton –Croft. He explained the back ground to the British Non- native Species Initiative and the effort to eradicate or at least control the advance of these alien species.

The Victorians have much to answer for as they are responsible for introducing many of the worst invaders. Some introduced species have been of benefit but too often they have had a devastating effect on our native flora and fauna. It is estimated that the cost to our economy of the effect of these alien species is around £2 billion a year. I was amazed to hear of the cost of clearing the Olympic site of Japanese Knotweed. It had to be destroyed as this plant will easily grow through concrete in a very short time. Removed from their own environment and safe from the predators and diseases that usually control them they have an advantage over the native species and flourish accordingly. They alter habitats, inter breed, and can have a great impact on our health. The sap of the Giant Hogweed for example is extremely dangerous and causes immense blisters to the unwary gardener seeking to dig it out. In this area we have become used to the sight of the muntjac but perhaps don't appreciate the amount of damage they do to our woodland. It was disturbing to realise how easily we can each be responsible for the spreading of these species. The number of native crucian carp in our rivers has been dangerously reduced by well meaning people who, when getting rid of a garden pond, seek to give their goldfish and Koi carp a chance of life by throwing them into the river nearby. On September 3rd 2010 the Killer Shrimp was discovered for the first time in Grafton Water. Shortly afterwards it was found in Cardiff Bay. The only way it could have made that journey was in the nets and on the waders of fishermen. It could easily survive for days until the unsuspecting fisherman waded into Cardiff Bay.

Some other species at the top of the killer list are Japanese Knotweed, the pretty but deadly Himalayan Balsam, and New Zealand Pygmy Weed. Another enemy we can easily spread is Parrots Feather found in many a garden pond. As long as it stays there it is fine but must not be disposed of in any of our waterways or it will become like the Floating Pennywort. That was introduced into Norfolk in 1990 and soon formed dense mats of vegetation choking our water ways. The battle is on to prevent it reaching The Broads. Mike explained that biological control was probably the eventual answer although many have become wary of this solution because in a few cases the introduced control did not realise it was only supposed to attack the alien species. After many tests scientists believe they have found a moth that will attack only the Japanese Knotweed and so while it won't eradicate the pest it will control it and make it easier for us to destroy. If we wish to keep our native species safe we must support the efforts of initiatives supervised by people like Mike and take care we ourselves are not the unwitting enemies of our own wildlife.□

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A Spring Evening enjoyed by Tony Bubb

It's great fun opening up e-mails in the morning. You never know quite what to expect. Very unexpected was an invitation from James Thaxter to attend their Spring Evening. So armed with my trusty camera and a healthy appetite, I had been warned that we would be fed, I rolled up to the Coffee Shop at 6 o'clock on the 23rd of March. I had not seen the place in evening



mode before. It was cosily lit and the tables were wearing smart white tablecloths. After a short wait, which gave me the chance to review the rest of the attendees, we were served with an excellent



Red or white?

meal with wine. I enjoyed the Steak Pie and I heard praise for the Vegetable Lasagne from an adjacent table. Pudding too! One of the best Treacle Tarts I have had for along time came my way with other diners tucking in to Apple Pies and Raspberry Crumbles.

And so to the second part of the evening. A talk on plants for spring. This was given by Stuart Limpus, who not only advises at a couple of garden centres, but can also be heard on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire. Stuart had arrived earlier and had gathered a selection of plants from Thaxter's huge stock and these formed the subject of his talk. He waxed lyrical on the virtues of his

choices with tips on their care and likely performance. Questions from the audience were considered and answered displaying his extensive knowledge.

After the formal part of his talk he mingled with the crowd of around 35 answering further queries.

This was Thaxter's first such event but it was a great success, encouraging them to consider further similar evenings in the future. Do go along if you get the chance.□



Stuart tackles a question



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The Dersingham Beat

As you may be aware Sgt Crown left Dersingham & Gayton SNT at the end of January to go to King's Lynn Response and I came from King's Lynn Response to Dersingham & Gayton SNT. The team at Dersingham & Gayton consists of PC Lambert, PC McCrea, PCSO Smith, PCSO Richardson & PCSO Calaby, Policing 23 villages.

The last two months have flown by. As the Easter holidays come to an end and the Royal Wedding is now behind us; the festivities come to an end for now. Many of you will remember me working at Dersingham as a PC some three years ago. I have met a number of people over the last two months; those who already know me and those who have just met me. I hope to meet many more over the coming months at the Safer Neighbourhood Action panel (SNAP) meeting and Parish Council meetings.

As reported at the last Parish Council meeting for the period 23rd March to 18th April Dersingham suffered 9 crimes. Sadly two of those were Burglary Dwelling for which we are awaiting forensic results.

2 Damage to motor vehicles both of which were caused by local youths who have been dealt with by means of Restorative Justice (RJ).

3 Theft from shops, 2 of which the suspect is on Police bail.

2 Thefts; which at this present time we have no lines of enquiries.

Since that meeting;

Possession of Cannabis: the suspect was later charged with the offence.

Common Assault: which the youth was dealt with by means of RJ.

Criminal Damage; which at this time we have no lines of enquiries.

We have had 4 fires in the village on land and investigations are ongoing.

Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

You can contact the team on the non emergency 0845 456 4567 or contact Dersingham SNT, www.sntdersinghamandgayton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Sgt Karen Faulkner

Village Voice Sudoku No 18

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WORK OUT THE FOLLOWING PLACE NAMES.

They are all villages in Norfolk and the number of dashes shows the number of letters in the answer. Answers on P 74

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BURNT INVASIVE FERN -----

ABOVE THE BEACH -----

BEFORE PAUL ----

DISCARD BACON -----

MOTOR IN STREAM -----



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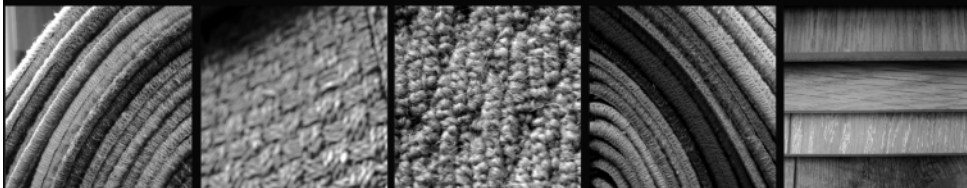
Old Picture Corner

These 2 photographs came with Elizabeth Fiddicks article on page 73 but I thought they needed more space. They show a very undeveloped village. Cow Lane is now Lynn Rd and this picture looks south from what is now Budgens car park. Today this whole area is built upon.

The lower shot looks to have been taken from the high ground surrounding the quarry, looking north. A view now filled with the bypass, roundabout and endless traffic.



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Dersingham Community Lunches by Stella Gooch

Dersingham's March Community Lunch was held in the lovely St Cecilia's Church (Dersinghams Roman Catholic Church). It was the first time I had been inside the main church building and it was set out beautifully for such an occasion. The ambience of the whole environment was added to by the lovely lighting in the form of lit globes suspended from the ceiling.

Of course, as the day turned out to be so filled with sunshine, the only thing that could have made the lunch more enjoyable was for it to be hosted outdoors to take advantage of such a glorious day.

E H Prior, the high quality butchers (I can personally vouch for that assertion too!) recently established alongside Dersingham's new surgery buildings, were the hands on hosts of the March lunch. Not only did they provide a wonderful serving of hot roast pork, new potatoes with salad trimmings but they did all the work themselves. Mr and Mrs Prior Senior (Tilly and Dennis) joined myself and Cllr Jonathan Loades (Rounce & Evans Letting Agents) for lunch whilst the rest of the family team got to grips with all the catering and serving for some 80 people! I must not forget to mention that their fruit pie and cream was delicious too and those that opted for the cheesecake no doubt enjoyed that as well.

Bob Tipling welcomed all lunch guests and introduced four Borough Councillor candidates who were attending: Judy Collingham, John Dobson, Tony Bubb and Kate Sayer. Bob also introduced the new local police officer: Sgt Karen Faulkener and representatives of the West Norfolk Voluntary and Community Action group (WNVCA), Sue Gardiner and Marie Connell. It

transpired that Sue and Marie were attending the lunch in order to raise awareness of the help and assistance available for older residents with regard to the imminent digital switch on.

Following Bob's introductions, lunch host Clifford Prior personally welcomed guests and said that it was the first time Priors had been able to provide lunch for the Dersingham Community Lunch since their arrival in Dersingham some 16 months earlier. Mr Prior went on to say that the family were delighted with the reception they had received from the local community. Here's hoping this is not the last time that Priors get to feed the Dersingham Community Lunch!!

During the course of the lunch, Marie Connell was asked to explain to us about the role of WNVCA and volunteering in general. It was the role of WNVCA to source and match volunteer workers to local organisations and provide technical



equipment as needed for events and ALL FOR FREE. WNVCA also provided meeting and interview rooms at low cost and produced a regular email newsletter promoting the community minded organisations and distributed the newsletter across some 250 organisations.

Marie said that WNVCA recently moved their operation to the North Lynn Industrial Estate and invited everyone to come and visit them there to discuss the digital switch over or volunteer needs/issues. She went on to say that the Hunstanton Community Action event at Hunstanton Town Hall was scheduled for 8 April and that there were still a few stands left for organisations wishing to promote what they are about to the wider community. So don't delay get in touch with WNVCS now. Check out their website at: www.westnorfolkvca.org.

Marie finished with a personal announcement that she had been a vegetarian for 20 years but that the pork she had seen eaten at lunch was wonderful! This was met with a unified roar of approval from the lunch guests.

Bob then talked eloquently about Dersingham Community Lunches Past, Present & the Future! Bob reminded us that he was taking more of a back seat in relation to the Community Lunches and had become President of the Community Lunches. As a result of this, he said that Suzy Daniels (covering the role of Treasurer) and Steve Sergeant (taking the role of Events Organiser) had joined him in the running of future Community Lunches and Bob also introduced a fourth member of the team as Lyndsay Shaw (who was helping keep it all together).

Bob confirmed that future lunches would incur a cost of £1 per attendee in order to help offset

the cost of operating the lunches and the guests agreed this was appropriate as the lunch could not continue to be free of charge on an on-going basis. In addition, it was agreed that a Christmas Dersingham Community Dinner would be of interest among the village and Sandringham Visitor's Centre was a possible venue.

The proceeds of the raffle at this lunch allowed a donation to the Scouts & Guides of £133 (after £25 room hire costs).□



Marie Connell

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How can I get more information?

- Phone the Summary Care Record Information Line on **0300 123 3020**.
- Visit www.nhscarerecords.nhs.uk
- Contact NHS Norfolk Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Monday - Friday from 9am to 5pm, on **0800 587 4132** or email pals@norfolk.nhs.uk.

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A SWIM TO REMEMBER

by Magwitch

In October 1927, Fraulein Mercedes Gleitze swam the English Channel ... and then she swam it again! Not just to prove she could, but because there had been some dispute over the first swim owing to a hoax by another female swimmer.

This cross-channel swim was quite an achievement for a woman, and as a newsworthy event throughout the country. However for the people of Lincolnshire and Norfolk, a swim of even greater significance was the one Fraulein Gleitze completed across the Wash, from Lincolnshire to Norfolk. This happened in June 1929 and was the first successful swim across this stretch of water separating the two counties.

Not much is known about Mercedes Gleitze, considering her place in history nationally. She was born in 1900 in Brighton, but spent a lot of time with her Bavarian grandparents in their homeland. Her interest in long-distance swimming began when she was in her twenties and undertook the swim across the English Channel, which must have been exhausting. But, it would seem she was determined to go down in history as the first woman to do it, and if that meant she had to do it all over again, then that was what she would do, and did.

Luckily, she only had to swim across the Wash once, leaving from Butterwick Fen near Boston, and coming ashore at Heacham, some thirteen hours later. She had intended to reach land at Hunstanton, but the tides proved too much for her and she was slightly off her preferred course when her feet touched the shore. She'd begun her swim early that morning, so that by the time she arrived at Heacham at 6.30 in the evening, it's claimed she was so exhausted that it was all she could do to haul herself up the beach on her hands and knees, to the ecstatic welcome of the large number of people who'd gathered there for her arrival.

Later, she was rowed round to Hunstanton in the support boat which had kept alongside her during her long and tiring swim. It had been arranged that she would stay at the Golden Lion Hotel, and once she was put ashore that was where she went for a well-earned rest.

One local legend has it that she came ashore at Old Hunstanton where she was met by the Squire, the head of the local land-owning Le Strange family, who was also the Hereditary Lord High Admiral of the Wash. According to old records, as such he was entitled to 'claim possession of anything on the beach or in the sea for as far as a man can ride a horse or throw a spear'. Whether or not he was serious is not known, but he informed Fraulein Gleitze that he was claiming her, under this archaic ruling, as his very own property. What she replied does not seem to have been recorded!

What was recorded was her epic swim, with a commemorative plaque which was placed on one of the beach shelters at Heacham. During the severe 1953 floods, the shelter was one of the many buildings damaged, and nothing remained of it except for the plaque, which was then put in the local parish council offices for safe keeping. A new one was unveiled during a weekend celebration in Heacham to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the swim.

And as for Fraulein Gleitze herself, she died in London in 1980 having founded a charity in her name for 'Destitute Men and Women' but which became known as the 'Family Welfare Association'. □



Go and play in the traffic

David Bingham

“...a place in between cars, in between trucks and buses, taking a certain line through a curve or through a corner that people don’t realise is there. We use those spaces, those openings, those opportunities, those blind spots, and that’s the space we exist in.”

From Lucas Brunelle’s *Line of Sight*.

Cycling has become a very popular way to get around London and I regularly take a folding bike and cycle from King’s Cross to Fenchurch Street in order to catch a train to deepest darkest Essex. I do this as a change from being crammed onboard rush hour tube trains and always enjoy the experience. At first I cycled the direct route along some of the oldest streets in the city

(Newgate, Cheapside, Poultry, Cornhill, Leadenhall) - but have recently taken to finding my way back to King’s Cross through the side streets where it is possible to find a story at every turn.

For example, the first thing to come into view when turning off Cheapside onto Wood Street is a London plane tree that has grown as high as the neighbouring seven storey building. The last time I cycled by this spot the tree was about to be pollarded to keep it under control. London planes are hybrid trees that tolerate pollution and can endure the most severe corporation pruning - the perfect city tree. This particular tree is the very one that Wordsworth perched his imagined (or real) thrush in for his 1799 poem about ‘Poor Susan’.



At the corner of Wood Street, when daylight appears,
Hangs a Thrush that sings loud, it has sung for three years:
Poor Susan has pass’d by the spot, and has heard
In the silence of morning the song of the Bird.

The tree is growing in the old graveyard of St Peter Cheap (actually spelt that way on the sign - presumably to avoid an embarrassing apostle apostrophe). This ancient church was destroyed in



the Great Fire of 1666 and now only the graveyard remains. It is a shady spot with a park bench that local shop and office workers use as a space for a quick cigarette. The gravestones have been arranged around the walls but it is difficult to read their inscriptions because of their great age. London is full of these places where layers of history can be peeled back one by one. The bicycle is a great way to find them because it is possible to move around faster than by any other form of transport and to stop whenever something of interest catches your eye.

I've also sampled some of the quirky independent coffee shops that can be found in the side streets away from the Starbucks and Costas. My favourite is on Old Street and is called 'Look Mum No Hands!' It is all stripped pine, organic food and homemade cakes. The walls are adorned with some seriously sexy bicycles with shining chrome front forks and cheeky little brazed lugs. It caters for all of the cycling tribe's needs and not just their stomachs. There is a cycle repair shop on the premises where you can have your bike fixed while enjoying a coffee and a cake and leafing through some of the glossy bike books that are scattered around. A great business plan that targets the new breed of city cyclists who burn energy and are therefore likely to need lots of food and a place for their finely tuned bicycles to be maintained in tip top order. This shows that London is still about what it as always been about and that is making money.



I haven't seen any of the celebrity cyclists whose photos regularly appear in the glossy weekend colour supplements pedalling around town but I'm sure they are out there somewhere. Sir Alan on his top of the range carbon racing cycle, Gwyneth Paltrow on her classic black Pashley complete with wicker basket, Grayson Perry wearing Lycra instead of a cotton dress on his racing mountain bike, Alexei Sayle on one of his collection of bikes and Lily Allen on her modern town bike. Cycling 'yummy mummies' are popular prey for the paparazzi when nothing more interesting is on offer - Mariella Frostrup has a safe looking chariot attached to the back of her bike but Elle MacPherson has been snapped perching her offspring precariously on the handlebar. Folding bikes tend to be used by sensible people like accountants and civil servants who like the ease of travelling with them on the train and the ability to stow them in their offices. A more interesting role model for me is Will Self who enjoys using his Brompton to search out unusual places to write about.

I may not have seen any of these celebs (or even biking Boris) but there are other less famous city cyclists who are really impressive to watch. The cycle couriers are the kings and queens of the street and can be seen weaving their way through the city traffic on their personalised 'fixies' (single speed bikes with a direct drive to the rear wheel). They do give cyclists a bad name because of their indifference to traffic lights and road signs but I admire their skill and camaraderie. This even extends to self regulated games of cycle polo on vacant city lots. I see more BMX cyclists in the urban heartland of south Essex than in I do in the city. They bring to mind muggers on clowns' bikes but the truth is that they are extremely skilled cyclists and can use their bikes to perform amazing stunts. Their reputation may improve following next year's Olympics that will include some BMX competitions.

If you fancy a bit of urban cycling there are now 'Boris bikes' that can be hired for a reasonable cost. Taking your own bike is another option but unless you have a folding bike there are some trains you won't be allowed to travel on. Route finding is quite straightforward (most large format road maps have a London page that can be ripped out because they usually aren't used much) but pedalling around and getting a bit lost is a very enjoyable thing to do. I can't claim that city cycling is completely safe but it isn't *that* dangerous. Most serious accidents occur when cyclists end up on the near side of a bus or truck that is about to make a sharp left turn and this is the thing to be most aware of. I've even heard it said that Ken Livingstone introduced 'bendy buses' to London after someone told him that the middle classes had taken to riding bicycles!□

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

From: T G Morris, PPG Committee

PPG - What's it all about?

This is a question often posed by those who have yet to attend one of our meetings. Well let me help out by demonstrating – hopefully – what an important part it plays in safeguarding and enhancing the health service provided to patients of the Carole Brown Health Centre.

Without an interface between patients and those providing our healthcare, the professionals suffer from a lack of information regarding the satisfaction – or otherwise – of patients with the service provided. This is where the PPG plays its part. This does not mean that the PPG is an organisation for dealing with complaints because there is a formal path that should be followed when wishing to make a complaint but it does make observations on the service being provided at both Carole Brown and Practice level. It is an active participant at regular Patient Care meetings of doctors, nurses and managers where the views and opinions of patients are expressed and possible initiatives discussed. It is comforting to know that the professional staff appreciate and act upon the input from the PPG.

Then, as most readers will know, the PPG is active in fundraising to enhance the facilities and services provided at the Carole Brown Health Centre. Equipment is acquired which is not normally available from statutory sources but only if it provides patients with improved healthcare or service. It may be to provide a diagnostic service at the Carole Brown Health Centre that would normally only be available at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or elsewhere or it may be to provide a more advanced service locally. The PPG also acquires items that increase the comfort of patients attending the surgery. An example is the extra set of automatic opening doors at the entrance to the surgery which are intended to provide shelter for those 'early-bird' patients who arrive up to 15 minutes before the surgery opens! These doors and their installation were paid at a cost of over £6500 for from PPG funds alone. You may be surprised to know that in the last 4 years the PPG has acquired some £21,000 of equipment to enhance the services available to patients. Without your generous legacies, donations and participation in fundraising events, this would not be possible.

Other examples of PPG expenditure in the last couple of years are:

- Drinking water fountain at a cost of some £450 a year.
- Additional high chairs for the waiting room at a cost of £1500.
- An interpretive Electro Cardiogram machine plus software at a cost of £3000
- Digital Camera for the Community Nurses for monitoring lesions etc.
- Heartstart package at a cost of £2700
- Centrifuge at a cost of £675
- Finger pulse Oximeter and associated equipment at a cost of some £500

In view of the above, we hope you agree that the PPG is a worthwhile organisation and that you feel it worthwhile to attend its meetings which are open to all patients of the practice.□

Your Favourite Front Garden

Once again we would like your nominations for your favourite front garden. The one you really look forward to seeing, the one that gives you pleasure. Please do not nominate your own or that of a close relative. It does not have to be great all summer long. If, say, it was a "wow" in April, but only average afterwards, then that still counts. Send your choice/s to the Parish Council Office by the 30th September

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A Windy Tale by Steve Nowell

In May 1971, chasing what I thought was a good job with a good salary, my family and I left Dersingham and moved up to Teesside in North Yorkshire. Yes, the salary was good, but the job wasn't. Unfortunately it took me twenty three years and three nervous breakdowns to do anything about it! But there were perks. I had always been interested in aviation of all forms and I had, since I was a lad, nursed the ambition, to fly without the aid of power (as in a glider for example). But gliding was an expensive sport in those days and although I was earning reasonable money I could not justify spending time, and money, on a selfish pastime. But then Reader's Digest came to my rescue. In October '77 I believe it was the magazine published a piece entitled 'Hang On, You're Flying'. I remember it well, even now. It was like the answer to a prayer. Apparently a new air sport had gained popularity across the north of England in particular called Hang Gliding. The idea was that the pilot was slung underneath a metal and nylon contraption which was triangular in shape. He (or even 'she' because there were some very sporty young ladies around at that time!) then ran to the leading edge of a very steep hill, or 'bank' as they say oop North, and jumped off it. If luck and skill were on the pilot's side he/ she would be carried upwards by the wind blowing up the hill and he would be flying. If luck and skill were not on the pilot's side there could easily be a twisted and battered tangle of aluminium tube and nylon sheeting lying at the bottom of the hill and an equally battered and bruised would be hang glider pilot limping his way towards the nearest A and E!

I found a chap living near me at Guisborough (North Yorks) who had read the same Readers Digest article and he too had become equally enthused. (Strange to find two nut cases living that close to each other do I hear you say?) He was a very competent mechanical engineer with ICI at Wilton, Teesside. Cutting a long but thoroughly enjoyable experience short, we built out own hang glider. It was a McBroom Argos, plans from McBrooms in Devon for £7, suitable for carrying pilots weighing up to 12 stone – I just scraped in! She was a cracker! It cost me a new sewing machine for my wife, Janet, as sewing hundreds of yards of rip-stop nylon knocked the living



daylights out of her existing one. But it was worth it. What a sport that was. Every weekend that the wind was in the appropriate direction for one of the many hills in the area, Ken and I would toddle off in his 2CV with a 12 foot mass of tubing and nylon bouncing on the roof and go leaping off hills. Our ambition was to see who would be the first to soar for an hour non-stop. I made 55 minutes but in all fairness I must admit that I didn't make the hour. Well, not for a long time anyway. Accidents were not as frequent as you might think they were. I went to A and E once – with 'bruised heels'. Nothing macho like a compound multiple fracture of the left tibia, just bruised heels! And that was because I flew into a rock with my legs out straight! It takes some people a long time to learn!

Janet and I came back to Norfolk about 15 years ago, having left our two children to fend for themselves in the hostile environment of the north lands. The only hang gliding I came across down here was a lad leaping into space from Cromer cliffs. Don't worry, he survived. But then we had a look along Hunstanton sea front one Sunday afternoon. Kites, surfboards, lots of wind-powered machines were there in abundance.

Now the next part of this story is going to sound like undiluted advertising. Well, you're right. It is and I make no apologies for that. If you want to do any sort of sea-air sport in this neck of the woods you'll surely wind up at Hunstanton Watersports near one of the car parks on the front at Hunstanton. The owner is a very pleasant young man named Steve Murfitt who has run a kite school on the sea front for the last 4 years and has run the watersports shop for the last 1 ½ years. He runs courses in kite surfing – where the wind lifts your kite and drags you along behind it standing on a surf board, - from April to November. One of his five instructors will teach you the art of the sport for £90 - £100 for a full one day course from 09.30 to 16.30. 2 and 3 day courses are also available.

The other popular wind/water pastime at Hunstanton is wind surfing which, if you've been on a pleasant afternoon in summer, you will undoubtedly have seen. With high degrees of skill, surf boarders stand up on their boards and operate a sail attached to the board to propel themselves along on the water. The activity operates between the sailing club at Hunstanton sea front and Old Hunstanton. Steve is running courses for surfboard students and kite surfing in particular for students from Smithdon School during the summer holidays. He can train a wind surfer to start from the shore, ride out to sea on his surf board then return to shore the way he came in ½ a day he claims.



Here's a query for you for which I would be grateful for an answer, via the Editor, if you can. Who is that guy who flies a crescent-winged microlight over Dersingham in the evenings when the wind speed is about 15 knots or less? Jeez, how I envy him. He flies at about 1,000 feet I guess, quietly, just a buzz coming from the power pack on his back. I would love to meet him and have a chat. Who knows, his machine might be a two-seater!! But I don't think so. If I ever do catch up with him – I've been told he comes from the Clenchwarton area – I will squeeze all the information I can out of him and report back to you in due course, Happy flying.□

Thank you to the generous customers of James Graven's Budgens

The staff at James Graven's Budgens have chosen to support the charity Diabetes UK this year again and are doing really well with their fundraising. An Easter raffle for a giant Chocolate Bunny was organised together with a colouring competition for children which together with the collection pots at the till raised £272.24.

We would like to thank all of our customers for supporting the charities selected by our staff; across the six James Graven sites last year, a massive £10,000 was raised in a 6 month period. If you would like to discuss community projects or fundraising opportunities, contact Caroline Bosworth, Community Liaison Manager on 07834 320299 or email community@jamesgraven.com.

Pictured: Easter Bunny Winner John Chapman with the store manager Karl Mendham



The Easter Children's Colouring Competition attracted well over 40 entries which were of a very high standard indeed.

Judging was tough for the staff – but after deliberation – prizes were awarded to the following children:

1st Hannah Callaghan - 7, 2nd Chloe Munro - 7, 3rd Lauren Croasdale - 10, 4th Ella Asker - 2

The recent school voucher scheme was very successful. Here you see St George's head Ann Pope and Infants and Nursery head Gayle Platt each receiving a cheque for £219 from Jonathan James and below, Caroline Bosworth, occasional recipe provider, capturing the moment for posterity.



DERSINGHAM GUIDE GROUPS

The Dersingham Rainbows, 1st & 2nd Brownies and Guides celebrated the recent Royal Wedding with a "Street party" themed evening. About 50 members of the groups with leaders, helpers and trefoil guild members joined together for their evening event. They had Wedding themed crafts where everyone made a paper flower, designed a wedding cake, decorated a tiara and made a lucky horseshoe. They then divided into small groups and "dressed" a bride with an assortment of sheets, material and lace. Everyone then enjoyed an outdoor "patriotic" tea with plenty of sandwiches, cakes, crisps etc with appropriate Union Flag plates, cups and napkins.

The girls then enjoyed some outdoor games and completed the evening with a singsong. Everyone attending received a special certificate and all the groups will be completing other activities at their meetings to gain their ROYAL WEDDING CHALLENGE BADGE.

The photo taken inside the HQ shows a large Union Flag donated by Dersingham resident Joan Schorah, the flag was used by her Mother to celebrate the marriage of HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip in 1947.□



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Bog News



Spring has finally sprung on the reserve and the trees are now coming into leaf and the dark colours of winter seem to have disappeared.

This month has seen the arrival of many spring migrants to Norfolk and Dersingham Bog NNR. Woodlarks are still displaying on the reserve and continuing to delight with their hovering display and call.



Another of Dersingham's key heathland species has arrived back on the reserve and can be heard calling and singing from various points on the reserve. This bird is the Tree Pipit. Although it is called a Tree Pipit its nest is located close to the ground near trees or scrub. This bird again is vulnerable to disturbance.

Many of you will have noticed that species such as Swallows and House Martins have begun to arrive back. They have not arrived in great numbers as yet but they can be seen hawking over surrounding fields and the villages. One of our volunteers also saw a Sand Martin on the site with a group of swallows maybe they will return to breed here this year? Sand

Martins used to breed in the old quarry and cliffs but they haven't nested for a good few years. Whether this is down to population decline or changes in the cliff face or whether nesting pigeons have put them off using their previous nesting areas we are just not sure but maybe they will appear back to nest one year. Off the reserve the warm weather will probably be making life hard for Swallows and House Martins as they will be finding it hard to build their nests with such dry ground.

Other Spring Migrants which can be heard on the reserve now, include Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers as well as in certain areas of the site Sedge Warbler and Grasshopper warblers. These birds all nest and forage in different habitats and Dersingham Bog NNR is ideally placed and contains a wide variety of habitats suitable including: Reedbed, heathland, scrub and mature woodland. This variety of habitat allows these species to thrive together and we carefully manage the scrub to provide habitats for these warblers.

As I write this article we will be expecting the first Nightjars to return if they haven't already to the site. They normally begin returning in small numbers at the end of April with the largest migration in mid May to early June. Soon the reserve will be filled with the unique churring of Nightjars a sure sign that summer is almost here?

The main practical jobs that we will be involved with at the moment are the control of the



rhododendron. Although pretty the rhododendron is an invasive plant which given time will change the habitat structure of the mire and heathland. We are beginning to get on top of it but it will take many hours of painstaking work to completely get on top of it. This time of year we concentrate on the smaller bushes and seedlings as birds may be nesting in the larger bushes. The best way to remove



some of the smaller bushes is too pull them and the medium bushes we use a small concentration of herbicide. At this time of year we will also be looking at the infrastructure on the reserve and whether any repairs will need to be made.

Hopefully by the time of the next article I will have some news on the arrival of Nightjars in a bit more detail. As ever if anyone is interested in volunteering with us please get in contact and I look forward to meeting some of you on the reserve.□

Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden, Natural England, Dersingham Bog NNR

thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk

St Nicholas Church News

Lent Lunches

£1,100 has been raised by our Lent Lunches held every Friday during Lent, the money will be shared equally between “The Befrienders” and the “Community Car Scheme”, both of which provide a valuable service to the local residents of our village.

The Catering Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the lunches by coming along, numbers ranged between 30 on the first Friday to 60 on the last Friday. We are grateful to all those who made a contribution by making homemade soup. A lot of soup was consumed over the 6 weeks, along with a variety of desserts!



Grand Sale – 30th April

Another wonderful success, money is still coming in but we have made over £1,000 on the sale of second-hand books, nearly new clothes and bric-a-brac. The queues started forming at 8am for the sale at 9am!

Celebration of 400 Years of the King James Bible

We will be having a special service on Sunday June 19th at 10.30am in church to celebrate this. Please come along and join us in this wonderful celebration of music and words.



Open Gardens 29th - 30th May

Once again the village gardeners will be showing off their plots. Start at the church Hall 2-6pm. Teas, toilets, garden stuff, books and much more at the hall.

Flower Festival – 14th – 17th July

This year we are celebrating the 100 years of the laying of the foundation stone for the St Nicholas Church Hall which was originally and is still known by many as “The Institute”. Doreen Asker has been looking out lots of old pictures of local clubs and societies who have used the hall over the past 100 years.

The Dersingham Weather

Observed by John F. Murray



The weather of March and April was rather exceptional and I'm afraid it was for the wrong reason. March was very dry and yet April was even drier. All of my rain barrels are completely empty. I hope that those of you who grow soft fruit, particularly raspberries, have been watering your crop regularly as this is the time of the year when moisture is needed for the coming fruit. If you have not, then I suspect that this will be a bad year for you.

March produced a mere 7.6mm of rainfall. March can always be rather unpredictable in this department. In 2008 we got 102.4mm and the lowest, up to this year, was in 2009 with 46.7mm. So you can see that this year was very dry. Temperatures however were pretty much normal with nothing out of the ordinary to report. The high temperature was 18.8°C, which is average for the month. The lowest temperature, at -3.6°C and the mean temperature, at 6.8°C were both also right in the middle of what I have previously recorded for the month of March.

When April came I was certainly hoping for, in fact I was expecting, some of the traditional April showers. As the month progressed and the rain stayed away I began to see that we were in for an even drier month than March.

April produced a very meagre 5.2mm of rain. That is one fifth of an inch. Or simply put, almost nothing. In 2008 we had 57.7mm and the lowest previously was in 2009 with 10.2mm. I think that you can probably see some sort of pattern there. 2009 was a wet spring, whereas 2009 was dry and this year was exceptionally dry.

The dryness of this April was further compounded by the temperatures, because it was also a warm month. The high temperature was 27.6°C which is over 5° warmer than the previous best of April 2008 at 22.2°C. The minimum temperature, at 0.9°C was far better than the previous best of -0.2 in 2009, and the mean temperature at 12.1°C was again much better than 2009 at 10.5°C. These conditions produce the 'dust bowl' effect with everything so dry the slightest wind produces clouds of dust. April had, for the first time, no below zero temperatures recorded. I should have taken a chance and put my beans in earlier!

There were 268 hits on the weather website in April so plenty of you were keeping your eye on the current conditions. Don't forget that you can see what the weather is like here in our village by visiting the parish web site and following the weather link from the home page.□

Cornish Ham Pudding

A recipe from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen by Lindsey Davis

*6 slices bread (white or wholemeal), butter, 100g (approx) cooked ham,
1 large tomato, sliced, 3 eggs, ½ pt milk, seasonings* **Serves 2-3**

Butter bread and make ham sandwiches.

Butter top of each sandwich, cut into 4 triangles and arrange in an ovenproof dish.

Tuck in slices of tomato.

Beat eggs, add milk and seasonings
(I used pepper, parsley and basil).

Pour over ham sandwiches.

Bake Gas 4 (180°) for approx 30 mins
until egg is cooked and bread crisp.

Can also be made with rolls and bacon
(lightly grilled) or cheese for a
vegetarian option.





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The Old Rectory Burnham Deepdale will have its garden open on Saturday 18th June 2pm till 5.30pm

This is a lovely restored garden that is rarely accessible to the public.

There will be numerous plant stalls and scrumptious teas

Adults £4 and children free

It is situated on the A149 coast road

In aid of the neighbouring Burnham Deepdale church and

by kind permission of Mr M Dudley

Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

Tuesday 31st May 2011, 7.30pm at the Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Mangate Street, Swaffham.

“Golden Orioles in the UK.....the story” by Paul Mason. The Golden Oriole is one of Britain’s rarest yet most spectacular breeding birds. Paul has written a book on this species, so it should be a very interesting evening.

Visitors (£2) and new members will be most welcome. Come along to find out about our monthly outdoor bird-watching trips and other events. Refreshments available.

Norfolk Hospice

Saturday 18th June join our family sponsored dog walk ~ meeting at Silver Sands, North Beach, Heacham, to The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House, Snettisham.

Dog grooming provided with ‘dial a dog wash’ ~ proceeds to the Hospice and supported by ‘vet on call’ Coastal Vets of Snettisham and free doggy bag for all four-legged friends!

Please contact Amanda Standen at The Fundraising Office for a registration and sponsor form ~£10.00 family registration, £5.00 individuals ~ accompanied kids free!!

We also, on the 18th, have a Hospice Fete’ and Open Day - 11.00 - 4.00pm with with craft stalls, inflatable bouncy castle , slide and super hero sumo suits, face painting, cakes, hot dogs & lots more at the Hospice at common road, Snettisham ~ everyone is welcome so come along and join in the fun!!!

Free doggy bag for every 4 legged friend!

THE NORFOLK HOSPICE TAPPING HOUSE

Woof & Wellies Family Walk

(approx 4.5 mile)

Saturday 18th June, 11.00am

North Beach, Heacham, to The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House, Snettisham with 'Open Day and Fete' with stalls, hot dogs & bouncy castle, face painting & lots more!

Supported by 'vet on call' Coastal Vets of Snettisham

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Fundraising Standards Board



Forgetfulness

by Maggie Gray

As soon as I opened my eyes I knew something was wrong. Gone were the usual sounds of gulls squealing and the garden birds singing, the radio in the kitchen, my husband making our early morning tea. Instead there was this strange noise, well, not even noise, just a muffled, faint whistling sound like a radiator. I tried to calm myself, to slow down the thudding of my heart which was now booming in my ears. I breathed in to the count of four, out to the count of six. I tried other relaxation methods, none of them worked and I felt the tears begin to fall, sliding down my cheeks and into my ears. I could feel myself getting more tense, no matter how hard I tried not to. It seemed that one of my greatest fears had come true.

I've never worried about losing my looks, if you're not well-blessed in that department, then you haven't got much to lose. Not that I'm unattractive you understand, just not a head turner like my sister Alice and my late mother. Even my father was much fancied by my student friends, something I found embarrassing, my mother was bemused by and he found flattering, though he'd never admit that of course. But it seemed the pot of good looks for our family had run out by the time I came along.

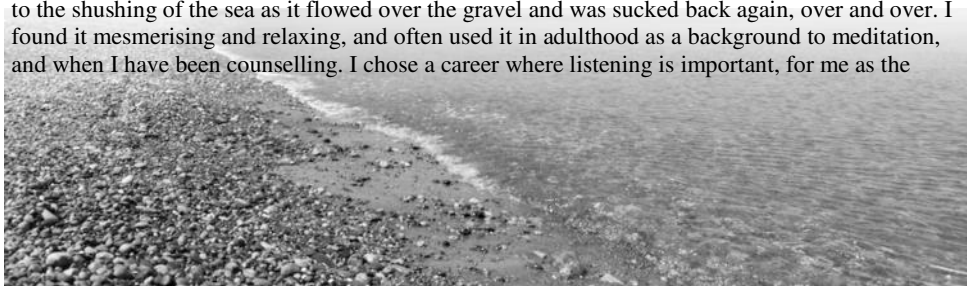
Losing my home and my security would be a shock, but I like to think they are nothing I couldn't handle and rescue, whilst losing my family would of course, be distressing and hard to cope with. Again, I know I would recover in time. But losing my sight or my hearing are the two things I really worry about; you can factor the other losses into your life, losing your family is something we know is likely to happen, death comes to us all.

But to lose my hearing especially, would be devastating; even though I know there is much that can be done to help restore it partially, it's never quite the same. So much of my life is, and has been, taken up with listening, not just hearing but really, really listening. To music for instance, which has been a great part of my life from a young age, hardly surprising with a father who was a baritone and sang in the local choir, a mother who taught piano, and a sister who danced for a living and was often rehearsing at home.

As I was growing up, the house was never silent. It wasn't something I thought about at the time, I just thought it was normal to have this constant noise as a background to your life. But the hours of darkness were precious as this was when singing and piano lessons stopped, and any music was played quietly. It was bliss to lie in bed in an almost totally silent house, and I often tried to stay awake as long as I could, listening to the creaky sounds of an old house, the rattling of old, ill-fitting sash windows and the pelting of rain like little bullets against the window panes on stormy nights.

As a teenager I added my own choice of music to the mix; a child of the Sixties, the Rolling Stones often competed with Alice's 'Swan Lake', my father's deep voice and the sound of the piano as my mother played, constructing her next lesson. Of course, whenever she had a pupil, the rest of us were expected to play our music quietly, though preferably not at all so as not to be a distraction.

One of my favourite pastimes was to wander down to the beach, and sit on the shingle, listening to the shushing of the sea as it flowed over the gravel and was sucked back again, over and over. I found it mesmerising and relaxing, and often used it in adulthood as a background to meditation, and when I have been counselling. I chose a career where listening is important, for me as the



counsellor and for my clients too. For them to know they are being listened to, sometimes for the first time, is a vital part of their therapy. I also used to love the journey into work, travelling on the little bus that drove out to the smaller villages from the market town where I had my practice, because it gave me plenty of opportunity for earwiggling, and listening to the marvellous local accent.

But much as I loved the quietness of the beach and the laid-back lifestyle in a small Suffolk coastal village, I was quite happy to get away for the occasional weekend and experience the frenetic loudness of life in London. The contrast was incredible; the city never seemed to sleep, there was always noise of some kind, though my father rightly said that the countryside is rarely silent, there are usually noises of some kind at all hours of the night, if you *Listen*. He was keen to point out the difference between 'hearing' and 'listening' was my father. Much as I liked the change, I was always glad to get back home though.

And really listening led me to meet Jack, my husband, for the first time. It was his voice, heard across a busy bar, that attracted me to him, it stood out from all those voices around him, almost as if I was tuned into it, listening for the love of my life perhaps. Love at first sound this was, for me. Love at first sight of my red hair, green eyes and freckles, it was for Jack.

Our married life has seen us living in different parts of the world, thanks to Jack's work, many of them a feast for all the senses. Sometimes exotic, beguiling, smelly (not always in a good way either!), vibrant and memorable, each in it's own way. But when we'd had enough of this life and wanted to put down roots, it was back to the English coast where we felt drawn. Here Jack could pursue his love of painting and walking, and I could get back to taking pictures with my camera and grow a garden for the first time. But most of all for me, it was the sight and the sound of the sea, bringing back memories of childhood.

It took us eighteen months to find our home, during which time we lived in a rented flat in one of the areas of London which was not that good but was 'up and coming' according to the agent – aren't they all when there is property to be moved, said the cynic in me. The noise there was constant just as it was everywhere in the city, here it was due to the railway line which ran behind the building, the nearby construction site, traffic day and night, emergency vehicles with their sirens blaring to get people out of their way, impatient drivers hitting their horns for the same reason or yelling out of their windows, the shouts of the stallholders on the nearby market and children in the school playground. Layer upon layer of sounds, yet each one discernible.

'The Drift' was the name given to our home by its previous owners, though we never knew why, and we've kept it for no reason other than neither of us is imaginative enough to come up with anything else more fitting. From the balcony outside our bedroom I can see, and more importantly hear, the sea as it ebbs and flows, the gulls and curlews; I can hear the wind in the treetops, our chickens clucking away to each other, the rooster making his perceived important presence felt. Occasionally I hear the deep BOOM of the foghorn further along the coast, and nearer to hand the scraping of wheels over the shingle as small boats are dragged down to the water's edge on their trailers to catch the tide.

I worry about losing all this, of being forced into a world that is silent. Seeing it is wonderful, having a soundtrack makes it even better. So waking to silence was frightening, and when my husband suddenly appeared by my side and I hadn't heard him climb the stairs, open the latch on the bedroom door, step across the creaky floorboards in front of the window, I jumped in surprise. Not the mock surprise I sometimes used – 'Anything for a cuddle!' he'd say – but genuine shock. I began to cry even harder, great fat tears of self-pity, of fear, crying because although I knew he was saying 'I love you', I couldn't hear the words. Was I never to hear that wonderfully sexy voice again, would there be no more music to smooch to, no more poems to be listened to as he read them to me in front of the log fire, would I really never hear the words I LOVE YOU again? I looked at Jack, hoping to see the same fear, or at least an expression of worry on his face. Instead there was a smile, and leaning forward he gently removed the iPod earphones from my ears. 'You went back to sleep with these plugged in again, didn't you?' he asked.□

Swains Plc Relocates to Dersingham

For those of you wondering what has become of the former Doctors Surgery in Saxon Way and to what use it is now being put, here is the answer.



Local voice and data provider, Swains Plc, have relocated from their Hunstanton offices, where they had been based since the company was established in 1998, to the former doctor's surgery on Saxon Way, Dersingham.

Swains Plc's Managing Director, Charles Wilson, explained the reasons behind the move, "We searched for a property for over 18 months, as we wanted to retain our local links, but it was very difficult to find a suitable site. When the former surgery came onto the market we realised the full potential. It has taken a lot of investment but our new offices enable us to remain local

while enabling us to deliver services to businesses across the UK."

Before work started on the former surgery, the building's interior specifications were planned thoroughly to ensure the premises would be able to facilitate the future growth and expansion of the business. The re-configuration of the property has achieved modern, hi-tech office facilities which are perfect for current and future business demands. With Swains Plc's head office now up and running in Dersingham, the building's transformation has generated a lot of positive feedback and comments.

Barry Ward, Swains Plc's Business Development Manager, said, "Our continued success has meant we have taken on 8 new staff in the past 18 months so we outgrew our Hunstanton site quicker than anticipated. The relocation has enabled us to accommodate the increasing demand for our traditional voice services as well as develop our next generation solutions, including VoIP services and hosted phone solutions."

With a current turnover in excess of £7.5m per annum, the business is bucking the current economic trend by growing at around 12% per annum. This level of return demonstrates that by responding to the needs of customers, while embracing new and ever-evolving technology, businesses can still develop and prosper. Currently employing 25 members of staff, Swains Plc's workforce has grown substantially since the company was first launched in 1998 with just 2 members of staff.

Along with the purchase of their new premises, Swains Plc have also invested heavily in recent months with the development of a new bespoke software platform. This new resource will allow customers to report line faults and place orders directly, saving them both time and money. Swains Plc offer the full range of communication solutions ranging from the installation of a single business line through to a multi-channel digital line suitable for a large office. Swains Plc also provide reduced cost call routing, competitive line rental rates and business broadband, all of which can help to save businesses money and improve efficiency. For more information on Swains Plc's business communication solutions visit our website :- www.swainsplc.co.uk or tel.: 0844 257 2800. □



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l to r - Barry Ward, Associate Director – Sales,
Henry Bellingham MP, Claire Swain Mason,
Commercial Director & Charles Wilson,
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'In An English Country Garden...'

We are pleased to share with you progress of our
'Multi-sensory Community Garden to develop life long learning'.

In October 2010, we were awarded a Big Lottery Grant to develop a previously overgrown wildlife area. Work began in December 2010 but was hindered by snowy weather. It recommenced in January 2011 and has recently been moved on to make it ready for planting. Initial groundwork and the building of the raised planters was done by volunteers from a 'TNG' training programme. Shelters, fencing and paving has been superbly completed by Mr. Sid Ashley and members of his company, 'Unique Timber Buildings'. A beautiful living willow arch was installed by Graham North of 'Natural Gardens'.



We are now ready for planting. We hope to have the Official Opening in June or July when plants have started to grow! We welcome members of the community to come and help the children with their growing projects, looking after the chickens or just to enjoy the new environment. If you are interested in getting involved in any way, please contact us at the school (540022) or call in.



LOTTERY FUNDED

TIME TO MOVE ON

by Sylvia Steele

It was the 3rd May 1969 and the last train was due to leave the station at 11.00am. The whole village had turned out to wave goodbye for the railway had been part of life here since the 1840s.

Along the track by the Gatehouse, where the train would rumble over the crossing points, Nellie waited to say her own farewells. The rough seat where she sat shaded by the copse of sycamore and birch had witnessed all of the railway's history, its arrivals and its partings. Nellie had her own memories.

She could recapture the peacefulness of this niche between school house and church broken only by the train huffing up the incline enroute to the sea and the children spilling from the old school at the 3.30 bell.

In this homely ivy-clad building village children had been taught the three R's for many years before the school closed its doors for good some fifty years ago. And, today, it was the turn of the railway to abandon them with the last train expected along the track at any moment. There had been objections, of course, and Nellie had been at the forefront of petitions to the Government.

'Give up, Nellie,' she had been told.

'What good can a handful of villagers do in the face of bureaucracy?'

'Time to move on,' younger villagers had said.

Maybe they're right, she thought now. But today Nellie wanted to be alone for a while with her memories.

'You're just like one of the boys,' she could hear Ted Brady saying, bringing a glow to her cheeks. Ted was two years her senior but Nellie's fearless acceptance of life had drawn her to him and she had worshipped him from that first day but would never admit to it.

Generations of their families had been neighbours in the terrace of cottages backing on to the railway line where she still lived. Nellie had been a laughing, mischievous child then until tragedy had soured her life and she had counted only two real friends in her sixty nine years.

When the frail-looking John Windsor arrived in the village Nellie had taken him under her wing and argued with the others that 'He needn't play if he doesn't want to,' as she fearlessly fronted the 'let's play chicken' game on the railway track.

'Come on Johnny lad, or sometimes Your Highness or even Royal John,' the boys would taunt as they whipped across the tracks. For the lad who watched the others at their dangerous sport was the frail Prince John, son of George V.

'I wish I had your c-courage, Nellie,' he would stammer. And she would laugh.

Nellie's fierce protection of the lad began on the day he stood aside to avoid the rush of youngsters bursting from the school building.

Ill-at-ease among the rough country-bred children, he appeared quiet and subdued as Nellie took his hand and walked with him along the gravel lane to Wood Farm. She saw his face blanch, his knees buckle beneath him as he fainted

Kneeling by his side, she became frightened by his uncontrollable trembling and held his head against her. Foam was forming around his mouth. She instinctively held him tight praying for the convulsions to stop but not wanting to draw attention to him.

Soon he quietened and was able to talk.

'Thank you Nellie. I'm sorry if I f-frightened you. I was hoping it wouldn't happen here away from Court. You see, I am an epileptic.'

'What's that?' she had wanted to know. 'It means I have these fits occasionally. 'A smile had lit his face. 'Usually at the most awkward moments. Like father's coronation for instance.'

Nellie was relieved to see that the other children were already waiting to play their game as the 3.40pm 'up' approached and were unaware of what had occurred.

Because of his failing health, Prince John had been placed in the capable hands of Nanny Lala Bill at Wood Farm, the King's country retreat where it was felt the Norfolk air would be beneficial for him. King George wanted his youngest son to be brought up as an ordinary lad which, of course, he could never be. Although for most of the time Nellie remembered him as fitting in well enough.

Sounds of cheering and a band striking up God Save the Queen could be heard from the station now breaking into her memories.

'Not long now,' Nellie murmured aloud, leaning back against the gnarled tree. The seat under the sycamores had become a special place over the years. It held their secrets and began Nellie's daily pilgrimage.

Pulling the long grass away from the bole she felt for the carving. Her fingers traced the JW and an inch or two lower NR; John Windsor and Nellie Rowe. It had been his idea to carve their initials on the tree but low enough so that they would remain undetected.

Nellie's fingers moved upwards on the tree trunk until they paused at a second set of initials. TB and NR.

'Dear Ted,' she whispered.

As teenagers they had remained close and the seat by the railway track became theirs as they courted during the hot summer of 1917 and planned their future together. But one evening, instead of discussing marriage as she thought, Ted had gripped both her hands so that she couldn't pull away.

'I've enlisted in the Royal Norfolks Nellie,' he had told her. Her body stiffened. A silence built up between them until Ted put his arms around her shoulders.

'Don't take on so, Nell. I'll soon be back and then we can be wed, eh?' His smile, as always, had charmed the sadness from her face.

'Tell you what, dear, this is our special seat - this is our tree - let's carve our initials on it - then whenever you come and sit here it'll be like I'm right here with you. What d'you say?'

Not trusting herself to speak, Nellie had merely nodded as she took the penknife from him. Locating the initials already there, she had moved her fingers up a few inches and begun to carve.

Fifty years on and the initials hidden from the world behind their curtain of bluebells and tall grass were still discernible to her searching fingers.

And Ted had been right, she thought. For it was at this seat that she felt he was never far away. A rumble along the track drew Nellie's attention. She knew just how long it would take the train to round the bend pass the signal box and then the gatehouse.

She had witnessed it take her fiance on his last journey from the village to be lost forever on the fields of Flanders.

Two years later she had learned of her friend, Prince John's death in his sleep. Nellie had sobbed her last tears as she stood by the side of the track as the Royal cortege left Wood Farm, making its slow procession past the old school house, the gatehouse and the station enroute to its final resting place at Sandringham.

Now the train that had enmeshed their lives was making steam as it, too, prepared to leave on its final journey.

An uneasy quiet had fallen over the villagers as many fought to hold back the tears. From her seat, along the track Nellie's fingers caressed for the last time, the two pairs of initials.

She straightened her shoulders and stood up.

The rhythmic clacking of the train's wheels grew louder as it chugged up the slight incline. Nellie moved to the side of the track.

Time to take my own farewell, she thought. Time for one last game of chicken.□

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DERSINGHAM DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY



Over the last two weeks in March and the first in April our Members were busy getting their Easter Bonnets ready for the Easter Lunch and Party on the 27th April. The morning team of Volunteers were on site early and, as this was just two days before the Royal Wedding, we combined our table decorations with Spring flowers and little Union Jacks. Thanks to Rod Saunders for decorating the Church Hall with flags and bunting and a large picture of the Royal Couple. Ruth Mountain and our



Volunteers were busy in the kitchen, preparing the now traditional turkey lunch, and by the time the first Members arrived on the transport, coffee and teas were ready to welcome them. At mid-day Members and Volunteers together with their Guests, forty in all, sat down to lunch.

By the time the tables had been cleared our entertainer on key-board, Leigh Murfet, was ready to start. He soon had everyone singing along to all the old traditional favourites sung on these occasions, and everyone joined in with great enthusiasm. The Volunteers dancing display kept the party atmosphere going and even some Members joined in, one with the aid of a walker. Then it was time for the Easter Bonnet Competition. The judges walked around inspecting the various



bonnets and then named the two winners. The prize for the best lady's bonnet was awarded to Mrs June Dorman and the gentleman's prize went to Mr Ken Freeman. Each was presented with a Chocolate Easter Rabbit. Tea was served with buttered hotcross buns and then the party ended with another singsong and the



distribution of Easter eggs to all the Members. Unfortunately five of our Members were ill and unable to be there, but we made sure that Easter Eggs were put aside for them.

Saturday the 18th June is the Day Centre's designated Flag Day, under the umbrella of the Alexandra Rose Day. Our volunteers will be out and about in Dersingham on that day, whatever the weather. What we collect goes towards our running costs and is an important part of our fund raising. We have had great support from the village in the past and we would be very grateful if you could give us your support again this year.

We are now have a full Membership and have a waiting list of people wishing to join the Day Centre. Unfortunately, we are now urgently in need of more Volunteers. Can you help please? Volunteers are welcome for **any time** they can spare between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm. each Wednesday but at the moment we are particularly short of help in the mornings. I feel there must be someone out there who could spare even as little as an hour on a Wednesday. As we don't meet in the summer holidays, perhaps there are some young mums too who would be willing to help in term time. I can guarantee you won't regret it.

PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP THE DAY CENTRE GOING

If you feel you might be able to help and would like more information, please contact me, Alice Worth on Dersingham 544673, or call in at St. Nicholas' Church Hall any Wednesday and see what is involved.□

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The Old Biddie and her Cottage Garden

Oh Joy! I shall live for another year now. The dreadful foul February has passed, and so too has a sunny March with warm balmy days in which my strength returned and out in the garden I strode, to dig and toil. Fortified by the lovely warm sun and the sounds of the birds singing I set to on the almost dead hedge flanking my neighbour's garden. There is something good about cutting wood. I soon had masses of twigs and realised there would be many trips to the dump, so decided at long last to shell out for an incinerator – one of those dustbins with holes and a funnel in the lid. I felt that it would soon pay for itself by saving me petrol, and I had fun making controlled bonfires. I do miss having a large garden for big bonfires, and no neighbours to annoy with the smoke... but that is by the by and the incinerator fulfilled in me the primeval joy of making fire.

I had two metal chairs in part of the area I was de-hedging, I noticed, in one of my many breathers, that one chair had a rivet shorn through. I resolved to bin it before anyone sat on it with dire results. What do I do next? After the next little twig-and-incinerator foray, I sit down to take a breather and find myself plummeting to the ground – the second rivet giving up the ghost. What a fool – short term memory that comes with old age – I'd completely forgotten my previous observation. So, there I was, sitting on a flattened chair on the ground within billows of wood smoke that was choking me and wondering how on earth I am going to get up before death by bonfire. Taking a quick peek road-wards, I thank the fairies that nobody was passing to notice my ignoble descent. Those of you reading who haven't reached old age will wonder at my dismay. Those of you who have, will be with me on this one. *You can't get up when you are old and fat* and you have to become a master at bum-shuffling to somewhere with an upright with which you can pull yourself up. Crow didn't help, thinking it was some kind of riotous game just for him.

Later on I did an even more dangerous thing and drove over to the nurseries at Creake to choose some flowering trees to put in a new border I took about a week to dig. I mentioned the word dangerous – I find it so difficult not to buy the entire contents of any nursery that I visit and have to keep a tight rein on my desires.

With all the blossoms in their full glory, I was thinking about all the people with inhalers – asthma and so on - and realised that when I was a kid nobody seemed to suffer. I thought about all the things that must cause this, including pesticides when the farmers spray the fields which reminded me that my grandfather, a farmer, was quite an inventor, and had dreamed up a scheme to manure the fields far more quickly than the normal ploy of a bloke with a pitch fork standing in a trailer full of steaming muck. I don't remember the mechanics of the idea, but it involved a tractor, a pump, a rotating hosepipe and liquid manure. The idea worked a treat and the fields were admirably covered in double quick time, but then so was the tractor driver – in those days there were no cabs on tractors – and he was covered from head to toe in the most excellent soil booster.....

Him-indoors-with-the-tv-remote-welded-to-his-hands actually braved the outdoors and helped me put up some chicken wire along the fedge by the pavement. This keeps the dog in and the deer out. Crow can now run around the lawn, and not stick his head out at passing people and frighten the life out of them when I am working in the garden. It doesn't look too bad, and once the shine has worn off it won't be apparent, especially once the leaves are out to hide it. It will be good for trailing plants like clematis to meander along. Him indoors also put up three arches for me. They only cost £9.99 each and are understandably flimsy, but I reckon they will see me out. The third arch didn't look right where I had intended it, so it went at the top of some steps leading down to a patio area that I have been clearing – the old foliage had almost filled the whole patio, but now it is all nice and spacious. Mum had a variegated ivy on a previous arch there that broke with the weight, and I have been able to tie the remains of it onto the new arch and it already reaches near to the top.

You would think I would learn by my mistakes, but after the episode with the garden chair, I sat down on one of the garden benches and went through that too. Well, I *was* sitting down for a *break*.....Unfortunately Him indoors witnessed the event and nearly wet himself laughing.

I was interested in Dick Melton's reference in Village Voice to work at the flax factory at West Newton, and googled to find out more. I was imagining something romantic, for what is more

beautiful than blue flax fields in their full glory? I pictured fair maids picking over the flowers with the sun shining hazily through workshop cobwebby windows, but apparently flax created terrible dust in the factories causing no end of lung problems with the workers – according to historical records this had been noted down by a Bernardino Ramazzini as early as 1705 – Ramazzini seems to have spearheaded workers' problems and was the founder of occupational and industrial medication. Flax was first cultivated 6,600 years ago in Egypt and mentioned in Exodus regarding the plagues of Egypt. Flax at that time was used for the material that wrapped around mummies. More recently, during the second world war years, the flax produced in factories in Norfolk were used for making parachute harnesses, ships canvas and also for hosepipes. How many workers from Dersingham, I wonder, had lung problems caused by their war efforts with flax?

Popped into the local garden centre and bought climbing roses, Clematis Montana, and Honeysuckle to grow up the new arches. Stopped myself from getting one of everything. It conveniently rained in the evening keeping the soil nice and soft. Digging up to now has been quite easy, with the soil 'just right'. Later on in the summer the soil becomes so hard that I can't get a fork into it, so I hope to get everything dug and weeded and sorted out by May before it gets even hotter – Spring has really been as hot as Summer this year, hasn't it.

I really *love* working out in the garden. Not only do I watch and listen to the bird life, I can hear some nearby horses snickering in their stables – a lovely sound, which reminds me of the days when I had Tiffany, a bad-tempered cob who had a wicked sense of humour. She would deliberately stand on my feet, and when I burst out laughing, her lips would smile too, in a kind of 'oh, she's found me out then' type of way. When I groomed her, we would watch together when



the birds flew down to pick up her hair to take back to line their nests. Sometimes, from over the road, I can also hear someone's chickens clucking and a cockerel crowing, reminding me of the days when I had poultry too. I do miss them all, but not the work they entailed. I love to hear the sounds of 'the farmyard' and can never understand people who complain. Why come and live in

the country if you can't accept the country sounds? There's no pleasing some, I suppose.

Everything in the garden is looking gorgeous and the flowers came into bloom early like everything else this Spring. All the cherry tree blossoms are looking fantastic and I just need to get all the borders weeded and then can sit back in a *new and sturdy* chair and just enjoy looking my garden this summer – though the more I look and admire, the more I see that needs sorting. I've googled and order some perennial plants, and been going through catalogues – it's all so very tempting! I think I am too late now to sow seeds, so will have to rely on the more expensive option. Well, I don't have holidays... □

Have a lovely summer, folks – *The Old Biddie*

DERSINGHAM INSTITUTE BOWLS CLUB

The club opened the new season on Saturday the 16th April, Bob Meredith (President) bowled up the first two woods to start season off, then a full compliment of members enjoyed four tournament games, in glorious warm weather.

The green was found to be in excellent condition, which had been carefully manicured with the aid of the brand new super lawn mower, which the club had been able to purchase with aid of grant from Sport England.

Further good news was, Her Majesty The Queen arranged with Mr O'Lone (Sandringham Estate agent) for us to receive a substantial donation from the Privy Purse Charitable Trust, this was particularly welcome towards club funds, as it will help with the extra expenses we had, as reported at the beginning of the year. □

Gordon Fisher



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Sandringham Squirrels by Alan Coleby

Girl squirrels - Ella,
Eve, Cassie, Thora

Boy squirrels - Scoot,
Chip, Barney, Gus



Hens' eggs

'What's your favourite food?' asked Barney.

'I don't really know,' answered Scoot. 'I like nuts- chestnuts, beechnuts and acorns. Mum gave me some that had been stored over the winter.'

'Oh. That's what your mum will tell you to eat,' said Barney, with a laugh. 'She'll say they're good for your teeth. But have you tasted soft food, really soft food? It may not be good for your teeth, but it doesn't half taste good.'

Barney was always suggesting that the young squirrels did new things, tried things out to see what they were like. He was bigger than the other young squirrels because he was quite a bit older. He had been born right at the end of last summer, more or less into autumn, and so that made him nearly a year old.

He was almost an adult, and could have gone around with them, but he liked a lot of fun. He was always laughing, always clowning around, not really grown up enough to want to go with the adults. That's why he sometimes went around with two other young ones, Chip and Gus. The adults spent most of their time on their own, or at least the men did, because they didn't look after the young ones like the mums did.

Scoot was a little afraid of Barney because of his big size and his loud voice. Gus had told him that Barney sometimes didn't like it if you didn't go along with what he wanted to do, and now he had something on his mind about food.

'Have you ever eaten eggs?' he asked Scoot.

'No,' said Scoot, 'but Mum says there are birds' nests in the hawthorn bushes and in the chestnut trees.'

'No, not them,' said Barney loudly, and a bit impatiently. 'Wild birds' eggs are no good. They are too small and the parent birds might have left them to go cold. You don't know how long they've been laid. They might be near to hatching, which means they're no good to eat.'

'No. What you want to eat, Scoot, are hens' eggs. People rob the hens' nests every day, so if you find any, you know they're fresh, and they're nearly always warm. They're big and they taste delicious. They're so smooth and so silky. If you eat one, it will just slide down your throat. They're beautiful. There's nothing like them. Eeeeh! They are the best food anywhere.'

'Oh,' said Scoot, really impressed with this keenness. 'I hope I get to eat one sometime, then.'

'Ah! You don't have to wait for sometime,' said Barney, and he sounded really friendly and looked right into Scoot's face and winked. 'I can show you where you can get some now. Do you want to see?'

'Well, yes,' said Scoot, happy to hear this strong, tough squirrel telling him such a good secret.

'OK. Follow me.'

Barney left the wood and went through the gorse patch. At the edge of the gorse patch was some fencing and great panels of iron that made a rough and ramshackle fence.

'I think they put that fence up to keep foxes out,' said Barney, 'but we can always squeeze through or climb over the top.' With that, he jumped to the top of one of the pieces of iron, scrambled up a large patch of wire-netting which was above it, stood on a long stick of wood at the top of the wire-netting and jumped down to the ground on the other side.

Scoot followed him. He had been growing fast, and his little arms and legs and curved, sharp claws were getting very strong now, and he was surprised at how easy the climbing and jumping was.

He landed beside Barney, who didn't say anything, but just gave a broad grin and set off through some trees. Scoot could see they were in an orchard and he was glad to be near trees because he was a bit afraid, being a long way from his home beech tree. He could also hear they were near a road, which made him more nervous.

Once they were through the orchard, Barney headed for some small wooden huts, a little distance away from a house. They came to a large wooden box which had some steps up to it and a little open door, about big enough for a cat to get through.

Barney stood aside and made a sign to Scoot. 'Go on,' he said. 'Look in first, to see of there is a hen in it, and if there isn't, feel around for the eggs. I know there are some in there because I can smell them.'

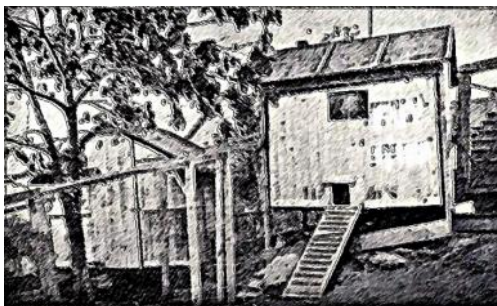
Very cautiously and slowly, Scoot peered into the box and looked around as well as he could in the dark. There was no hen. Then he felt round very carefully and there they were: warm and big, on a little mound of straw. Still more carefully, he pulled one out, held it and marvelled at it. He grinned in triumph at Barney. Barney nodded.

Then a dog barked. Scoot was startled. He jumped back and dropped the egg. Splosh! All the lovely yellow yolk and the jelly that was inside the shell ran out over the ground.

'Oh! Stupid! You stupid kid! All that and now we've lost it. Quick! We'll have to run. Here comes the dog. We must get back to the orchard where we can climb. If he catches us, he'll kill us.'

They dashed to the nearest tree and shot to the top of it. They swung from tree to tree until they reached the fence and then leaped over, safe from the dog. Scoot panted to get his breath back. His fear and panic slowly died down.

'Well, I guess you'll have wait a bit longer to taste hens' eggs,' said Barney, and he laughed very loudly as he walked away from Scoot and left him alone.□



COVER PHOTO COMPETITION 2011

This years subject is -

DERSINGHAM'S HERITAGE

Get one of your pictures on the cover of the October Village Voice. Take a photo of your interpretation of Dersingham's Heritage. You may submit entries as prints or electronically, on a disc or by e-mail for the closing date of **Wednesday 7th 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
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or e-mail to:-

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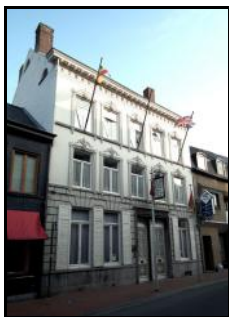


Steve Davis Wipers and Pops!

On 14th March, with our bikes on the roof of the car, my good friend and ex-colleague Patrick and I crossed over to Calais on the impressive *SeaFrance Rodin* ferry and drove on to the Belgian municipality of *Ypres* (pronounced “*Eepr*”) in West Flanders; a notable area around which the *salient* front line projected into enemy territory during World War I.

Back in 1914 Ypres was still French speaking – hence the French spelling of the name, which the British *Tommies* reading it at face value nicknamed “*Wipers*”. Now in the Dutch speaking area of Belgium, you would be hard pressed to find any road sign using anything other than the Dutch spelling: *Ieper*, however note that the first letter is a capital **I**, not an **L** as some have read it, hence many confusing online references to the totally wrong *Leper*.

Late in the afternoon, we made a quick visit to the city of Ypres itself, with its impressive St Martin’s Cathedral, the even larger Cloth Hall, and the buildings surrounding the Market Square. It is hard to imagine that all this had been totally destroyed during WW1, but despite Winston Churchill’s recommendation that it be left unreconstructed as an enduring monument to British servicemen, the residents of the region went ahead and rebuilt it as near as possible to the original. The huge Menin Gate memorial on the east side of the city bears the names of 54,900 British and Empire WW1 soldiers who lost their lives but whose bodies were not recovered. Crowds gather every evening at 8pm for the Last Post Ceremony as they have done since its inauguration in 1927.



Eight miles west of Ypres is the town of Poperinge (given the *Tommy* nickname “*Pops*”), the first major town back from the Ypres Salient. Apart from being a safe place for hospitals, it was where troops would come to spend their off-duty hours in the bars, clubs and places of more dubious repute. Nestled there in a back street is Talbot House, the place that became the famous original *Toc H* club set up by Revd Philip “Tubby” Clayton (1885-1972) as a place of refuge for mental, physical and spiritual relaxation. A living museum, it is now run as a simple but very welcoming and comfortable hostel and where we spent our next three nights. On the ground floor we had the use of a communal kitchen and dining room, a lounge and TV room with the portrait of Tubby over the mantelpiece. On the first floor one could look into Tubby’s Office, where they had tried to recreate the look and feel of it as it was then and bearing the sign that was once displayed above the front door “*All Rank Abandon, Ye Who Enter*”. My simple bedroom on the second floor overlooked the fairly extensive and peaceful garden that seemed pretty much as it did back in 1914 going by the photo on the hall wall. Best of all was the Chapel right in the attic that could be reached via a set of steep ladder-like steps.

For our first full day we drove back into Ypres for a pre-booked minibus tour (see www.salienttours.be) for which we were joined by a companionable party of four other gents as well as Steve our Canadian driver/guide. Starting with a drive back across the French border to Vimy Ridge the site of a famous WW1 battle, the main combatants being the Canadian Corp and hence the site of the very huge, impressive and surprisingly modern looking twin-towered Canadian memorial, though actually unveiled back





in 1937. It bears the names of some 11,285 missing Canadian soldiers with no known graves. Of course our guide gave us the full low-down here and said how the Canadians had been worried that it would become a target for the Germans during WW2, but in fact Hitler himself visited it and was photographed there in 1940. We drove on to the nearby La Chaudière Military Cemetery where we attended the funeral interment with full military honours of the recently discovered and identified remains of Private Philip Lawless born in Dublin in 1889 and emigrated to Canada where as a member of the 49th

Canadian Infantry he fell in a massive raid against the German lines just south of Avion in 1917.

Unearthing of hitherto unaccounted for remains of WW1 casualties is a frequent occurrence even to this day and we visited the new Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery at Fromelles formally completed only last year with its elegant but sobering regimentally laid out gravestones many of which bore the simple inscription *Unknown Soldier, Known unto God*. Not far away, the VC Corner Australian Cemetery with its bronze *Cobbers Memorial* statue of a wounded soldier being carried from the battlefield. We passed cemetery after cemetery, and memorial after memorial including a simple make-shift one to the *Khaki Chums Christmas Truce* on the site of one of the football matches between opposing sides. As we made our way across into Belgium again we visited the Messines



Ridge and the Church Crypt used as a German HQ and hospital where it is said that the then young wounded officer and promising politician Adolph Hitler was nursed back to health. We visited battlefield after battlefield, heard stories of how each side would tunnel and mine their way under the opposing side, pack with high explosives and blow them up from below, the most horrific and successful in our case being at the simply entitled Hill 60 where opposing trenches were barely a stones throw apart, but the huge crater still bears testimony to the event and trains still have to slow down as they near it for fear of the track collapsing into a mined tunnel. At the Hill 62 museum we saw British trenches pretty much as they were left with all the mud and grime that go with them. But perhaps the grimmest of all was the visit to Passchendaele ridge where under the most horrific cold and muddy conditions some

310,000 British lives were lost and another 260,000 German in order to capture a ridge only to be relinquished again when troops were redeployed elsewhere. Even our final visit to the vastly regimented Tyne Cot Cemetery at Passchendaele could hardly convey the full scale of such loss. It was something of a relief to return to the comfort and tranquillity of Talbot House and I was in bed and asleep by 9:00pm.

Our next day was altogether different as we tucked into the ample provisions in our pre-ordered breakfast trays that had been delivered to us from the patisserie across the road. The croissants, bread rolls, pain-au-chocolat, cheese, ham and spreads left us with plenty for a packed lunch to take on our cycle ride as we meandered along quiet country lanes, past hop fields and cycle paths alongside long straight waterways, toward the attractive town of Veurne some 17 miles away. Its close proximity to the



sea brought quite a drop in temperature but we wandered around the interesting central market that was just closing down before visiting the very ornate St Walburga Church and finding a garden centre where Patrick could buy some of the *Longue de Bretagne* French Shallot sets that he had strict orders from his wife not to return without! We returned by the same route, though I think I could have done without the puncture along the way!

Back at base I was chatting to the duty warden and he was showing me a scrapbook that someone had put together regarding Talbot House and the Town of Poperinge. What I had not realised was that Poperinge was also home to the sinister Shot-at-Dawn Cells. As if we did not lose enough lives on the battlefields, so many of our soldiers it seems suffered the fate of being shot for desertion, cowardice or even simply falling asleep on duty. Shell shock, battle fatigue and post traumatic stress were simply not recognised and mitigation was in short supply. Widows as a result of such a



fate received no war-widow's pension either! So much depressing inhumanity; so much strategic incompetence; so much loss; one could wonder how much we have learnt by it all.

I must confess that I did find myself pondering whether all the extensive military graveyards, the hugely extravagant memorials with ever increasing annual maintenance expense and funerals with full military honours nearly a century later were really necessary and that

perhaps there were now more pressing needs to channel our efforts and funds into? And yet I cannot deny the hugely sobering and vivid picture that it all paints and I feel the richer, more grateful, privileged and I hope too have a sense of wanting to give more of my life to others in return as a result of the experience.

Extensive material concerning all the places and events that I have mentioned can be viewed on the Internet via a simple Google search and you can see all 193 of my photos with captions at: picasaweb.google.com/ukuleleboy/FlandersTrip

Like many I suppose I had grown a little tired of the prolonged lead up and hype concerning the Royal Wedding. So on the morning itself, with my wife already out at a Royal Wedding hen gathering I thought I would settle down quietly at the computer to get on with writing this article before watching the main service myself on TV. Just after 10:15am I happened by chance to read on the Internet that Sandringham had set up a 12ft video link in the Visitor Centre Restaurant with the offer of free tea and coffee served up until 12 noon. With the sun unexpectedly just coming out I decided that maybe this was not the time to be inside by myself and on the spur of the moment cycled up there to join in with the celebrating crowds and become engulfed in the most amazingly well presented and choreographed Royal Wedding spectacle that made me all at once feel very proud of our nation and heritage. Thank you Sandringham, a nice gesture that was much appreciated.□



Email: steve@davista.co.uk or visit www.davista.co.uk for links to docs, photos & videos.



Greetings from the manse

Recently I had the opportunity to inspect a first edition of the King James Bible at a Methodist do. It was kindly loaned out for the occasion from Norwich Cathedral. It was huge. You wouldn't get it in your pocket or in your bag. It might fit in a large suitcase but you would struggle to carry it any distance even if you could lift it. It was big. Primarily they were printed to be read in church services rather than for private use. Many

were chained to reading desks, pulpits and lecterns. They were valuable commercially as well as spiritually. The loose-leaf version sold for ten shillings and the bound edition for 12 shillings. The text was presented in columns like today's Bibles.

The opening of the Epistle to the Hebrews of the 1611 Bible shows the original typeface and also marginal notes reference variant translations and cross references to other Bible passages. Each chapter is headed by a précis of contents. There are decorative initial letters for each chapter, and a decorated headpiece to each Biblical book, but no illustrations in the text. It is a handsome thing indeed. To our eyes the text would look a bit funny because in 1611 spelling was not standardised. On second thoughts with text speak perhaps it wouldn't look so peculiar after all! Printers, as a matter of course, expanded and contracted the spelling of the same words in different places, so as to achieve an even column of text. The look of the text was very important. They set *v* for initial *u* and *v*, and *u* for *u* and *v* everywhere else. They used long *f* for non-final *s*, while *j* occurs only after *i*, as in the final letter in a Roman numeral. Punctuation was relatively heavy, in the sense that there was a lot of it, again different from today's practice. When space needed to be saved, the printers sometimes used *ye* for *the*, set *ā* for *an* or *am*, and set *&* for *and*. On a few occasions, they appear to have inserted these words when they thought a line needed to be padded. Current printings remove most, but not all, of the variant spellings; the punctuation has also been changed, but still varies from current usage norms.

The 1611 King James Bible is however a long way from the way that early manuscripts were produced. The earliest Biblical texts were written on papyrus scrolls that were superseded from the third and fourth centuries AD by parchment, which had the double advantage of being more durable and capable of being written on both sides. Scrolls now would become codexes or books, albeit hand written. The multiple columns of the magnificent fourth century "Codex Sinaiticus," discovered in the middle of the nineteenth century by Dr. Constantine Von Tischendorf at the monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai, is the only known complete copy of the Greek New testament in majuscule script. Hand written texts are divided into two types, "majuscules", which are documents written in capital letters and "minuscules," those written in small case letters, often





in cursive scripts, like letters and other contemporary documents.

As can be seen from the page showing part of the Gospel of John, Chapter 21: 1-21, majuscules did not have spaces between words nor did they have much punctuation if any. Neither were they divided into verses and numbered.

Words just flowed and ran into one another, possibly because parchment was expensive, but probably because this was just the way it was done in a culture where only an elite could read and write and everyone else, including the vast majority of the early christians, who were literally hearers of the word.

You may remember from the first article in this series, that there exists between all the early texts and documents of the New Testament many differences that can be accounted for by simple copying errors. We shouldn't be

surprised if we imagine a scribe faced with looking at and reproducing such texts as their life's worth. The commonest errors were caused by missing or adding words or letters. Almost all manuscripts contain at least a few instances of it. The technical word "*homoioteleuton*," in Greek literally meaning "same ending," occurs when two words/phrases/lines end with the same sequence of letters. The scribe, having finished copying the first, skips to the second, omitting all intervening words. Similarly there is "*homoiarcton*," "same beginning," is the inverse error that occurs when a scribe's eye skips from one occurrence of a word, phrase or sequence of letters to a similar sequence further down the page. And then there is "*dittography*" and "*haplography*" which explain the repletion or omission of letters and syllables from words being copied by weary scribes with wandering attention, who may also have had faulty eyesight, and when texts were dictated for copying, faulty hearing!

The text of today's Bible has been ironed out and smoothed over to make them uniform and easier to read. And that is very much to the point. The Bible is meant to be read and it's message heard. Happy and productive reading to you and yours. □

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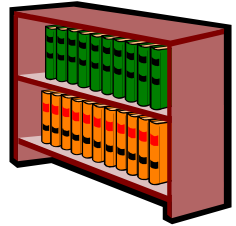
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Dersingham Library



Events

"The Ancient Borough of Castle Rising" with Fred and Sylvia Cooke

Tuesday 7 June

10.30am – 12.00 noon. Tickets are free but must be pre-booked by calling the library on 01485 540181

Regular Events

Weekly Scrabble Club

Mondays at 2.00pm

Make new friends over a game or two - refreshments provided

For more details please call the library on 01485 540181

Knit and natter

Thursdays 10.30am – 12.00noon

This is now a weekly drop in morning for those who knit or crochet (or those who are interested in learning how to do both). If you are a knitter and are interested in helping others learn or if you would like to learn a new skill and find out how you can knit for charities, then please give us a call. Coffee and tea provided.

Books for Busy Parents

No time to find a book for yourself? Would you like to talk about the books you like with other busy parents?

Why not come along to this monthly group, meet other parents and let library staff offer help and suggestions?

Under 5s are very welcome. There will be a story and a colouring activity and then a book discussion.

10.30 - 11.30am on Thursday 2 June

Computer Help Hour

Thursdays from 12.00 – 1.00pm

Would you like tips on how to shop safely on the internet?

Are you having troubles with your email attachments?

Do you want to learn how to upload your digital photos?

Then why not come along to Dersingham Library for our Computer Help Hour on and we'll try our best to help you out!

There's no need to book, just come along. Please note there may be a short waiting time to be seen.

Dersingham Book Group

We meet on a Tuesday evening at 6pm and new members are very welcome

Dates for 2011 are 31 May, 28 June, 19 July, 30 August, 27 September, 25 October, 29 November and 20 December

Dersingham Crime Book Club

We meet at 6pm on the second Tuesday of the month

Dates for 2011 are 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November and 20 December.□

Alison

I am currently reading Plum Spooky by Janet Evanovich

Old Girls Patch

by Meetze

Guess what? I have googled the thumb growing thing I told you about. Apparently I have to drink milk. Not so good for me as I am lactose intolerant. Everybody of us is actually except the 2-legged male and Tiny Tatty. Well, never mind. I lived without them for such a long time, that I can't even remember the summers and winters I already enjoyed.

The little 2-legged female that moved in last September moved out by the way. That is better for us, as she kept forgetting to close the door and granddad kept escaping. And the shouting after him did not help either because he chooses not to hear anybody. So off he went wobbling along. Good thing my 2-legged female panics quickly and caught him before he could reach the road. Not a good place to be for us as you will remember.

Sidney is a bit sad these days as Tinkerbelle brought along a new boy friend. She ditched him for a bigger boy that looks like a rabbit-munchkin mix. So we call him Buxy. He is ever so cute, but he only has eyes for Tink. Buxy tried to play with Sid, sort of to make up for his loss, but Sid was not in the mood. Since Tink turned up with Buxy, Sid is cuddling at night a lot with our 2-legged female, which she loves, but I lost my space in her arm. I just can't bring myself to fight Sidney. I panic, scream and run off as soon Sid lifts a paw. I know I am silly; after all, I was here first.

I started to sleep and purr on the pillow over my 2-legged male. But he did purr even louder than me. Then I tried tickling him coincidently with the tip of my tail under his nose. He just gave his nose a scratch and continued sleeping. I tried again, but he scratched again and just turned onto his other side. That looked like a fun game to be, though I tickled him again. This time he grumbled something I did not understand and pulled the duvet over his head. Now I had enough of being ignored and jumped onto the big bump under the duvet. Now I got his full attention, as this bump under the duvet was apparently very sensitive. He picked me up and put me on his side and cuddled me. Don't think I won; we are playing this "game" now for nearly 3 weeks. He just doesn't get that all I want is to sleep in his arm, as my female 2-legged ones arm is occupied by Sid. Men!

But I have good sleeps in the end until my dreams get unceremoniously interrupted by a round constantly ticking thing that lives on the bedside table. It makes a ridiculously loud noise until my 2-legged male whacks his paw on the top of that noisy little bugger. If I got whacked like that once, what ever I did, I would never do it again. But this white thing does not seem to get the message, as it keeps being loud every single day.

Speaking of ceremony. The wedding is coming up and Stumps got dressed for the occasion. I took a picture, as you probably won't believe it otherwise.

The weekend before the wedding we had Easter. My 2-legged female did a fun game, which apparently everybody is playing Easter Sunday in Germany. The eggs and little presents are hidden somewhere in the garden and someone else has to find them all. It was great fun to watch, as the 2-legged male stumped a few times past some eggs and nearly tread on one as well. The eggs were boiled and coloured the night before Easter Sunday and that was fun as well. Stumps ended up with a pink paw because she walked by mistake into the pink liquid bowl and granddad ended up with a blue nose, because he thought the blue liquid in the bowl could be food, so he had a close sniff.



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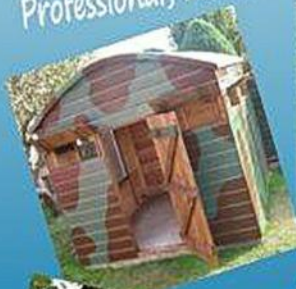
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1911 Reflections of 2011

by Elizabeth Fiddick

There is a very common saying that History repeats itself and that would seem to be very true of the years

1911 and 2011. As I researched into the year 1911 more and more parallels with our time came to light. 1911 was of course also a year for a census and everyone was looking forward to the Olympic Games to be held in Stockholm in 1912. At the time of writing the plans for the Queen's visit to Ireland had been finalised. It is the first such visit to Ireland of a British monarch since, yes that's

right, King George V in 1911. In January of that year we would have been reading of the siege of Sidney Street when police were looking for anarchists who had killed three policemen. There is a famous photo showing a young Winston Churchill observing these events. We would also have read of riots with troops opening fire on protesters and killing three men. However these events took place in Wales when railway workers came out to support striking Dockers who were campaigning for a minimum wage of 30/- a week and better working conditions. Later Liverpool was wracked by riots during a national strike of stevedores, railwaymen and transport workers with another two men being shot dead by troops. Manchester feared widespread famine and in London all police leave was cancelled and buses were off the road due to a lack of petrol. At the end of the year it was the turn of the suffragettes to cause a riot outside the Houses of Parliament. 1911 also saw the world's first aerial bombing campaign when the Italians invaded Libya and Giulio Gavotti dropped four hand grenades from his monoplane onto Tripoli. There was an earthquake in Mexico City and riots in Bombay. On a less violent note we would have learned that the Norwegian Amundsen was racing our own Captain Scott to be the first to reach the South Pole. Our confidence in the success of the English party would be shattered in December when the news that Amundsen had succeeded reached our shores with no information on the whereabouts of Captain Scott. The first wireless message was sent from the Airship Beta. Bradford City beat Newcastle United 1-0 to win the FA cup and in Paris a thief had slipped in over night and stolen The Mona Lisa. (It would not be recovered until 1913). Alexander's Rag Time Band was the music hit of the year.

We have just celebrated the marriage of Prince William and Catherine Middleton and many groups are making plans on ways to mark the Diamond Jubilee in 2012. In 1911 people up and down the country, in all the towns and villages, were deciding how to celebrate the coronation of King George V on June 22nd. So what was happening here in Dersingham at this time? The village was a smaller place in 1911 with a population of just 1,499. To imagine the village then you must in your mind's eye remove all the new building that has happened. For example take away all those bungalows in Centre Vale and put back the Great Pasture. Replace Clayton Close with pasture land and natural ponds where Mr. Jarvis the baker tethered his horses. On the opposite side of the road next to the Pottery instead of the housing development see again the large house known as The Oaks with its well tended gardens where William Langley lived. When you walk up to the top of the common imagine it with no trees as Cranberry Fen, Badger Fen and the Great Marsh stretch down to the Wash with no housing developments at all. You would be able to watch the steam train make its way into a bustling station yard tended by the station master Mr. Arthur Chilvers and watch the passengers cross the road to the Alexandra Hotel where Isaac Bird would serve them. The area about the church has changed very little since the Rev. Lewis took the services. Theodore Jannoch, a German national, was running his Lily nursery at Dersingham Hall



and all the villagers were very proud that Mr. Jannoch had been granted the Royal Warrant as the largest grower of Lily of the Valley in England. Opposite the church the long low farm building called "the Hovel" stood alone in the Washpit pastures. The old sheep washpit is still there although fast crumbling away and disappearing amongst the tangle of bushes. The village school which is about to be changed for ever would have been alive with the sound of children's voices as Mr. Firth, Headmaster, and his staff sought to teach the three Rs. At the Post office you would have been served by Miss Alice Maud Beckett.

Village meetings and Social events were usually held in the Forester's Hall as it was the only place with sufficient space to accommodate large numbers. At a social gathering there early in the year Miss Standaloft delighted those present with her rendition of "*Love was once a little boy*" and Mr. George Sharpe sang "*Glorious Devon.*" It was there on a memorable night in April the officers and men of the Sandringham Company of Territorials celebrated the winning of the King Edward VII Challenge Cup with a magnificent Ball. The Hall itself was used solely as a ball-room and was surrounded with temporary canvas structures that served as a handsomely furnished reception room and dining area where 200 sat down to supper. The background to the stage was a large picture of Windsor Castle and the front was decorated with a fine collection of flowers. Flags adorned the walls and the whole effect was reported as "*strikingly pretty*". Music was provided by the band of the company under Bandmaster Riches with Miss Brookes at the piano. In May the Football Club concluded a successful season with a Dinner and *Smoking?* Concert there. The players were presented with the medals and the League Cup they had won while a Mr. Smith recited an original ode of his own composition. In January of that year the Tithe Barn was opened up, decorated with flags and evergreens and hosted a Parish Tea attended by 200 children. The Dun Cow, proprietor Thomas Augustus Magness one of the six hostellers in the village, hosted the annual dinner in June of the Red White and Blue Club when 65 sat down to a delicious meal. Does anyone know how long this club flourished? The Primitive Methodist Church narrowly escaped a destructive fire in February as the flooring beneath the stove caught alight. It was fortunate that someone entered the building and was able to raise the alarm in time.

The Parish Council were much concerned at this time about the confusion caused by the fact that several roads in the village were known by two or three different names so it was decided that all should be standardised. I have recently seen a legal document in which one of the roads here is labelled High Road and described as the High Road from Lynn to Hunstanton. This same road features on an early postcard as Middle Road. The Council decided in 1911 that this road would henceforth be known as Post Office Road. (This looks like an error as this would never be considered as "Lynn Rd") The Road from the eighth mile stone to Lye Wood (Life Wood perhaps?) would be Lynn Road. (Many villagers today remember that the Main Road from Budgens towards the Common was known as Cow Lane for many years.) It was decided that from Temperance Corner, (by the traffic lights) to Church Corner would be Chapel Road. Church Corner to Sandringham Hill Corner would be Church Road and the road from there down to the Lynn Road would be Manor Road. I have yet to find out when the whole stretch from the church was called Manor Road. Other roads that were standardised were Station Road, Mill House Road, Heath Road and Brook Road but unfortunately the alternative names were not noted. At another meeting in April the council decided with regret to abandon the annual Athletics Sports Meeting. These sports were inaugurated in 1887 and were first held on the land adjacent to Dersingham Hall with subsequent meetings held on the pastures next The Feathers. Owing to the personal interest in them taken by the King and Queen they were a popular event for holidaymakers at Whitsun. Queen Alexander herself often presented the prizes. However the council noted that lately there had been a distinct falling off in local athletics and in spite of substantial prizes being offered it was difficult to find local men capable of holding their own as in days gone by. The expenses had not decreased to the same extent as the "gate money" so with such lack of public support they did not feel they could continue to hold this event. Many of the original promoters were now sadly buried in the churchyard including Mr. William Hudson who was responsible for laying out the ground and always said that he knew the hole for every stake from year to year. The Forester's Hall was the venue for a well attended

meeting in May to decide how the village was to mark the forth coming coronation. The first suggestion was to construct a road to the beach. The Chairman, Mr. Yaxley, pointed out that this project had been under discussion for at least thirty years and had been suggested in 1901 for the Edward VII coronation. The same problems existed namely the difficulty of obtaining rights to the land over which the road must travel and even more important the sheer expense. Once again the project was refused. (VV No. 50) The next suggestion was for the building of a village Institute to provide a common meeting place for all. The Chairman announced that Mrs. Tylden of Ingoldisthorpe the patron of the living had made an offer of money to cover the cost of such a building. It was agreed that such a kind offer should be accepted. It was on June 10th that the King approved the building of the Hall on the wash-pit pasture to the south of Mr. Jannoch's wood close to where the cattle sheds stood. Messrs Jarvis & Co. of Lynn were asked to draw up the plans. Later in July the council decided to build an additional room to be known as the Coronation Room and collections were made around the village. In August the tender from Messrs G Chambers & Son was accepted and would include the additional room. The estimate for the whole building, Hall, Men's room, two classrooms, kitchen and office came to £705.3s.10d. Work started shortly afterwards and Mrs. Lewis laid the foundation stone on November 1st All Saints' Day. However there were many in the village who did not think a church hall would cater for the needs of the working man and they wanted a working man's club to be established where they could *"have a glass of beer if we need it."* It was in November that at a meeting in The Feathers steps were taken to form an independent men's social club. In due course the King granted some land for the project and the building of the club on the Lynn Road was started. Another suggestion to mark the coronation was from the Rev. Lewis to establish and maintain a nurse in the village. There had been several cases of serious illness and he thought there was an urgent need for a nurse whose services would be at the disposal of the poor. He thought £60 a year would be sufficient to run such a scheme. Many at the meeting were very sceptical about the proposal and it seemed most shared the opinion that the nurse would only benefit the better off. It was voted down. A Mr. Leggett proposed an open air swimming pool at the Emblems, the house opposite The Feathers, where it would be possible to convert the natural facilities already existing there at a small cost. This was not considered practical. Other ideas put forward, I suspect by villagers getting a little bored with the lengthy process, were for a Pig and Donkey Show, a bandstand on the Common with two dozen seats with backs to them and a road through Centre Vale to the pastures. Although causing much amusement none of these achieved the necessary support. So just how did the village mark the occasion? On the day itself some of the oldest tenants on the estate with heads of departments took a 5a.m. train from Wolferton to London to visit Buckingham Palace and see close at hand the departure and arrival of the King. Many Dersingham villagers who worked for the estate would have joined the congregation of 2,000 for an open air service by Sandringham Church. Queen Alexandra was present and our Rev. Lewis helped conduct the service. Bandmaster Riches and the Territorial Band provided the music. There followed a dinner attended by 1,400 guests in a large marquee in West Newton. In Dersingham itself the Coronation Committee gave a tea to all householders not at Sandringham, followed by English Sports. In the evening a concert was held in the Tithe Barn with songs and recitations from many of the villagers. When Mr. Tingey from the Manor House entered the barn on his return from London he was greeted with loud cheers and gave a graphic account of his day. A service of Thanksgiving had been held earlier with another such service the following Sunday. Later in July a large number of children and adults performed the Pageant of the Crown in the grounds of the vicarage which was deemed by all to be an outstanding success. It is still to be seen however if the summer of 2011 will echo that of 1911 when there was a record breaking heat wave that made that summer one of the most exceptional in East Anglia. Day after day the sun bore down and people and plants wilted in the heat. Cattle perished for lack of water and many fires burnt out of control. By early August the heat was intense and a record temperature of 97 degrees was recorded at Hillington. It all ended in October with a severe gale which caused immense damage and East Anglia endured a soaking throughout November and December.

So if history does repeat itself remember you read it here first.□

Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

Due to staff sickness, the Parish Council Office at 7b Hunstanton Road will be open at the following times until further notice:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 10.30am - 2pm

Please telephone the office on 01485 541465 to check it is open before calling in, or to leave a message. You can also email to dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk.

In case of emergency, please ring the Acting Clerk on 07950 169244

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this .

Orange Trade Refuse Sacks - £50 inc. VAT per roll of 25,
Tags for Black Refuse Sacks £1.00 each,
can be obtained at the Council Office during the above times.

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 am | 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 | 10 to 3pm | Lavender Lace Makers | Lace Making | ? |
| Every Tuesday | 7 pm | Dersingham Bridge Club | Bridge Evening | ? |
| 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 | ? |
| 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 | ? |
| 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 Cecilians Church |
| 1st Friday of month | 10.00 to 12 noon | St Nicholas Church | Coffee Morning | St Nicholas Church Hall |
| Every 3rd Saturday of the month | 10 to 3 pm | Lavender Lace Makers | Lace Making | ? |

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 71 | Wednesday 6th July | Monday 25th July |
| No 72 | Wednesday 7th September | Monday 26th Sept |
| No 73 | Wednesday 9th November | Monday 28th Nov |
| No 74 | Wednesday 18th January 2012 | Monday 6th Feb |

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

Advertising in Village Voice

The Editorial Team would like to thank all of those who so generously support our magazine by placing advertisements in it, for without the income so generated there would be a possibility of the publication ceasing to exist. With this in mind it would be helpful if you were to support those who do advertise, and to then let them know that you used their services because you saw their promotion in our magazine. For those readers who perhaps provide a local service but who do not currently advertise with us, you may consider a fee of from £15.10 for an eighth of a page black and white or £21.25 for colour per issue, to be very cost effective. (Prices include VAT)

Advertisements for inclusion in the next magazine should be in the hands of Anita Moore, Dersingham Parish Council, 7b Hunstanton Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HH **by Wednesday 6th July 2011**

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 6th July 2011 for publication on Monday 25th July 2011.**

(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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Editor: - Tony Bubb. Editorial assistant - Rob Smyth
In the office - Gay Watt, Distribution - Steve Davis

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Budgens

Spend £20* or more and we'll deliver your shopping to your door absolutely free.

There are three easy ways to take advantage of our home delivery service:

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Deliveries will take place Tuesday to Friday between 12 noon and 2 pm.

*There will be a charge of £5 for orders under £20 or outside the five mile radius. This service is only available to customers over 18. Please ask in store for details.

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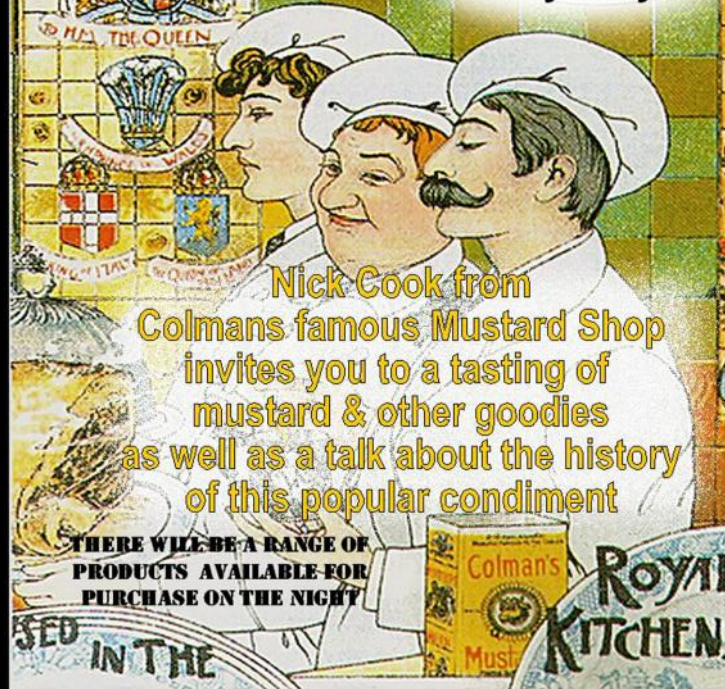
Email: dersingham@jamesgraven.com

Another Travellers Tale from Walter Blaney



St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.00 including refreshments & raffle

Tuesday July 5th



St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.00 including refreshments & raffle