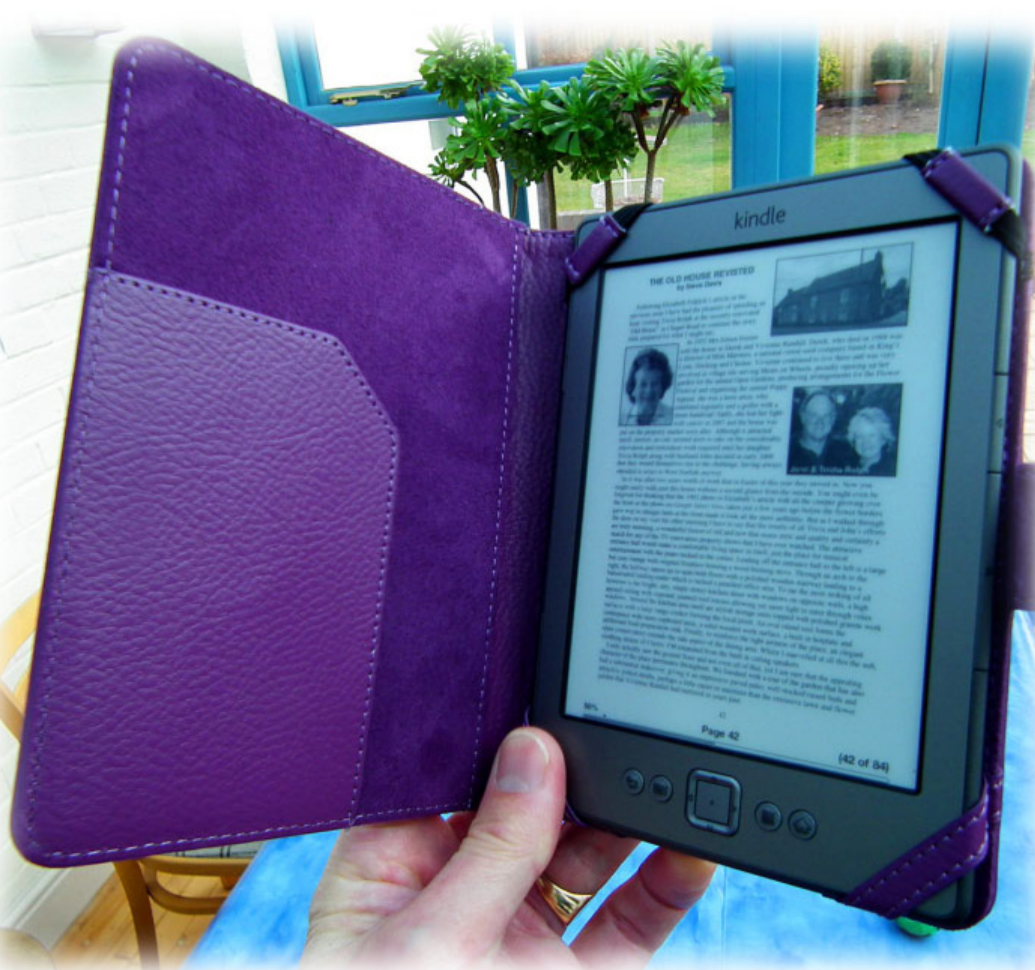


Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



e-readers explained - page 40



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Editor's Notes

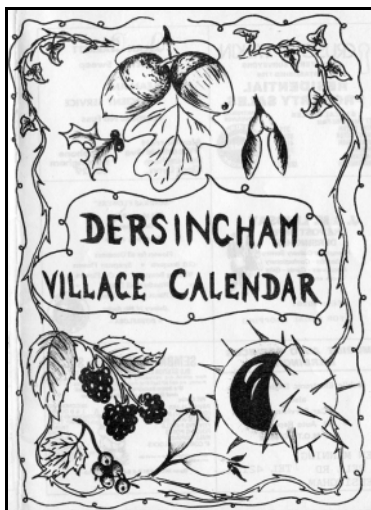
As this is the first VV of 2012 I will start by wishing all our readers a Happy New Year. Now, how about a New Years Resolution. If you are involved with any organisation, run a business or just find yourself doing something unusual or interesting, resolve to let VV know about it. All the deadlines and publication dates are at the back of the magazine so there is really no excuse.

Whilst we are on things with no excuse, the next edition of Dersingham Data is now being compiled. If you are not in it and should be, belong to an organisation whose details have changed or are just splendidly pedantic and spot an error do let us know.

Now, for those of you who are keeping up with village happenings will know that the Parish Council have been gearing up to take over "the big empty space" on Sandringham View now known as The Warren. Well the transfer is now complete. This took rather longer than was hoped for so we are now rushing towards spring so we need some volunteers to help with tree planting, jungle clearing and generally putting the place into good order after years of neglect. Whilst we have a vision for this area more input would be very welcome. If you can help please contact me so I can put you down on a list. (542638 or frostytrees@btinternet.com).

Still on the subject of volunteers, there is lots of funding out there for all sorts of people and things still, but we need someone who spends a lot of time surfing the net or reading newspapers who could be a spotter for these funds and take the process through all it's stages. Not just for Council projects but for all the groups in the village.

Once again pressure on space means I have left out the Diary of Regular Events. As the content is the same as in the October edition and I know that most of you cannot bring yourself to throw VV away I would refer you to that number. I am really not too happy with the diary's presentation and am actively looking into a better method of displaying the information.



Have any of you hung on to VV's predecessor Dersingham Village Calendar? Judy Morgan, who was one of the editorial team back then in the mid eighties, passed me a bundle of back numbers recently. It was in fact, mainly a listing of happenings just as it said on the cover. It contained advertising and came out about four times a year but I am not sure how long it ran for. Was this the first magazine? Do you know of anything that was



published earlier? Have you got a copy?

Well I won't keep you any longer, most of the usual suspects have sent in their work so enjoy.

Tony Bubb

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Dear Village Voice



I enjoyed Martin's account of Tower's Butchers. Stanley Wells, my grandmothers husband, worked for Mr Towers and used to live at the butchers shop in Bircham . We have photos of us in the garden there, with him in full butcher's uniform, my father used to take us over on his scooter.

Martin has inspired me to wonder how many descendants of families listed on the census from 1841 to 1911 in Dersingham still live in the village? Whilst doing family research I noticed some familiar names.

Now does anyone know when Manor Road was named? It's not listed on any census, could it have been Sandringham Road then? Where was Askers Row and Askers Yard ?

I can trace our family back to the village circa 1820, from William Asker my 4 x great grandfather down to the present time and his 5 x great grandson. Also William Asker who had 2 daughters, Mary Ann and Hannah and 3 wives. Williams daughter Mary Ann was unmarried when her son John was born in 1840, (father unknown) he kept the surname Asker, even after Mary married a Philip Lines. John married Sophia Jude and his daughter, Harriet, then married a William Asker from Sedgford, which is how we became Askers (lots of untangling of Asker families). John only had 2 grandsons, so as far as I know our small family are the only descendants from William still in Dersingham unless any one knows different?

William was born in Snettisham and possibly came from Anmer to Dersingham. He married in Docking in 1818 and he died in 1881, aged 88. He has an impressive headstone in the churchyard. I recently came across the probate of his will. One of his executors was Mr Parker from the stores, the other his grandson John. Throughout the censuses he is listed as a furniture dealer/broker, as was John. His various addresses were just Sandringham Road or Askers Row. In the 1911 census his daughter Hannah Woods and grandson Elijah Lines were living at Askers Yard and his granddaughter Harriet was listed as living at Askers Row which I think is now 54 Manor Road where my grandfather was born (the row of cottages opposite police station).

I thought Askers Row was the row of cottages opposite the funeral directors, it was called that a few years ago, but now I think that could be the Askers Yard listed in the 1911 census? I don't know if William ever owned these properties but he did leave a fair amount of money for 1881. I also have a copy of a mortgage security for John, his grandson. He must have spent his inheritance on this. It is listed as a well built brick and tile dwellinghouse with stables, garden and 2 wooden buildings used as furniture warehouses and a large carpenters' and builders' workshop and yard which were let to Hudson and Kiddle builders, all bought for £335 in 1887! I think this house was Marsh Cottage in Brook road.

Mary Ann and Phillip Lines had lots of children, Lucy, Eliza, Elizabeth, Mary Anne, William and Elijah but I don't know what happened to most of them.

William's other daughter Hannah married a William Patrick, then Thomas Woods. In 1911 they were living in Askers Yard with their children Olive, John, Florence and granddaughter Dorothy but where did they go?

Other families living In Askers Row in 1911 were Green, Nurse, Merrikin and Rutland and Askers Yard, Nurse and Smith.

Martin mentioned Gino, would this be Napolitano from the Barber shop in Manor Road? I used to love going there to watch my father have a haircut and I'm sure lots of young lads from the village went there for their first haircut.

I have lovely memories of growing up in Dersingham. My grandfather, Frank Goff, was a shepherd for Mr Stanton and at lambing time he would live at the lambing yard in a shepherds hut. It was such a treat for all his grandchildren to visit the hut and help him feed the lambs.

Debra Melton (Asker)



Do you look after or support someone with a mental health issue? It may be your partner, spouse, son or daughter or even a friend, which ever, we can offer you some support. West Norfolk Mind has expanded its carer support service. We can support you with home visits, 1-1 support, meet somewhere of your choice, or you may prefer a support group and be with others experiencing the isolation that supporting someone can bring.

Whether you have issues with benefit entitlements, need more knowledge or advice we may be able to help. We currently have group meetings during the day, but are interested in anyone who would like meetings in the evenings. There will always be a friendly welcome. Group meetings provide a chance for some respite that is important for you, the opportunity to learn coping skills that have worked for others, guest speakers are arranged, or relax with some therapies.

Whatever your issue is relating to supporting or looking after someone with mental health issues, please give us a ring on 07704338775 or 01485 575707. Joyce, Michele or Karen.

Joyce Armstrong

Having been given a copy of the October Village Voice, I was very surprised to see the house on the cover which I knew as Ivy Cottage, Chapel Road. My grandfather, the late Harry Green, lived there for many years working for the late William Langley and then the late Wilfred Lloyd Pratt until he retired. It is also the house where my two sisters and I were born in the 1930s so it had many memories.

Also, in your earlier editions, you printed pictures of the Dersingham football team in the 1920s in which my late father Walter Buckett was a keen player and won many medals. I still have two of them. Your magazine brought back many happy memories for which I would like to thank you. I look forward to reading other copies of the Village Voice.

Myrtle Rand

A bridge which is not too far!

Your local Bridge Club has moved! Having left The Feathers at the end of last season to accommodate the new owners' plans, we have been fortunate to have found a most suitable new home at the Sandringham Club (opposite the church in West Newton) where we play on Tuesday evenings between September and May from 7 - 10pm.

Members need to join the Sandringham Club, which entitles them to all membership facilities in the club (e.g. Bowls, Bingo, Darts, Pool, Snooker and drinks at very modest prices and in an attractive setting) and gives reciprocal privileges at other social clubs on the Sandringham Estate (i.e. Anmer, Babingley, Bircham, Wolferton).

If you like to enjoy an inexpensive evening of Rubber Bridge in a relaxed and sociable atmosphere, why not have a chat with one of our club officers?

Keith Ives, Chair	578386
Bill Clark, Vice-Chair	543902
Brian Mott, Treasurer	544554

The Bridge at West Newton is Not Too Far!

Keith Ives

Once again we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who helped with the Poppy Appeal 2011. We are very grateful to the door to door collectors, those who stood outside the shops on November 5th, including the Army Cadets and of course the businesses who have helped us raise £6570 this year. Everyone has been extremely generous to this very important charity and each year it costs more money to help our injured servicemen and their families involved in the current conflicts, as well as the veterans of previous wars. If anyone can give us an hour or two of their time please call the Poppy Appeal Co-ordinators Pamela Kendal on 544404 or Karen Bushell on 540236.

Pamela Kendal

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

From: Tom Morris, PPG Committee

SAD LOSS Clara Rumbellow and Molly Clayton, two of the longest serving and most loyal supporters of the PPG, both passed away during the month of November. Over the years both had contributed in no small way to the work of the PPG, were strong advocates of patient participation and their presence will be sadly missed. Even in early November, Clara found time to help with the PPG Christmas Draw.

CHRISTMAS DRAW. It was pleasing to note that, even in these days when all of us have to exercise spending restraints, most patients attending the Carole Brown Health Centre Flu Jab Days were happy to participate in the Annual Christmas Draw. Some £500 worth of tickets were sold raising much need funds to provide those invaluable extra facilities for patients of the Carole Brown Health Centre. Thank you all and, to most of you, "Better Luck Next Time"!

The PPG is extremely grateful to the following businesses and individuals for generously donating prizes for the Draw: - *Prior's Butchers, The Barn Hairdressers, Dersingham Post Office, Dersingham News, Thaxter's Garden Centre and members of the PPG Committee.*

A delighted winner of the first prize is pictured on the next page receiving her £100 from Mrs Vanessa Blythe, the PPG Chairman.

NEXT PPG MEETING. This will be at the CBHC on Thursday, 23rd February at 7.30 pm when Dr Jonathan Dosseter, Board Member of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation Trust will address the meeting. All patients and staff of the CBHC are invited to attend.



From the Parish Council Office...

Another winter is almost over and, at the time of writing, still no snow, so we have been lucky - the weather has been much kinder this year than the last two. However, the Parish Council has still been looking at the possibilities of new grit bins for the village. If anyone has a place they would like to see one, please let the Parish Council office know.

With Christmas and New Year a distant memory, for the Parish Council it's time to examine its finances and set the precept for the coming financial year.

Once again this year we have managed to hold the precept at the same level as last year – no mean feat when you remember that we have to pay the electricity bill for many of the street lights in the village! You all know how much more expensive electricity is today than a year ago, so the Parish Council has worked hard to cover these unavoidable rises in costs. In fact, due to some changes in the tax vase in the village, you will actually be paying two pence less per year for a band D property in 2012/13 than you did last year – just £35.49.

You cannot have avoided the incinerator debate over the past few weeks – whatever your feelings, I'm sure you'll agree that recycling is a good thing. May I may a plea on behalf of Anita, the Assistant Clerk who makes sure the office runs like clockwork, for anyone who can recycle the ink cartridges from our printer? Please get in touch and take them away, as we are rapidly running out of space!

And don't forget to have a look at the re-vamped Parish Council website for details of all parish council and committee meetings, and more, at www.dersingham.org.uk.□

Rosie



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**Carole Brown Health Centre PPG &
 Friends of St. Nicholas Church**

QUIZ NIGHT

9th March 2012 at 7.30 pm

in

St. Nicholas Church Hall, Dersingham.

6 members per team - (maximum)

**Entrance fee £5 per team member (includes light refreshments, tea
 and coffee) Wine and soft drinks also available**

Details, entry forms and tickets from:

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 Edgar Cooper 540865**

**Keith Blythe 544866
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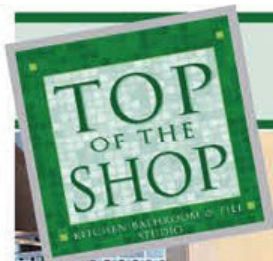
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Full House at the Parish Council

After some time without a full compliment of members we are at last back to eighteen councillors with the recent arrival of Brian Stacey. He writes:-



I have lived in Dersingham for over a year now and enjoy the peacefulness of the village, compared to where I came from in the hustle and bustle of the West Midlands, being Sutton Coldfield and Birmingham. However, I was actually born and bred near Norfolk and was brought up in the village of Foulsham. So when they say that you will always come back to your roots, then it must be true. I work as a Civil Servant at RAF Marham, where my background is as a quantity surveyor (not much of this used at Marham, I hear you ask, but you'd be surprised!) My skills and attributes, such as

commercial awareness, practical, managerial, negotiation, planning, to name but a few, would I hope bring ideas and involvement with the community, to help make Dersingham a great village to live.

Even though I have studied for several degrees and qualifications, I managed to find time for various interests and hobbies, from running a scout group and then being involved at district and county level for scouting (in the Midlands), to many sports. But my main one is Shotokan Karate, of which I have now been doing for twenty years. Along with my Karate training in King's Lynn, as well as teaching and instructing and competition refereeing at national level, I do enjoy jogging around the village. So if you do see me jogging, please feel free to saying 'hello', as I am friendly (honest!).

Let's Get Active 2012

Let's Get Active 2012 is highlighting the host of sports and activities on offer in the borough in Olympic year.

Towns and villages across West Norfolk will be marking this momentous year and encouraging more people to enjoy taking part in sports and activities. Highlights include a 1948 Village Torch Trail, taking place over the Diamond Jubilee weekend (2-5 June). Torchbearers on foot and cycle will take the 1948 Olympic torch into 80 villages in the area. The torch will be stopping at Snettisham, Heacham, Hunstanton, Docking, Burnham Market, Harpley, Great Massingham, Narborough, Stoke Ferry, Methwold, Feltwell, Upwell, Tilney St Lawrence, West Walton, Walpole St Andrew, Terrington St Clement and Clenchwarton where special 3-mile sponsored runs, in aid of the Stroke Association and Stroke Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and other celebrations will be held. These events will give the general public an opportunity to hold and run

VV Sudoku No 21 solution								
4	7	3	9	8	2	6	5	1
5	1	8	7	4	6	9	3	2
9	2	6	3	1	5	8	4	7
6	9	7	5	3	1	4	2	8
1	5	4	6	2	8	7	9	3
3	8	2	4	9	7	1	6	5
2	4	9	8	7	3	5	1	6
7	6	1	2	5	4	3	8	9
8	3	5	1	6	9	2	7	4

with the Torch while enabling unique photo opportunities. There will also be a sponsored run at the start of the relay event at Lynnsport 9am on Saturday 2 June. For the full route, information and details of how to get involved please visit: www.letsgetactive.org.uk.

The official Olympic Torch Relay will also pass through West Norfolk, for more information please see: www.london2012.com

A calendar of events and further details about the Let's Get Active 2012 campaign are available at www.letsgetactive.org.uk. To register your event contact: sports.development@west-norfolk.gov.uk.



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POLISHED BRASS

Christmas Trees – Brass Band – Christmas Carols – Mulled Wine & Mince Pies



Place the above ingredients in the hands of the Friends of St. Nicholas' Church, Dersingham and for the third year running you have a very special evening. Against a backcloth of illuminated Christmas Trees, each sponsored by an organisation in the village, the evening raised over £950 for the Friends for the continued maintenance and improvement of the Church.

The Church is well known for its beautifully, highly polished brass, but on Saturday, 3rd December, these words took on a highly different meaning when what is now an annual Concert was given in the Church by the highly-acclaimed, prize-winning Norfolk Brass band under the baton of its conductor David Stowell.

The instruments shone brightly, and the music was played superbly, including as it did many well-known works, some arranged specially for the band, as well as traditional carols where the audience of over 250 was able to join in with enthusiasm. The outstanding acoustics and the wonderful sounds of a church full of people singing the tunes they love were greatly enhanced by the interesting introduction of each work or carol by David Stowell. With a completely new heating system recently installed with a major contribution from the Friends the Church, and in the interval Mulled Wine and generous plates of Mince Pies (kindly donated by Budgens/James Graven of Dersingham), this was surely one of the warmest and most relaxed winter's evening of festive entertainment in the area.

NEXT YEAR'S CONCERT WILL BE ON SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER 2012

Nigel Sisson

Thursday 23rd February – 7.30pm

The West Norfolk members group invites you to

A short AGM, followed by
an illustrated talk by David North, NWT's
Education Manager

The Norfolk Broads – A living landscape

Venue: Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall,
Austin Street

Cost: £1.50 members/£2 visitors

Thursday 22nd March – 7.30pm

The West Norfolk members group
invites you to

an illustrated talk by Nigel Middleton
of the Hawk and Owl Trust, Sculthorpe Moor

Working with Raptors

Venue: Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall,
Austin Street

Cost: £1.50 members/£2 visitors





Dick Melton

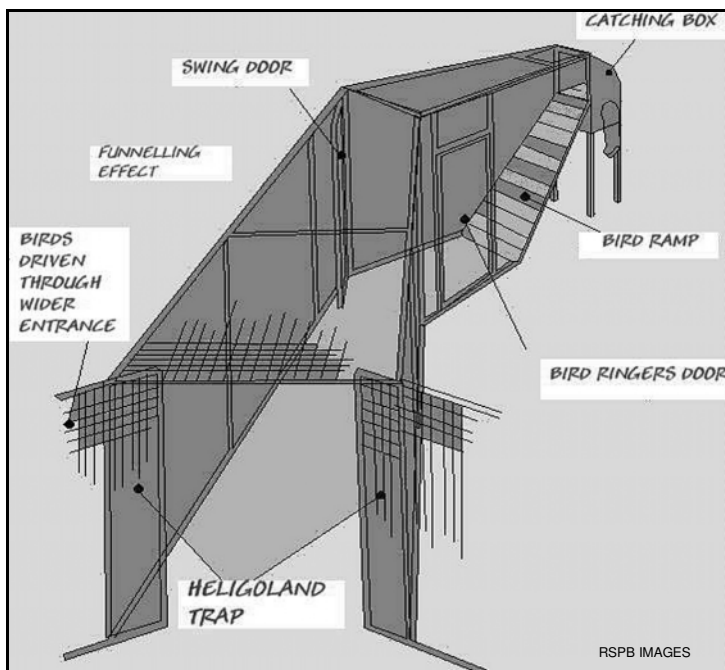
One of the highlights of my life when I was a small boy and living with my granny at East Winch was the arrival of her day-old chicks in the springtime. Just after Christmas granny would write to the hatchery at Stoke Ferry, sending them a postal order for one dozen day-old chicks. She would get a letter in March telling her when they would arrive. They would be put on the train in the morning and go through to King's Lynn where they would be put on the train for East Winch. When they arrived at East Winch station the porter would get on his bike and take them up to granny's cottage; the chicks would be in a small, strong cardboard box. The first thing granny would do was to put a sheet of newspaper on the floor in front of the fire, let the chicks out and give them a saucer of water and a mashed up hard boiled egg. They would stay in the box for about two weeks, and then they would be put in a coop in the shed.

When they were about three months old they would be put out in a run in the garden. They would be fed with gleanings from the harvest field, wilted cabbage leaves and boiled up potato peelings. Also, when we had cockles from the fish man granny would crush the shells up and give them to the chicks, so as to make the eggshells hard when they started laying. This would start when they were about 6 months old. The old hens that granny already had would stop laying at about three years old, so then granny would order some more day-old chicks. We always had plenty of eggs. Granny would preserve some of her eggs by putting them in a mixture of water and water glass in a large earthenware pot behind the pantry door. She would also kill off the old hens so we would live on chicken stew for a few weeks. There were no refrigerators in those days, just an old wooden meat safe on the wall outside the back door.

Heligoland traps

I was asked what I knew about the Heligoland trap in the duck decoy down the marsh. For those that don't know, a Heligoland trap is a long trap made of netting; it has a wide mouth and a very narrow end; and it is set in the water. Birds, most often and not wildfowl, are driven into it, then they are taken out at the narrow end and ringed. In the nineteen sixties it was used a lot to trap and ring mallard and teal. I well remember one of the crew on the Lynn Well lightship picking up a dead blackbird on

the lightship. When they looked at the ring, it had been ringed as a young bird at Dersingham, then ringed again in Russia and was no doubt on its way back to Dersingham when it died from fatigue on the lightship. Also, a lot of herons used to nest in the small trees around the decoy.



Sheep drives

In a previous issue of Village Voice there was a mention of farmers driving their sheep through the village. I can well remember this when Mr Stanton from Manor Farm would drive his flock of sheep from his land up Dodds Hill down to the marshes where he had grazing pastures. There was also a farmer from Ringstead who had land down the marsh and he would drive them from Ringstead. The dogs would look after the sheep and the shepherd would come on behind in his pony and trap. While the sheep were on the marshes a lot of people would go down and collect up a sack full of sheep droppings, put the sack in an old bath of water for a few months, then use the water as liquid manure on their tomato plants and such.

Mr Tuck

Keeping on the subject of tomatoes, just down Manor Road between Mr Senter's old shop and George Blower's blacksmith shop, Mr Tuck had a nursery where he grew tomatoes in a cold greenhouse. These were the best tomatoes in the world and they had a taste all of their own. He also had fruit trees, so he would sell apples, pears and plums when they were in season. A bit further down Manor Road, where the bungalows are now at Manorside, Mr Tuck had a small field where he would grow flax and, when it was ready to harvest, some of us boys would go down and help him pull it. It would then be put on a lorry and taken to the flax factory at West Newton

Electricity eyesore

So the electricity poles and lines have been taken down on Dersingham Fen (not Bog) and Wolferton Warren and the lines put under ground. These poles and lines were erected by the electric company in 1930. There was a dispute that went on for four years as to who the rent should be paid to, Sandringham Estate or Dersingham Parish Council. This dispute went on for four years and during this time a Mr Wheeler and a Mr Parker both resigned from Dersingham Parish Council. I wonder who got the poles to burn on their fires, Sandringham Estate or the members of Dersingham Parish Council.

Memories

There were some very good articles in the Village Voice December issue. The one about the 'old house' where Mr and Mrs Randall lived brought back a few memories. When I worked for Brooke and Brooke, the caterers, we catered for one of their daughter's wedding in a marquee on the lawn at the back of the house. Mr Randall would bring all his staff at Miln Masters for a Christmas party at the Kit-Kat in Hunstanton every year, from their factory in Docking

Also, the article by Elizabeth Fiddick about Potter's Barn was very interesting, as my father's uncle, Tom Drew, had these premises once for use as a builder's yard.

There is so much old history in Dersingham so I am sure Village Voice will go on forever. □

DERSINGHAM FLOWER CLUB

The Annual Flower Club Christmas party proved to be very popular with members and guests. With a variety of different activities from a Festive quiz and as ever a competition to test the skills of the arrangers with a Christmas theme entitled "Just for you ," these were judged by members and guests and the prizes were Floral for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. A game that is always popular and a good one to get everyone moving is "The Parcel game". This causes lots of amusement.

The highlight of the evening was the "Bring and Share" refreshments, a huge selection of party food that is always delicious.

A large Raffle is also an annual event enjoyed and supported by everyone, with 23 prizes to be won on the night.

As always at the Christmas party the prizes for the most points gained for arrangements throughout the year are awarded the Winner was Audrey Horwood and runner up Jean Bird.

Doreen, our Chairman, thanked everyone for their support throughout the year and wished them a Happy New Year for 2012. □

New Website for Dersingham Parish Council

If you visit our website at dersingham.org.uk you will notice that it has a new look and indeed has been completely redeveloped by *HOL Web Design* (who are also responsible for the norfolk-on-line.co.uk commercial village websites).

The site has a considerable number of attractive photographs from, in and around Dersingham and it is hoped to add more over time. We trust that you will enjoy the new site and find it a useful means of communication, easy to navigate your way around under the following menu headings:

1. Announcements:

This section allows the Parish Council to make quick news flashes on a regular basis for anything we need to communicate to the wider community on a day-to-day basis.

2. Meetings and Minutes:

The main menu item allows access to a list of forthcoming Council and Committee meeting dates and gives the location of Council notice boards throughout the village. The sub-menu items allow you access to minutes and agendas, which are now grouped within their respective committees. (Precept, Annual Parish and Full Council minutes and agendas are also separated out.)

3. Dersingham Publications:

The *Village Voice* editions for the past 12 months should always be available to view and download (as PDF files) as will *Dersingham Data*.

4. Councillors & Contacts:

A current list of council member contact details is included here to view or download, together with responsibilities and committee membership. Links to the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk and Norfolk County Council are also included together with a clarification of responsibilities.

5. Map:

This page shows a Google map representation of Dersingham and the surrounding area. We will be adding our own local road map showing the locations of alleyways and dog bins as published in the *Dersingham Data*.

6. Links:

The links page is designed so that we may usefully direct visitors to the site to other websites that positively and usefully inform the world at large about Dersingham and its community. If you know of any links that could usefully be included please advise the Parish Clerk of the relevant domain name so that these may be submitted to the *Communications Committee* for consideration.

As with any new project there could be some small glitches, so do please advise us if you find anything amiss. □



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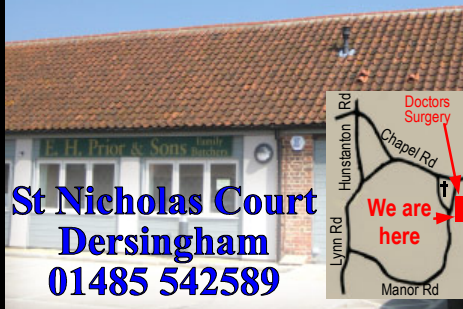
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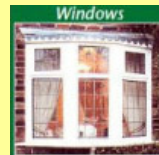
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Old Picture Corner

Two pictures taken near the church this time. The first looks towards Shernborne Rd and could almost be up to date were it not for the ladies' costumes. The lower view similarly has not changed that much but note the wall around the grounds of the Old Hall. What happened to that? In both photos the roads do not appear to be metalled or provided with pavements, but there was probably not enough traffic to make this a problem. Sadly the characterful fingerpost has gone along with the peace and quiet that these bucolic views suggest.



Dersingham Community Lunch Dinner

Report by Stella Gooch



Of all the Community initiatives I have known, the Dersingham Community Lunch is undoubtedly one of the most successful in bringing together all areas of the local community in a very enjoyable manner. Attendance numbers at the lunches were often 80 or 90 and people even had to be turned away on some events due to over-subscription. Sadly the highly enjoyable July 2011 lunch at Dersingham Social Club turned out to be the final Community Lunch due to the illness of its creator, Bob Tipling, and difficulties with booking venues.

However, the year rounded off with the Dersingham Community Lunch Christmas Dinner

on Thursday, 8 December. The Le Strange Hotel was the venue for an elegant and entertaining evening and the dinner guests were turned out in all their glamorous glory – especially acting Parish Clerk, Rosie Kitchen, who sported a stunning new hairstyle just for the occasion. I wonder how many didn't recognise her!

The evening opened with a reception in the hotel lounge with a choice of drinks and guests relaxed and mingled whilst their numbers grew to their full complement. The assembled guests were then escorted to the beautifully festive dining room and found their places.

Following grace led by Bob Tipling we were on to starters orders listening to the relaxing sounds of "Gentle Jazz" – courtesy of Rounce & Evans Estate Agents, Rounce & Evans Property Management and Dersingham Sub-Post Office. It was the ideal dining music and added to the ambience of the evening. I personally had the Chicken Liver Parfait starter and it was fantastic – a posh paté like I had never enjoyed before. The leisurely main course followed – mine was a tender Sirloin of Beef with lots of trimmings and the divine homemade Chocolate & Pecan Brownie was the crowning glory.

Bob then led us for a loyal toast and Santa Claus, aka Fraser from the Post Office, distributed wrapped gifts – courtesy of Thaxter's Garden Centre & Coffee Shop, Priors Butchers and Hayes & Storr Solicitors - to the ladies amongst the gathering. In a surprising twist the gentlemen were given a sealed envelope and during Bobs address were invited to open them simultaneously. Inside each of these envelopes was a lottery ticket and a card depicting a recognisable symbol from a standard deck of cards. Bob randomly asked two of our number to draw from a selection of cards and prizes of a bottle of gin and a mature Glenfiddich were awarded to the gentlemen who were holding the matching cards.

After the fun and games, Reggie Gray entertained us to his rather clever monologues thanks to the generosity of Wigram & Ware the opticians. The one I enjoyed the most was his trilogy about young Albert and his bizarre relationship with a lion. You have to hear it – I couldn't possibly do it justice here! Bob thanked Reggie for his time and told us that Reggie performed his party piece to raise funds for the Polio Fellowship in Kings Lynn. So if you are looking for a different kind of entertainer just ask for Reggie at the Polio Fellowship. He won't disappoint.

With a final push the raffle – made up of donations from the assembled group - broke the £100 mark and these funds were donated to "The Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly". Bob concluded the raffle draw by explaining that the Parish Council were hoping, although the Community Lunches were ended, that the spirit of the Community Lunches would continue in a different form by way of Dersingham groups and organisations regularly meeting up to continue sharing information, community spirit and general goodwill.

Once again, "Gentle Jazz" took up their instruments and entertained us with more festive tunes and encouraged us to sing with them.



Having organised such events in the past myself, I marvelled at how much Bob and his committee had achieved with nothing more than community spirit in putting together the evening. The organisation behind it was seamless and the catering staff at Le Strange were on the ball and attentive. All in all it was fantastic value for the £20 ticket us guests contributed. What a pity these lunches are no more but we can always hope that there might be an annual repeat of this evening starting next Christmas over to you Bob! □

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The Sandringham Newsletter

by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate
compiled by Helen Walch

The latest addition to the Visitor Centre, “Everything Outdoor”, celebrated their first birthday in November. The shop is next to the Plant Centre and offers a wide range of country clothing and accessories for anybody who likes the outdoor life – gardeners, ramblers and dog walkers would all appreciate something from the extensive range on offer. They will happily run a “wish list” there so that gift-buyers can be sure of getting the right sizes, too. The Visitor Centre is open every day over the winter, even though the House and Gardens are closed, and parking is free, so it’s always worth a look.

In the gardens, the Head Gardener and his team are trying to deal with several infestations of cypress aphid. This is a particular pest of clipped hedges of Lawson’s and Leyland Cypress, which causes gradual dieback, leaving brown, dead stretches of the hedge, and it seems to have been particularly bad this year. Another big task was to widen the pathway leading into the Gardens from the



ticket office, making it easier for the electric shuttle vehicle to pass pedestrians there. With the help of the Farm JCB, this project went well and gardeners were able to lift and re-lay the existing turf, leaving very little evidence of the work undertaken. Whilst the turf was lifted, several thousand snowdrops were transplanted onto the bank which will increase the spring interest in that area.

Once again in November we were very pleased to welcome soldiers from the Mercian Regiment and their families who travelled to Sandringham to be presented with campaign medals by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. An Elizabeth Cross was also presented by Their Royal Highnesses to the family of one soldier from the Regiment killed in Afghanistan earlier this year. Other events were the Christmas Craft Fair in Sandringham Park and the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House’s annual Light Up A Life service of prayers and carols at the Visitor Centre in early December. In December we also welcomed fifty Santa Clauses who ran in a 1.5km “Santa Dash” through the Country Park to raise funds for the Norfolk Hospice.

Fruit Farm staff are continuing to press apple juice for sale next year and have now moved on from the earlier varieties to press Cox’s Orange Pippins. On the Farm, sugar beet continues to be lifted and clamped into long term storage prior to being delivered to the factory. November this year was one of the warmest on record, which has helped the winter wheat and oil seed rape to put on extra growth prior to the winter. Surprisingly, pigeons have not attacked the rape plants so far this winter, so farm staff are hoping they continue to stay off the crop. It was also one of the driest autumns on record which has helped with autumn ploughing. □

Village Voice Sudoku No 22								
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DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

Twenty of us enjoyed the walk that Pat Reed led on a mild, mainly sunny, afternoon in November. She led us, by field-edge paths, to the track which leads to Inmere, then up the track to the edge of Sedgeford before returning to Snettisham church via Eaton Drove. It was somewhat colder when fourteen of us joined Steve Martyn for a walk around Fring and along a stretch of Peddars Way on 14th December. However, the sun shone and we enjoyed the walk and the views of

Bircham Windmill.

The programme for February and March is:

WEDNESDAY 8th FEBRUARY

Start at 2.00pm from 'Brays Pit' (Heacham Duck Pond) near Heacham recreation ground (map ref. LI32/674 374). A 4.5 mile circular walk around Heacham beaches and village led by Valerie and Michael Smith (540728).

SUNDAY 4th MARCH

Start at 2.00pm from the car park off the Ringstead to Burnham road (map ref. LI32/722 405). A 4.5 mile circular walk around Courtyard Farm led by Steve Martyn (07879 885516).

WEDNESDAY 14th MARCH

Start at 2.00pm from the Dersingham War Memorial (map ref. L132/686 309). A 4.5 mile circular walk around Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe led by Lindsey and Steve Davis (54313 8).

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

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

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 whether a lift can be arranged.

As this is the last time I will be writing about the Walking Group in Village Voice I should like to take the opportunity to thank all those of you who have supported the Group by coming on our walks over the last six years and to express my gratitude particularly to the leaders without whom

the 140 walks we have enjoyed would not have been possible. I am delighted that Michael Smith (who has, with Valerie, been leading walks for us from the beginning) is taking over the co-ordination of the Group from me and it is Michael who will be writing about the Walking Group in Village Voice from now on.

Keith Starks (542268)



I would like to thank Keith for his reports - seen here discussing the finer points of a mince pie with Sue Eastmure - which always arrived on time and well presented. He is also active with the Task Force, a good all rounder.

Ed.

NICHOLAS GODFREY-COLE

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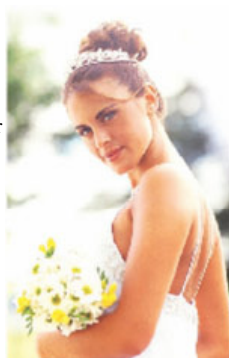
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The NHS is introducing a new electronic record called the Summary Care Record (SCR), which will be used to support your emergency care. Almost 20% of patients in the NHS Norfolk area now have an SCR. As the phased national roll-out continues, over 139,000 have been created in the NHS Norfolk area so far and more than 9 Million across England.

About Summary Care Records

The Summary Care Record will give healthcare staff faster, easier access to essential information about you, to help provide you with safe treatment when you need care in an emergency or when your GP practice is closed. It will contain important information about any medicines you are taking, allergies you suffer from and any bad reactions to medicine that you have had.

What are my choices?

If you choose to have a SCR, you do not need to do anything.

If you choose not to have a SCR, you need to let your GP practice know by filling in and returning an opt-out form. You can obtain an opt-out form from your surgery or by contacting the Summary Care Record Information Line on 0300 123 3020.

Whatever you choose - you can change your mind at anytime. You will need to let your GP practice know.

Children and the Summary Care Record

Children under 16 will automatically get a SCR created for them unless a parent or guardian decides to 'opt out' on their behalf.

Where can I get more information?

- Phone the Summary Care Record Information Line on 0300 123 3020;
- Visit www.nhscarerecords.nhs.uk ; or
- 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.
- For a list of practices that have already uploaded within NHS Norfolk please visit our website www.norfolk.nhs.uk/summary-care-records.

In Search of the Anglo-Saxon Settlement at Sedgeford

Village Voice Live Tuesday December 6th

Gary Rossin, the Committee and Project Director of the Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project (SHARP), began his talk with a general introduction to archaeology, explaining how this project differed from other similar investigation in that its aim was to be democratic, trying to involve anyone that may be interested in understanding the human settlement of the Sedgeford area, not just professionals with academic or commercial objectives.

He defined the geographical area of the present study, between the ancient routes of the Peddars Way and Icknield Way, and to the south of the Heacham River, which was probably still a navigable river in Anglo-Saxon times. The Sedgeford area was already of interest to archaeologists because of earlier recorded finds in 1826 and 1913, and more recently when ploughing brought up many bones in what is now called Boneyard Field, first thought to be animal, but Ministry of Works investigations in 1957-8 proved them to be human. When SHARP was set up in 1996 it resumed excavations in this field but in 2007 switched to another adjacent field to the south, known as Chalk Pit Field.

He described what had been found to date (details of which can be found in a project leaflet handed out to those attending and also on the SHARP website at www.sharp.org.uk.) and speculated on probable explanations of the finds. Boneyard Field is considered to be an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, in use between about 750AD and 950AD, and the area of Chalk Pit Field adjacent a domestic settlement of about the same date. Finds have shown evidence of the early influence of the church on the settlement, of trading with other parts of the region, local fishing (mainly shellfish) and possibly a base for deep sea fishing. Some much earlier finds have also been made, a hoard of coins from the Iron Age and a Late Neolithic crouched burial, radio carbon dated to about 2300BC, showing that this settlement has significance dating back some 4,500 years, placing it close to the period of construction of Seahenge, discovered at nearby Holme.

An instructive and enjoyable evening for the 60 or so that attended, aided by the Christmas themed refreshments of mulled wine and cake and pies at the interval. The final message from Gary Rossin was to invite everyone to come along and get involved in the project and his enthusiasm might possibly have encouraged some of his audience to do so.

Whiffler

A Walk round the Norfolk Coast. King's Lynn to Happisburgh

Tuesday January 3rd

In spite of the rain and the fierce winds the hall was well filled on Tuesday evening for Chris Holt's presentation of a walk round the Norfolk Coast. As the leaflets promised Chris's talk was lavishly illustrated with his own pictures which were absolutely stunning. We started in Lynn with shots of the Custom House and the Fisher Fleet before moving along the coast to Wolferton and Sandringham. There was a reminder of last winter with a picture of the Sandringham Gates surrounded and wreathed in deep snow. Chris mentioned how important light was to photography and a photo of Snettisham Church bathed in the orange glow of a sunset illustrated the point vividly. There were other shots of our wide sandy beaches brought to life by the play of light and shade.

Chris told us how he had often driven his car round the roads, or run across fields to reach a vantage point before the light changed and a picture lost. We did not stay on the coast but visited Holkham Hall, saw the grave of the last Master of the Cutty Sark in Burnham Norton churchyard, and visited Blickling Hall. I particularly liked the visit to the old American Airbase at Sculthorpe where the residential blocks although still standing are in a state of decay. We went inside one that had been used as a children's nursery. Not a single window was intact, debris, cobwebs, and the detritus left by years of neglect was all around but there on the walls painted years ago was the alphabet illustrated with all the well known Disney characters. Snow White, Mickey Mouse,

Pluto, Cinderella and hosts of others danced among the letters the colours seeming almost as bright as the day they were painted. As Chris remarked you could almost hear the children's voices. At least even if these buildings eventually fall down or are demolished these photos will keep the memory.

Another memorable set of pictures were taken at Burnham Overy when the water was absolutely still, not a ripple broke the surface so that the boats were perfectly reflected in the mirror like surface. Chris gave us many hints on how to take good photographs and let us in on some of the tricks of the trade that can be used in this digital era. We finally arrived at Happisburgh where the battle is on to save the coastline from the ravages of the sea. It had been a most enjoyable journey and reminded everyone how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful area. □

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The Cod

The first in a series featuring some of the more commonly available fish to be found on sale, together with a recipe or two.



One of our most popular fishes, the Cod is a firm, white fleshed favourite. Largely a bottom feeder, the Cod will eat a wide range of foods from starfish to squid that it finds in the cold waters that it favours. Spawning in deeper water, the female will release around one million eggs in the breeding season though few of these will survive to adulthood. Cod are found in all the major cold oceans with only minor differences in their appearance. Their colour can, however, change with the depth of water they are inhabiting.

The fish fryers favourite, cod is also quite versatile and lends itself to many different methods of serving.

Cabillaud Portugaise or cod with a tomato sauce

Poach fillets of cod in a little white wine or grape juice on a bed of finely chopped onions, garlic, parsley and diced peeled tomatoes for about 15 to 20 minutes. Serve with the fish covered in the sauce which has been seasoned to taste and finished with a little crème fraiche.

Cod Mornay

Again poach cod fillets or loins but this time in a little milk - just enough to cover. Make a roux and add the poaching liquor to make a sauce. Season and add a little mustard powder (optional) and add in around 2oz per person of grated cheese. Cheddar is fine but Gruyere is better. Place the fish in a dish, nap with the sauce and brown under the grill. Finish with chopped parsley and serve with creamy mashed potatoes and perhaps some peas. □



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St Nicholas Church News



Lent Lunches

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This year all the monies made will go towards the Restoration of the Church Hall. Lunches will start on Friday 24th March and following Fridays until and including 30th March.

Special Services in February/March:

Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life.

On Sunday 12th February at 3pm.

This will be a time of praise for all the family.

Tea and biscuits will be served after the service by
members of the Mothers' Union.

Please bring a wedding, anniversary or family photo
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12th February - "Luv Lunch" Centenary Restoration Event

22nd February - 7pm Ash Wednesday Communion Service

Mothering Sunday Service 10.30am – 18th March

During Lent there will be a mid week Communion each Wednesday at 12noon.

Future Events

28 th April	-	Grand Sale in Church Hall
5 th May	-	Lyra Ensemble
26 th May	-	Church Hall Centenary Celebration
9 th June	-	Norfolk Brass Band & Sandringham Choir
19 th to 22nd July	-	Flower Festival
8 th September	-	Last Night of the Proms
27 th to 29 th September	-	Arts & Crafts Festival
7 th to 9 th December	-	Christmas Tree Festival

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Dersingham Scout & Guide

In the weeks leading up to Christmas all the Dersingham Guide & Scout groups have been very busy. All the groups made decorations for their respective trees at the St Nicholas Church Christmas Tree Festival along with many other village organisations.

The Rainbows and Beavers have been enjoying many Christmas crafts, including decorating cards, making table decorations, planting daffodils as gifts and colouring christmas bif-bats. The term ended with a party, full of games, food and presents.

The Brownies and Cubs have made decorations to decorate their HQ, plus others to take home. They have also made their own cards and crackers and had a party. The Scouts and Guides both enjoyed meetings away from the HQ with trips to Bowlers and Pizza Hut respectively.

At the end of November the held a Christmas Coffee was well supported and raised was spilt four groups.

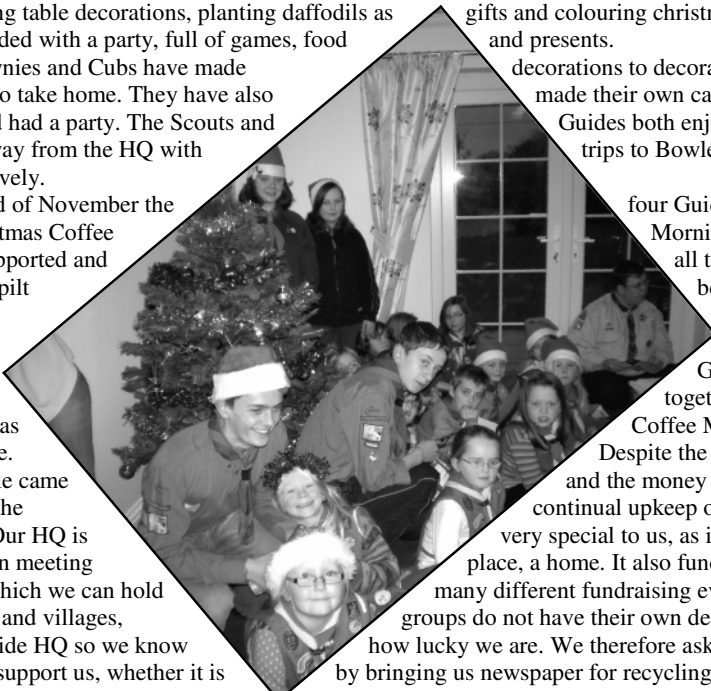
All the Guide came HQ Christmas Grand Raffle.

lots of people came go towards the loved HQ. Our HQ is with our own meeting base from which we can hold some towns and villages, Scout or Guide HQ so we know continue to support us, whether it is bags can be left in the porch during the some other way.

We enjoy being part of the village community, as doing things for others is a large part of the Scouts & Guides. Our last activity of the year was a Joint venture with St Nicholas Church Choir and we went to The Gables to sing Carols and Christmas Songs to the residents. We received a warm welcome and as a christmas gift we presented christmas table decorations, which the Rainbows had made.

We wish you all a Happy New Year and we hope you will join us in 2011.

The Leaders and helpers of the Dersingham Scout & Guide Groups



four Guide Groups Morning, which all the money between the

Scout & Groups then together for the Coffee Morning &

Despite the bad weather and the money raised will continual upkeep of our well-

very special to us, as it provides us place, a home. It also functions as a

many different fundraising events. In groups do not have their own dedicated

how lucky we are. We therefore ask that people by bringing us newspaper for recycling (bundles/ week), coming along to our fundraising events or in

Dersingham Sports Ground Committee

Dersingham Sports Ground Committee are please to announce that grants have been obtained from Norfolk Community Foundation and Sport England - Inspired Facilities Fund (Olympic Legacy funding) to resurface the tennis courts, purchase new court nets and to replace the fencing surround. This is great news for all tennis players as the courts have been in a poor condition for sometime. Our thanks go to Richard Southgate, DSGC, for all his hard work in obtaining these grants along with support from Roger Partridge (Sports Development Manager. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk) The work should be completed by late May early June just in time for Wimbledon.



TRANSPORT OF YESTERYEAR

by Steve Nowell

"I'll give you fifteen quid for it, but that's the lot. I'm only a penniless pupil you know."

"You're breaking my heart, Nowell, but I suppose we have a deal."

The 'it' referred to above was a 1934 Austin 12 and the gentleman with whom I was negotiating was Mr Price, our English Master, who had decided to update his transport. I'm not pretending that I was a seasoned 'wheeler dealer' or anything but I took it to heart when our French Master, Mr W Beaumont, wrote in the Christmas edition of our school magazine that he too had designs on that vehicle but had been beaten to the line by one of his pupils!

That car was my pride and joy. I was seventeen and it was my very first vehicle. It was more than twenty years old, which doesn't sound too bad nowadays, but in 1934 steel and fabrication techniques were not of the quality that we are used to today. Consequently everything that could move – like pistons, gears, and steering for example – was pretty well worn. A technician in one of today's MOT Stations would have had a field day! Every trip I made in that car was a journey into the unknown. It was 'unknown' whether we would run out of petrol or not – there was no fuel gauge! Not strictly true I suppose – I always had a bamboo rod with me to dip into the petrol tank at the start of every trip!

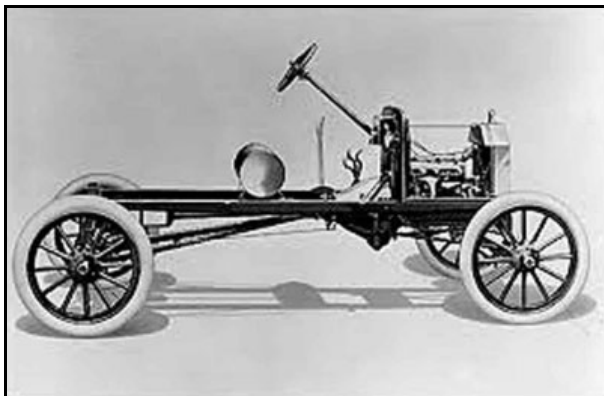
In the 1950's there was a car dealer in Dersingham by the name of Charles Whisker. I have a lot to thank that man for. He actually trusted me to drive his new, clean, undamaged cars. Every day of the school summer holidays I would drive a sporty little red Renault Dauphine out to Sculthorpe Air base and wait to rattle off my sales patter to unsuspecting American servicemen. I would give them demonstration drives; explain how the Dauphine was far and away superior to the Volkswagen Beetle (which was always parked next door to me in the car sales area); then take them to the Legal Department just to sign a few forms before driving away in their shiny new toy. It never worked out like that. There was a nasty loophole in law which said something like (and I admit I'm a bit hazy on this one) thou shalt not purchase a car in Gt Britain if thou already owneth a motor vehicle. The net effect of all this was that instead of collecting hundreds of pounds in commission for selling cars to naive Americans, I was given £5 at the end of the six weeks 'for trying hard'! But there was an interesting interlude in all this. As well as the Renault Dauphine, Charles Whisker also sold a smashing little three wheeled bubble car called the Messerschmitt. These little buzz-bombs were collected from London. One day Mr Whisker told me, quite casually, that tomorrow I would be collecting a Messerschmitt from 'the railway arches in Whitechapel, London'. And that was it. Lynn to London by train – fine. Liverpool Street to Whitechapel by tube and bus – somewhat less than fine. Working out how to drive one of these three-wheeled micro-bullets through London in the afternoon rush hour – decidedly un-fine! I was even looking *upwards* at the wheels of cars coming past me! But I made it. Eventually I got back to Dersingham. Relieved, and more than a little pleased with myself that I had overcome all the obstacles thrown in my path. Mr Whisker was bound to be pleased with my efforts I thought. Not so. "And where the hell do you think you've been?!" was all I got!

One of the accompanying pictures is of a Ford Model T lorry chassis. You may well ask 'why a picture of just a chassis?' The reason is that



what you see is what I got – well, almost. My grandfather, who lived in Heacham, was a builder until he retired and he owned one of the very few Model T Ford Lorries in Norfolk. He explained to me that he had wanted a lorry for his business and had his eyes set on a Model T. But he would not buy it until it had carried a ton of lime from Heacham to Docking without mishap. The lorry passed its test. When grandfather closed his business, the lorry was put up on supporting posts and kept in its garage. As far as I can estimate this would have been around 1928. By the time I was 18 I had become interested in taking vehicles to pieces as well as driving them. Grandfather's 1925 (as far as I know) Model T was a sitting duck for me and my limited range of hand tools. The hours of fun I had in stripping everything down, then re-building it exactly as it had been, but perhaps with a bit of a clean-up here and there, were limitless. There were snags however. I found the oil filler plug but never did work out just how much oil was needed to fill it up. I erred on the safe side. Also I went to the local garage (Wittons I think it was called) to get the battery charged. No-one had seen anything like it. Phone calls were made and elderly locals were called in until eventually one knowledgeable gentleman pronounced that I would never get that thing charged up in a month of Sundays. The 'thing' was a 'Trembler Coil' apparently – absolutely nothing like a lead-acid battery in any way shape or form! Then came the day for the big 'Start Up'. The engine fired; hesitantly at first, then faster until she was running as sweet as a little nut. 'Geronimo!!' But what was that massive cloud of smoke doing billowing from the exhaust and completely filling the garage? Err...Oi had overfilled the oil, hadn't oi....Doyerr!!

I sold the lorry to Charles Whisker for the princely sum of £50 and as far as I knew I wouldn't see it again. That was a big shame. But one day Mr Whisker rang me and asked if I would like to go with him, and the Model T, on a Vintage and Veteran Car Rally from King's Lynn to Hunstanton. It was as though Christmas had come early that year! We didn't start from Lynn as I remember but joined the rest of the rally at Whisker's Garage in Dersingham. Sitting on the flat-bed of the lorry, completely exposed to the elements, we set off. By the time we got to the white cafe in Ingoldisthorpe there were clouds of steam pouring out from under the bonnet. Yours truly was detailed to knock on doors until we found someone who was prepared to let us have copious supplies of water. We set off again but did an 'encore' at Heacham Bottom, just short of Lamsey Lane. We completed the next, and final leg, to Hunstanton promenade without further incident would you believe? The last event of the rally was a speed competition along the sea front, doing a supposedly three point turn at the Old Hunstanton end then returning to the pier. We started off OK but half way along the outward run the lorry stalled and came to rest. I was told in no uncertain terms that it was *my* job to crank it up again. I leapt off the running board and cranked like mad, to the cheers of people on the cliff top. That engine had a kick like a mule and I'm still not convinced that Mr W didn't stall it on purpose! We got to the turning area and he proceeded to carry out the turn. Sorry, but there was absolutely no way it was a 'three point turn'! There is an expression about 'turning on a sixpence'. By comparison the Model T could not turn on anything less than a dinner plate!



There is lots more I wanted to tell you, and not only about the Model T. In a future edition of Village Voice perhaps?. But I will just refer to the photo of the Model T chassis. Quite seriously, the only difference between my grandfather's lorry and the one in the picture is that my grandfather's had a bonnet and a flat, side-less platform behind the passengers. Note: no windscreen, windows or doors – or roof come to that! □

Parish Council Report

December's Full Council meeting was well attended again by members of the public which is always nice to see.

County Councillor John Dobson gave an update in relation to the ongoing incinerator discussions. I appears that the judicial review had not been upheld as it had been based on predetermination. A further update would be forthcoming after Christmas.

There was also a brief discussion about the new street lights in the village and a question was raised as to why the new posts were placed in front of the older, still functioning posts. Councillor Groom explained that the old lights were at the end of their planned life and replacing with new ones would reduce future energy consumption.

Thaxter's planning application was the main topic of Borough Councillor Collingham's report and subsequent conversations. Councillor Collingham had received information from Andrew Fillmore, the planning officer responsible for the application. It was due to go before the Planning Committee on the 9 January 2012. The application, said Mr Fillmore, raised considerations relating to the principle of development, highway safety, amenity and ecological considerations. Highways and Natural England do not object to the application, but the Norfolk Wildlife Trust is opposing it. Mr Fillmore stated that the majority of objections from neighbouring residents relate to traffic increases and the impact on amenity and safety. The traffic survey accompanying the application (which has been assessed by the highways authority) estimated an increase of vehicle usage on Saturdays from 105 to 313 vehicles (two way flows), with any weekday increase being significantly lower. This statement seemed to show a lack of appreciation for the problems any increase in traffic would give for Station Road residents, particularly at the far end where the road had a very different character, or for the extra traffic use on nearby roads being used as 'rat runs' to avoid the traffic lights.

More information on what was discussed can be found in the minutes from the meeting which are now on the new Dersingham Parish Council website www.dersingham.org.uk.

We then turned our attention to the Recreation Ground. We have been obtaining reports and quotations to update and upgrade the play equipment. We hope to have more details at January's meeting.

After further discussion covering the usual planning applications and accounting matters, the meeting was closed.

LL

Norfolk Hospice - Tapping House Dersingham & Ingoldisthorpe Volunteers' Coffee Morning raises over £1000

The Mayor and Mayoress of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Cllr Colin Sampson, his wife Susan and over 80 people attended a coffee morning on Saturday 12th November at the home of Keith and Vanessa Blythe. A magnificent £1076.95 was raised for the hospice.

The Dersingham & Ingoldisthorpe volunteer group was set up a year ago to support and promote NHTH in the villages by arranging collections and attending events.

The Coffee Morning was the first event held by the group and was generously supported by local businesses Potter and Dibble, Time Out Beauty Salon, Flowers by Yvonne, Tropic Coffee, Scent with Love and Silver Fashion and Jewellery. Local artist Mary Kallager donated a beautiful watercolour painting which was auctioned. A raffle was also held.

The Norfolk Hospice is the Mayor's chosen charity and he encourages villages large or small to support the Hospice and its vital work.

If you would like more information about the Hospice or are interested in joining the group contact: Vanessa Blythe, Hospice Ambassador, Dersingham & Ingoldisthorpe Tel: 01485 544866

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Bog News

As many of you may remember I mentioned in my last article about UK power networks removing the power lines through the reserve. This work was completed at the end of November and the process of removing the actual poles and wires was a spectacle to watch.

The whole process of removing the wire and lines took about three days with varying amounts of people and machines. The first part of the process was preparing the substation and connecting the underground cable to the substation. Once this was checked and working the power lines were disconnected from the substation meaning that the lines were no longer live allowing removal. The company had disconnected some of the wires from the poles in preparation for their removal and removed the wires which crossed the A149 bypass.

The next day and what seemed like hundreds of vehicles (probably more like twenty) arrived to begin the process of removing the cable and poles. I spent part of the day trying to photograph the process for the reserve records. The first job for UK Power networks and their contractors was to disconnect the wires from the poles and cut them to allow the wires to be reeled in. This happened around 11.30am and they began reeling in the three cables from across the reserve almost 2.5 miles worth in one go. By the afternoon the wires were all off the poles and they were ready to begin the next stage.

The next stage was to fell the poles. This was done in the same manner as felling a tree by using a chainsaw. There are around 35 poles on the site and with the amount of people they only took a short time to fell. Once the poles were removed they were able to begin removing the metal insulators from the tops of the poles. This was a difficult task as due to the nature of the reserve and the rare bog plants that the reserve supports they were unable to drive right up to the poles.

This meant that they had to remove them from the bog by hand. This carried on until the morning of the third day when the removal was completed.

The poles were left on the ground in full lengths and left for us to use. We are going to be using these poles to build a cattle corral on the site to allow us to handle the cows and complete checks on the cows when required.

As it is the beginning of a new year I thought I would just explain a bit more in detail about volunteering. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers on the site who can help out with a wide range of tasks including scrub management and managing the site for wildlife, path and infrastructure works, wardening, litter picking, data input and helping out in the office as well as sometimes the chance to help out on surveys. We also have tasks for young people who are working towards the Duke of Edinburgh award and can accommodate fairly large groups too. For those that can only volunteer at weekends we run weekend work parties throughout the year on Saturdays and Sundays, running two a month in the winter



and one a month in the summer. We also can accommodate volunteers in the week normally on Mondays and Wednesdays. We also have students who use the site for university projects.

We are always looking to expand the volunteer team at Dersingham Bog NNR and there is normally a task that is suitable for most people and most ages although some tasks may require training. So if you are looking for some volunteer work and enjoy the great outdoors please get in contact and we will try and arrange some volunteering. My email address is Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk .

The reserve has a feel of spring to it and with the first singing woodlark being heard early on in January it is a reminder that the breeding season is only a few weeks away and that some of the ground nesting birds will begin courting and beginning to prepare to nest. □

Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden

ST CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



The mood at the time of the production of our previous article for Village Voice was decidedly low-key. Fr James was to leave us on December 8th, and was not to be replaced, meaning that St Cecilia's would be losing its Sunday Mass – a great blow to the whole community. You may imagine our delight, then, when it was announced on December 11th that Fr Michael Ryan would be coming to us as our resident priest! Christmas was celebrated in a particularly thankful spirit. The church looked beautiful, thanks to our team of talented flower arrangers, and everyone was in very good voice for the carols.

Fr Michael duly came to live in Mountbatten Road on January 4th, to an enthusiastic welcome from us all. The area is not totally unfamiliar to him, as he was assistant priest at King's Lynn in the 1980s (the A149 bypass for Dersingham and Snettisham was a surprise!). More recently Fr Michael has been working in Peru, having gone there after his time in King's Lynn, come back from Peru to work for more than ten years as Parish Priest in Ipswich, and then returned to Peru again. Fr Michael enjoys walking, sailing and climbing mountains. Alas, we can't provide mountains in Norfolk, but there are plenty of opportunities for walking and sailing, and we hope Fr Michael will be able to take advantage of them during his time with us.

Fr James has received the Benedictine habit at Downside Abbey, and has taken the name Robert. We were able to give him a good 'send-off', thanking him for all he had done for us during his time in the parish. He was given, among other things, a number of 'virtual gifts' including a cow and a bicycle. These did not have to be smuggled into Downside, but are being sent to the Third World to support families and projects there. However, Fr James' bees will be joining him in a couple of months – perhaps Downside honey will soon become famous.

At the time of writing we are planning our social events for 2012, and hope to see many of you at them. We are also very pleased to see visitors, both from the local area and from further away, at our services. Refreshments are served after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the month and we also have a friendly informal gathering after the 10.15am Mass on Wednesday. Do come and visit – you will be most welcome.

For more photos and information, visit our website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org





Steve Davis

To E or not to E?

That is the question many of us consider as we are steered ever closer toward the *electronic* paperless society. *E-mail* is commonplace; perhaps you send *e-cards*, go *e-shopping* on *eBay* with *e-billing* or are registered for *e-banking*. But would you be happy to read an entire *e-publication* such as an *e-book*, *e-magazine* or *e-newspaper*? For these you would need an *e-reader*.

Now an e-reader could simply be a freely available piece of software installed on your PC or laptop, that enables you to scan through the pages of your *e-book* on screen, but this would perhaps not be everyone's chosen method for enjoying a relaxed read. For those of you fortunate enough to own that Rolls Royce of touch-screen, '*tablet computers*': an *Apple iPad*, a thing of beauty resembling just the lid of a smart lap-top then you could sit back in a comfy armchair caressing its screen as you leisurely flip through the pages of your *e-book* in glorious colour. *iPads* of course do a lot more besides such as taking photos and video using the camera on the back or front, manage and display stored photos, provide live video communication with friends and family across the globe, play music and engage you in all manner of online entertainment. I was intrigued watching a recent edition of *Countryfile* on TV to see artist David Hockney out in the country creating one of his characteristically bright coloured pieces of artwork merely by using his finger to sketch on his *iPad* screen. (Try a quick *Google* search of *David Hockney iPad Art*). However, a basic *iPad* starts at £400, which is a bit steep if all you want to do for the most part is read black text on a white background, and besides it still involves spending yet more time staring at a bright, high-contrast computer screen however smooth or slick!

There are of course several more purely functional, sedate, purpose-built *e-readers*. *Sony* make them, *W H Smith* have their so named *Kobo*, but arguably the best known is *Amazon's* own *Kindle*, (see amazon.co.uk/kindle). Although I have yet to succumb to such temptation, when our younger daughter came to visit recently, bringing her treasured *Kindle* Christmas present, I was very impressed, and wasted no time investigating its pros and cons. Hers, the simplest of the models costing £89 was wrapped in a stylish leather fold-over cover giving the whole thing the size and feel of a slim but firm paperback book. Looking at the screen really was just like looking at a sheet of paper with black text (unsurprisingly referred to as *e-ink*). It is not lit-up, there is no reflection and it is fine to view in daylight, bright sunlight or with a bedside light on. And when you click the button at the edge it "turns" onto the next page. Unlike a laptop or mobile phone, it draws very little power; they claim a single charge will last up to a month! It will store over 1000 *e-books* at a time and you can maintain one or more effective "bookmarks" on each one; enough to keep even the most avid reader going for a week or two's holiday! The nice thing too is that the size and even style of text (ie with or without *serifs*) can be set to suit and it will automatically re-format the page. (You might even dispense with the reading glasses!). Diagrams and photos if present appear, though only of course in black and white.

Your online account with *Amazon* is also where your *e-book* 'purchases' are stored. The price of an *e-book* (including full VAT) is always much less than the recommended price of its paper (zero VAT rated) equivalent and over a million of them (including classics such as *Pride & Prejudice*, etc) are entirely free. Even the ones you pay for will offer you a free sample of a chapter or two. *E-Newspapers* such as the *Times*, *Mail* or *Guardian* are generally subscribed to on a monthly basis, again at much reduced cost than the paper equivalent and delivered to your account daily. *E-books* are then downloaded into your *Kindle* (or as they say *synchronised*) simply by turning on your *Kindle's* wireless (*WiFi*) connection or plugging it into your computer. This all happens very swiftly and efficiently, but I was keen to know what else could be done with a *Kindle*. I discovered that there was a limited *Internet Browser* – good enough to surf the net (in not-so-glorious monochrome) and even check e-mails though *e-mail* attachments were not so easy to access, and

the lack of keyboard, made entering text rather cumbersome using a point and click method with the cursor control. Ah, but what I wanted to know was could I get a copy of Village Voice onto the *Kindle*? On the dersingham.org.uk website, *Village Voice* is stored as a *PDF (portable document format)* file as indeed are many other online documents. Well it did work although a whole page of the fixed layout *Village Voice PDF* on the *Kindle's* rather smaller screen was barely readable. However set and hold the screen in sideways-on *landscape* mode and you are back to normal size text albeit half a page at a time. Further, it is (at no cost) possible to email a PDF file (*and other document formats such as Microsoft Word*) to your *Kindle* account and have them converted to standard *Kindle* format which although losing the original page layout of the document, text and pictures are retained in the more malleable format for display using a size and style of text to suit the reader. Now regular visitors to our parish website will know that our council documents (agendas and minutes) are similarly held online in PDF format – if every counsellor had a *Kindle*, we could save quite a lot of trees at meetings, let alone have less clutter around!

Of course owning a basic *Kindle* does rather imply that you have a computer and broadband connection installed, but there is an upmarket version: the *Kindle Keyboard 3G*, costing £149 that additionally has a physical QWERTY keyboard along the bottom making it a bit bigger, but also connects (free of charge) to the internet using the mobile phone network (although whether you would achieve *3G* connection speed in Dersingham is debatable). Nevertheless it could absolve the user from needing a computer or broadband connection. The battery-charge on this version lasts twice as long although annoyingly a mains adaptor/charger is an optional extra; (ordinarily the *Kindle* will fully charge in around 3 hours when connected to a computer using the supplied USB lead).

Whilst trying out my daughter's *Kindle*, I also discovered that you do not have to own one to have an *Amazon Kindle* account. *Kindle Readers* are available to download for PCs, *Android* phones, *Apple Macs*, *iPhones*, *iPads* and *iPods*. Even with my fairly cheap *Android* phone I managed to download and read through a couple of chapters of *Little Lord Fauntleroy* with ease, although I did run my phone battery-charge down rather quickly in the process! The good thing is that any *e-books* in your account can be synchronised with any devices attached to that account, book-marking the page last viewed – this could be useful if two *Kindle* owners enjoy reading the same thing. (My wife and I do but then it has been suggested that my reading tastes are perhaps a bit girly!) You can also “lend” *e-books* for a limited period to a friend's account and “borrow” *e-books* from an *e-library*!

In the USA there are already two other more advanced versions of the *Kindle* that eventually will be available here, though release dates are speculative. The ever-so-slightly larger *Kindle Touch* has a touch-control screen which lovers of *tablet computers* and smart phones will already be familiar with and in my opinion is an obvious advantage although not if you prefer to keep your screen free from finger marks! The *Kindle Fire* is the full colour version that is really a step closer to an *iPad* but at lower cost; it is however, not as frugal on battery power as the black and white versions.

So where do we stand in Dersingham for using such *e-technology*? With our free library services and much-patronised St Nicholas' Church Bookshop where we can pick up all manner of recycled reading material at bargain prices, is there anything to be gained? At their last Coffee Morning I was standing-in on duty at the Bookshop as folk streamed in bringing us books by the bagful and even car-bootful after their post-Christmas turnouts. We took in far more than we sold that morning! Please forgive me if I appeared overwhelmed or less than gracious at such offerings for it is undoubtedly a great village service, but does nonetheless bring home just how much paper we consume. But, the question is will I rush out and buy a *Kindle* now or shall I wait and see what comes next? – “*E, I dawn't knaw!*”

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

St. Nicholas Dersingham Church Hall Centenary Restoration Appeal

This year, 2012, appears to be an important year nationally with the coming of the Olympics to London and of course the Queen's Diamond Jubilee; but it is also important for the simple reason that it is part of the Centenary of the Church Hall at St. Nicholas. As anyone who has visited the Church Hall knows, the Foundation Stone was laid on All Saints Day 1911, but the opening was held in the summer of 1912.

The Hall has of course been used extensively since it was first opened. These days you can find it occupied by user groups ranging from the Church's Kidz Club, Parents & Toddlers and Identity (to say nothing of the independent Dersingham Youth Project) catering for the young of the village, to the Day Centre and Phobbies on Wednesdays and Thursdays respectively. Equally, it is happy to play host to more widespread and open events, such as the Village Voice Live evenings, or parties and concerts held by residents of Dersingham and the surrounding Villages. Even big events are hosted in the Church Hall – the St. Nicholas Flower Festival, Arts & Crafts, Lent Lunches, Coffee Mornings and the Christmas Tree Festival all fill the hall with throngs of people coming together in fellowship.

Naturally such use means that wear and tear is inevitable and thus the desire to renovate, restore and revitalise the Church Hall was born – one might even say it was fortuitous that it was also the Church Hall's centenary year! Running alongside the Centenary celebrations that are to be organised by the Church Events Committee, a Centenary Restoration Appeal has therefore been launched to revitalise and renew the Church Hall for another Century. The Project has four phases, each of which is equally vital to the smooth operating of the Church Hall. First and most importantly for many users, we are seeking to improve the toilet facilities, with the creation of a new disabled toilet and the remodelling of the existing Ladies and Gentlemen's provision.

Secondly we will turn our attention to the issue of storage – many will know and loathe the large number of tall cupboards that crowd the small hall. Currently the proposal is to look to our small rear yard to provide us with a more versatile storage solution, freeing up space inside for all users of the hall. Our third and fourth priorities concern the kitchen and main hall itself; both of which are in some need of 'minor decorative restoration', in order to make the hall as welcoming as possible.

As I am sure you will appreciate, these plans will require capital and with the self-imposed decision that the Appeal Fund will aim to raise all the funds required from either grants or its own personal fundraising, a number of events have been planned and for some, completed. The Appeal itself was launched with a "Launch Lunch" on Saturday November 20th 2011. With delicious Pork donated by Priors the Butchers and the vegetables, starter and pudding being donated by various people, the lunch was an extremely enjoyable affair with a clear party atmosphere that launched the appeal with a bang. This was followed on January 21st, by a Table-top Sale in the afternoon – this will continue to be repeated for the next two months at least (February 18th and March 17th from 2 until 4pm).

The next large event, to which you are *all* cordially invited is the 'Luv Lunch' that is to be held at 12.15 for 12.30 in the Church Hall on **Saturday 12th February**. Once again the starter, vegetables and pudding are being donated by various people, but sadly this time the meat is having to be actually purchased so this time (with the delicious Gammon supplied once again by Priors) the tickets will be **£12**, from which £10 will go towards the Appeal Funds. Following the lunch, everyone is then invited to cross to the Church for a '*Service in Celebration of Marriage & Family Life*' being organised by the Mother's Union at 3pm. For more information, (or to buy tickets) please contact any member of the Appeal Fundraising Group – Rita Mathews (543674), Olive McCrea (543666) or Jane Churchill (543226).

We do all hope that you will be able to join us for this event, and if not this time, then at our next, because with your help *we will* make a difference to the Church Hall in this, its' Centenary Year. □



Dersingham Methodist Church

Christmas at Dersingham Methodist Church began on Saturday 26th November with our Christmas Fayre, the morning was busy with people buying gifts and enjoying the mince pies and coffee. Our festivities continued that evening when we very pleased to welcome the West Norfolk Choir who entertained a good number with various musical pieces including a Christmas selection.

Monday 12th December saw 50 people sit down to Christmas lunch, everyone tucked into the excellently cooked roast turkey and Christmas pudding. After the meal all enjoyed singing traditional Christmas songs such as Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer and the 12 days of Christmas and some favourite carols.

At the Carols by Candlelight service an innkeeper, a shepherd, four sheep and a wise man were among the large number who attended. They, together with the readings and carols, reminded us of the wonder of Christmas, the impact that first Christmas had and the hope, joy, peace and love Jesus' birth brings to the world. At the very happy Christmas morning service we talked of gifts, giving and receiving. We raised £329 from the Christmas services for the Hope Centre, Straupe, Latvia, to continue the much needed building work.



The 2012 diaries are beginning to fill up, coffee mornings are on Saturday 25th February, 24th March and 21st April. Annual flower festival Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th May.

You are warmly invited to any of our events and services. Wishing you peace and happiness for 2012.□

Elizabeth Batstone

Carrot & Tomato Soup from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen by Lindsey Davis

A very tasty, simple-to-make, warming soup for those cold days

Ingredients for 4 servings

750g / 1¾lb carrots, 1 tin chopped tomatoes, 25g / 1oz red lentils, 750ml / 1½ pts water, 1 vegetable stock cube, a good squirt of tomato purée.

1. Peel & chop carrots.
2. Put in large saucepan with all other ingredients. Bring to boil.
Simmer 15 mins or until carrots are soft.
3. Blend to smooth consistency.
4. Add ½ tsp dried basil and a little more water if too thick.
5. Serve with wholemeal bread or toast, homemade if possible!





Sandringham Squirrels by Alan Coleby



Girl squirrels

Ella
Eve
Cassie
Thora

*Stories for children: a group of eight young
squirrels play, feed and explore in the woods
of Sandringham.*

Boy squirrels

Scoot
Chip
Barney
Gus

Very Cold

‘Oh, I’m really hungry, Ella. Could you tell me where one of the stores is, so that I can eat a few nuts?’

Scoot was out with Ella and Eve, and they had met Cassie, a friend of his two sisters. She was standing around looking unhappy.

‘That’s what we came out for,’ replied Ella. ‘It’s not the weather for walking out, but all of us were awake in our drey and we all felt hungry. Mum sent us out to find some food. But it’s so cold. We want to find some nuts and get back home to the beech tree as quickly as we can.’

‘I was thirsty as well,’ said Cassie, ‘but it’s so cold all the puddles have frozen over, so I’ll have to go to that pond at the far end of the gorse bushes for a drink.’

‘Let’s all go together, then,’ said Scoot. ‘The nuts will make us thirsty, so we’ll all drink from the pond. There’s also been a light fall of snow overnight. Mum says it’s alright to eat snow, because it’s frozen water, only not as hard as ice.’

‘We’ll see what we find at the pond,’ said Ella. ‘Isn’t there a nut store at that end of the gorse bushes, Scoot?’

‘Yes,’ replied Scoot. ‘It’s mostly acorns and sweet chestnuts, though we might find some hazel nuts if we’re lucky.’

When they got there, Scoot explored around and sniffed out a store of nuts that he told the girls he was sure belonged to their family. Scoot said that all three of them could have a feed, and he would see that Cassie got as many as she wanted, too.

‘As many as she needs,’ said Eve, firmly. ‘She’s not in our family.’

‘As many as she wants,’ argued Scoot. ‘We don’t like to be selfish. I dug the nuts up. I’ll let Cassie have as many as she wants.’ Eve glanced at Ella, wondering why Scoot so much wanted to give things to Cassie. Meanwhile, Cassie had walked along to the pond because she said she needed water more than anything.

Quite soon, Cassie came walking slowly back.

‘Whatever’s the matter?’ asked Ella.

‘The pond’s frozen so hard, I can’t get any water,’ came the reply.

Scoot scampered off. The girls did not know why. Each of them ate a few acorns and sweet chestnuts and then followed him down to the pond. When they arrived, they found Scoot out on the ice, dropping a stone onto it time and time again.

‘I can’t break it,’ Scoot explained when the girls came near, ‘so I’m seeing if the weight of this stone will do it.’ After each drop of the stone, he moved a little further out onto the ice.

‘Oh, do be careful,’ said Ella, who was always nervous about things. ‘We don’t want anything to happen to you.’

‘Yes. Take care,’ added Cassie. ‘If you go too far out, you might fall through the ice into the water.’

‘The thing is,’ said Scoot, turning round to face the girls who were watching him, ‘we have to drink water, and if we don’t, we will die.’

Just at that moment, because he had turned to face the other way, Scoot took a step backwards. The ice broke with a crack and then it broke into little pieces as Scoot staggered back and fell into the water.

Straight away, he turned onto his tummy. He pushed forwards with his front paws and kicked

out backwards with his hind feet. He did not stop to think about it. He just did it and found that he was floating in the water. He went forward a few feet and then turned, still on his tummy, and swam back to where he had fallen in. Then he tried to put his hind feet on the ground and found he could stand up. The water came to the top of his chest..

Now that he had broken it, Scoot found that he could pull the ice away easily. He waded towards the edge, breaking ice as he went and throwing some pieces to the girls. He reached the edge of the pond and cleared a little hole so that they could drink from the side. Then he clambered out.

‘Oh, Scoot’ called out Ella, always the one to think of others. ‘You’ll get so cold now that you’re wet. You’ll freeze to death.’

‘Well, what can I do about it?’

‘You’ll have to run, that’s what,’ shouted Eve. ‘Run around in circles to get some of the water off, and then run home to the beech tree and ask Mum to rub you down.’

‘OK,’ agreed Scoot, ‘but there’s something else I want to do first.’ And without any more fuss, he dashed along to where he had dug up the nuts, got a few more from where he had hidden them nearby, and came running back. He gave them to Cassie. ‘These are special ones,’ he said.

Ella and Eve could see they were hazel nuts, the sweetest nut of all. □



News from Ingoldisthorpe C of E Primary School

We ended our last term with a lovely Christingles Service in church. I always enjoy the moment when the lights are extinguished and we light the candles the children are holding whilst singing Holy Night. It really is a special moment. On the last day of term there was a lovely talent show organised by the School Council. A range of well rehearsed acts including one by staff provided excellent entertainment for all.

Our School Council really are going from strength to strength. They meet each week and have been involved in a range of decisions including: planning a summer sleep over on the school field, or gaining and running a school disco for all the children as well as looking at reducing the energy used in school.

We already have a lot of plans for this year. We have a three day residential to Holt Hall for Maple class in April, a day trip to London for both Maple and Oak classes, a visit to King’s Lynn Arts Centre, a Readathon celebration day and events concerning the Olympics and we are looking forward to celebrating the Queen's diamond jubilee. So we are hoping for a very exciting year at Ingoldisthorpe.

Once again I would like to remind you of the various activities we have for pre school children. Little Owls is our pre school group for children in the year before they start full time school. Little Owls meet every morning from 9 a.m. If you have children of that age do come along. If you have family and friends with young children do tell them and spread the word about Little Owls, the children do seem to really enjoy themselves! We also have a Toddler group who meet every Monday morning at nine o'clock and a music and movement group for all pre school children every Wednesday morning. □

Keith Twaites



Hunstanton and West Norfolk Lifeboats Guild

New Year and renewed fund raising for the Lifeboats

We had an exceptional year last year with a total of £36,550.00 including shop profits..... a wonderful record I believe, but the figures are to be confirmed.

And it is all due to the superb support that we have received from all you most generous donors. All for the charity that saves lives at sea, and the volunteers who selflessly give their time and are prepared to risk their lives to save others in danger or distress afloat.

The guild committee is now working at organising events for the coming months and looking down the list its pretty impressive a mix of tried and tested functions and some new ideas, which will come apparent in due course.

Here are the events up to the middle of the year:-

Wednesday 29 Feb -CURRY NIGHT- Unlimited curry with all the trimmings

From 6.30 pm onwards. Tickets £15, available for the

The King William 01485 571765. Tables can be pre-arranged for parties

Thanks here to the Skerritt family who are hosting this event for raising Lifeboat funding. My reliable sources inform me that this function and the curries are of the most excellent taste.

Friday 23rd March –FISH & CHIP LUNCH- Sedgeford Village Hall. Coffee 10.30 for 11 am Guest Speaker is David Reeve the subject Protecting the Royals. My wife has been to see this most amazing of talks. With some highly amusing tales from Sandringham This come Highly Recommended. Tickets £10.50.

Wednesday 18th April – AGM- Hunstanton Town Hall, more details to follow.

MID-SUMMER EVENT

Wednesday 13th June –PLOUGHMAN’S AND PIMMS- at Mulberry Cottage, Choseley Road Thornham 12 – 3 pm by the kind permission of Jennifer and Terry Morris Tickets £15.00

Tickets for these functions are available from:-

Angie 01485 572866

Lois 01485 572708

Terry 01485 512005

Please may suggest getting tickets well in advance as they have a tendency to be taken up rather quickly.

I believe we would all like to make this another very good year, so please may we depend on your generosity again for funds to keep “Spirit of West Norfolk” and “Hunstanton Flyer” operational.

John Marrow Press Officer

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any Queries or Questions

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Old Girls Patch by Meetze

So much has happened, I don't know where to start.

Our playground was taken down in September, which I forgot to tell you. The 2-legged ones call it a conservatory, but it looks like a cat playground and it is in my opinion a cat playground.

The playground is back up and it is bigger and better than before. We have a pier that goes all the way around on different levels and we have a purrfect

view onto the Take Away Chain "Things with Wings". It is open 24/7, hence there is always something going on. And because the visitors of that restaurant drop a lot, Mr. and Mrs. Mouse decided to move into the pampas grass.

Then the female 2-legged one became a member of the WI (Whiskers Intelligence). I really do not know why I cannot go with her, since she is always coming back from there with great new ideas for our playground.

The Christmas tree was especially a dream. All the way up to the roof and loads of branches for us to climb on to. Johnnie was the first one up and Vladimir followed.

Ahhh, sorry. I did not tell you about Vlad either, did I? I beg your pardon, but I am getting old. I forget a lot these days.

Vladimir moved in when he was just 8 weeks old. He is mainly cream but he has brown legs, ears, tail and nose, a white moustache, white gloves and white socks. And he did not know anything when he came. But Johnnie showed him how to use the toilet, Sidney showed him how to fight, Beauty showed him where to sleep best, Armani showed him how to tell the 2-legged ones that he wants to go out and I showed him how to clean himself. In between he is playing a lot with the teenagers Johnnie and Sidney. They make loads of noise doing that and I get frequently disturbed during my naps. They chase each other around the house, fall over each other and carry a little fluffy mouse with a pink feather tail around.

Regarding Armani – I have not managed to meet her yet although she seems more like my type as she does not like getting involved with the teenagers either.

After Christmas we had a visitor who poked all of us and looked at our teeth and ears. I was not very keen on him, but Vladimir was all over him. In Essex we had to go into a box to get poked, but I here in Dersingham we get treated like we should be treated - like royalty. Anyway he came from far far away to see us. I overheard our big friends talking about coastal something or the other and the coast is at least 3200 leaps away, if not more.

Ebay came again (I really don't know why they don't move in, they seem to come a lot) and they took all the living and dining room furniture away. There was only the bed left for us to curl up for one night. Can you believe it? I had to share with Sidney. A boy!!! The next day there were people coming bringing all the furniture back, just in different colours and in a different size. They must have washed it too hot, just like our 2-legged male did one time when he did the washing. I remember it well, all came out either in pink or a few sizes smaller. The 2-legged female was not impressed at the time, but now she does not seem to mind, as she is arranging everything so we can easily access everything.

In November the female 2-legged one went away for a week and she also came back in a different colour, and that was apparently ok too. Will I ever understand those 2-legged creatures? And here is a tip for all of you who have their own access to the house (the humans call it cat flap): Take up social work in the winter months among lonely humans in your neighbourhood. They may be at home when your 2-legged one is at work. In winter, this means their central heating will be on, when yours is off. □

DERSINGHAM DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY



Christmas is over for another year and the Day Centre started again on the 11th January, however, we finished 2011 with a bumper number of events which will be hard to follow at this stage of the New Year. We dined on fish and chips on the 9th November.

The Village Fryer parked right by the entrance to the Church Hall and the volunteers queued up, with hot plates, to be served with piping hot fish and chips straight out of the fryer. These were carried in relays between the van and the tables inside until everyone was served. They tasted so good and so much better than when they have been wrapped in paper for a journey home.

We then had another special lunch at the Lavender Centre on the 16th November. It was a fine dry day but noticeably cooler. As the visitors' season is now over there was plenty of room for everyone to look around the shops before and after lunch. It was a good opportunity for our members to buy Christmas presents, etc. The driver had to make two journeys to return everyone home, so those on the second journey were served with pots of tea and coffee and were able to sit in comfort and in the warm. Everyone was delivered home before it got dark.

On the 23rd November we celebrated the 90th birthday of Elsie English, with a beautiful birthday cake made for us by Alison Girling. Elsie expressed her thanks and told us about how she came to live in Dersingham and how, gradually, she got involved helping with the organization of various village activities over many years. She said that she felt she was now "reaping what she had sown" and coming to the Day Centre each week and being looked after was very special to her.

The 30th November was the day we celebrated our 30th Anniversary. The Church Hall had been decorated for Christmas and we added Birthday Banners and Balloons. Forty people sat down to lunch, including five guests, who were joined on the top table by Mrs Vi Woodbridge. Mrs Woodbridge has been associated with the Day Centre for over 16 years, first as a Volunteer and then as a Member - she is our longest attending Member. After lunch we were entertained by Reggie Grey with monologues. Tea was then served and our very special birthday cake, again designed and made by Alison Stirling, was cut. It represented a scrabble board with the tiles spelling out "Happy Birthday Day Centre". Every member and volunteer was given a white yellow badge saying "The Day Centre is 30". Another milestone and another happy event.

On the 21st December we held our Christmas Lunch and Party. In the morning the Dersingham Befrienders visited us and presented us with two beautifully decorated Christmas Cakes – a lovely surprise. This year the Flying Chef did the catering for us and so guests, members and volunteers were able to sit down together and enjoy a lovely traditional Christmas lunch. This was followed by our usual dancing and singing to music provided by Leigh Murfet – there is nothing quite like a good old sing-along of the carols and songs that we all remember from our younger days. June Dorman, one of our Members, sang a solo and read a very amusing piece of verse. The afternoon ended with tea and mince-pies, kindly donated by Hazel Wolff, and each Member was given a Christmas card and present. So ended another successful and happy year for the Day Centre.

Have a break in the Lakes

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We now have a waiting list for Membership of the Day Centre. Volunteers to help on a Wednesday are always needed. If you feel you can spare some time on a Wednesday, why not come along to the Church Hall and see what we do. A Happy New Year to Village Voice readers from Members and Volunteers of the Dersingham Day Centre.□

Alice Worth

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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Dersingham Institute Bowls Club was held on Tuesday, 17th January at 2pm, called due to the resignation of the Chairman Gordon Fisher. The meeting was attended by over 40 members, with apologies from a further 9.

Bob Meredith was proposed by Bob Tipling as Life President and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

The Officers Elected by the Members were:- Chairman Richard Bridges Vice Chairman Dick Murrell Treasurer Derek Reader Club Secretary Jenny Pattison League Secretary Terry Burrell Social Secretary Val Reader League Captains Roy Harrington - N.W.Norfolk Jane Burden - Countryside Eric Hill - Albert Victor IV 'A' Richard Burden - Albert Victor IV 'B'.

The first meeting of the new committee will be 7th February 2012. Keith Richardson will run the Derek Newell Memorial League on Wednesday afternoons. The green opens for the new season on Sat. 14th April, new members are always welcome and coaching sessions will be available by qualified English Bowls coach Richard Bridges. The Club will be running a full social calendar during the season.

The photograph is of a social bowls afternoon held during the 2011 season. □



Craft workshops take off in Dersingham

A new programme of craft workshops, with activities ranging from glass painting, fabric brooch-making to dry-felting is being launched at Potter & Dibble in Dersingham.

“The level of interest in our hand-crafted products, and our Christmas workshops last year, has been brilliant, and, with the help of some very talented local crafters, I am delighted to expand what we can offer in 2012”, said Angela Meakin, owner of Potter & Dibble. “More and more people are interested in making things for themselves, or at least having a go at it..and this is a fun and relatively inexpensive way of doing it.”

Many of the workshops will show the use of materials which can be found cheaply and easily in your garden or home in true recycle and upcycle style, and all aim to take the mystery out of the creation of lovely hand-crafted items. In addition the workshops provide an opportunity to just relax for a couple of hours with like-minded people, and indulge in an interest.

There is now a dedicated workshop area at the rear of the shop, where happy crafters can learn in comfort, ably assisted by tutors Jean Mulligan and Sarah Burt, with lots of tea and coffee (and maybe even some of Norma’s luscious cakes from time to time!) All materials are provided and you are guaranteed to leave with something pretty and practical...and a huge sense of achievement.

The full programme for January to end March 2012 is available on www.potteranddibble.com/news-and-events

or for more information email hello@potteranddibble.com , phone 01485 540117 or call in at 61 Manor Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE31 6LH
Tuesday – Saturday 10 – 4.

Chasing Wild Geese

by David Bingham

Some geese are more equal than others. This may sound a bit ‘goosist’ and will probably upset the Buddhists of Dersingham (if you must upset anyone then it’s always best to choose a non-violent section of the community) - so I will try to explain what I mean with some musings on the geese I have seen this winter.

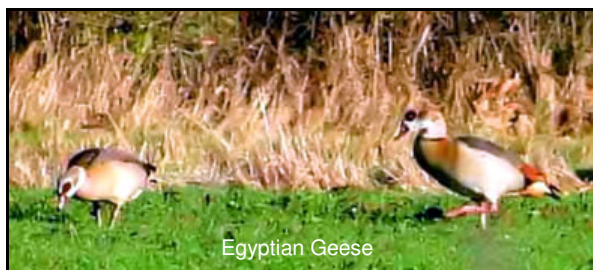
I’ll start with the flock of Canada geese that I came across while they were loafing around on Ken Hill grazing marshes. Canada geese were introduced into this country as ornamental wildfowl in the seventeenth century and it is thought that Charles II started the fashion by releasing a flock in St James’s Park. Some of these birds escaped and began living lives of idleness and gluttony. They can be a problem in town parks because of the mess they make but the ones I saw on the grazing marshes weren’t numerous enough to be particularly troublesome. Their wild relatives in North America still behave the way wild geese should - undertaking long migratory flights between their winter quarters in the southern USA and their summer breeding grounds in Canada and the northern states. Our Canada geese will fly about a bit if it gets nippy but are generally lazy and don’t go far. We probably get a few genuinely wild Canada geese straying across the Atlantic but they usually go unnoticed unless they belong to one of the distinguishable subspecies.

Egyptian geese are another species that are now officially classed as British birds because they have a self sustaining population in this country. They are quite common locally and I often see them around the village pond in Ingoldisthorpe. Egyptian geese are native to Africa and the British population are descendants of escapees from wildfowl collections. As far as I know they are not a migratory species in Africa but presumably they move around to avoid drought conditions. Images of Egyptian geese can be found on wall paintings from ancient Egypt and they also regularly pop up in wildlife documentaries - where they often get into a shot at a watering hole but are never the main characters in the action. They don’t seem to cause any problems and they add a dash of exotic colour to the countryside.

Greylag geese can be seen at any time of the year in the fields between Dersingham and the sea. Our local population is descended from stock that was released by wildfowlers but proved to be a disappointment as a ‘sporting’ species. They are big, noisy, gregarious birds with large orange beaks. White farmyard geese are the result of selective breeding from wild greylag ancestors. I’ve seen flocks of wild greylag geese on the Moray Firth where they migrate every winter from Iceland and I’ve also seen the resident wild birds on the Hebrides, which are thought to be indigenous. Some believe that England may once have had its own resident population of greylag geese so perhaps our local birds could be seen as a reintroduction. Although common locally, and considered to be a bit of a nuisance species, the migratory Icelandic population is not doing so well.

Barnacle geese are very attractive birds and the wild population that visit our northern shores each winter are well worth seeing. I once took a midwinter trip to the Solway Firth to see wild barnacle geese and it was certainly worth the effort. The flock of twenty or so I saw this winter on the Snettisham RSPB reserve looked the same but they were more likely to be descendants of escapees than genuine wild birds. The birds I saw on the Solway bred on Svalbard and there is a slim possibility that the ones I saw at Snettisham had crossed the North Sea from the Netherlands where the barnacle geese from the Novaya Zemlya population overwinter – but I doubt it.

So at last I’ve got to a point where I can discuss proper geese living life the way proper geese should. Our very own pink-footed geese are a good place to start because they migrate thousands of miles to and from their summer breeding grounds in Iceland and Greenland. Pink-footed geese are attractive birds and their contact calls sound the most musical of any goose. I sometimes see a pink-footed goose in the summer and the usual explanation is that these are birds that have been injured in some way and aren’t fit enough to return to the breeding grounds – always a sad sight. I was lucky enough this winter to come across some other migratory geese at the Snettisham RSPB



Egyptian Geese

reserve. These were white-fronted geese (the white front is actually a white patch above the beak) and fifty or so landed in the 'pits' right in front of me. They are very attractive birds with distinctive black mottling on their bellies, which as led to them being nicknamed 'specklebelly' in the USA. Our wintering white- fronts breed in northern Russia and arrive

from the northeast as our pink feet are flying in from the northwest. White-fronted geese aren't the only geese that come to us from the northwest. During a walk along the banks of the river Yare in early December I came across the flock of taiga bean geese that overwinter there on the RSPB Buckenham and Cantley reserves. I didn't count them but they usually number between one and two hundred - making them one of our rarest wintering geese. Taiga bean geese breed in the arctic from northern Scandinavia east to the Urals.

My final goose spotting exploit of the winter was on the RSPB's Old Hall Marshes reserve in Essex. A film crew had recently been on the marshes filming Great Expectations, which was shown over Christmas so if you saw it you will have an idea of what the flat bleak landscape looks like. While I was there I came across a large flock of dark-bellied brent geese that were feeding on a grazing marsh. Dark-bellied brent geese are common around the east coast and they join us each winter from their Siberian breeding grounds. In Ireland and the north their place is taken by pale-bellied brent geese that breed across the islands of the high arctic as far west as Canada. Brent geese are small dark birds with prominent white markings under the tail. I was looking through the flock for a darker than normal sub-species known as black brants, which regularly turn up with the wintering flocks. They come from North America and can be difficult to spot because in bright sunshine the geese seem to appear darker or lighter depending on how they are standing in relation to the sun. I didn't see one but I was certainly pleased that I'd made the effort to look because what I did see turned out to be the best goose moment of the year. A red-breasted goose was standing on the edge of the flock with the rich chestnut red of its breast and cheeks shining in the midwinter sun. They are fantastic looking birds that I would find hard to describe so the attached photo of a specimen in a wildfowl collection will have to do (with thanks to the good people at Wikipedia). They turn up from time to time as escapees but the one I saw was the real deal. They breed in Siberia in the same area as dark-bellied brents and fly to the countries around the Black Sea for the winter. The bird I was looking at arrived with the brents and was a wild bird that chose the wrong travelling companions. With any luck it will follow its new chums back to Siberia in the spring and rejoin its kith and kin.

Well that's it as far as my winter wild goose chasing exploits went. Geese that follow their instincts and make the long journeys from the far northern rim of the world to join us for a few short months each year do seem superior to those that hang around scraping a living the best way they can – the journey is part of what they are. Of course, there was a time when our ancestors journeyed to the far north each summer following the migrating herds of grazing animals. I don't know if they were superior to us but it seems unlikely that we would survive for very long if we tried to join them on one of their epic journeys – mind you they would probably be rubbish at texting! □



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Greetings from the manse

The King James Bible is also commonly known as the “Authorized Version”, so called because when a new Bible edition was proposed at the Hampton Court Conference in 1604, King James “ordered” that the work should be begun. The King was himself a scholar and author. He intended that a new version would support his views on church order and governance. It was vital that the biblical text supported the established order in the land of bishops, priests and deacons, with the monarch as the head of the church under God and appointed by God. King James and the Bishops of the Church of England wanted to limit the influence of other views that had posed different forms and structures of order and ministry of the church, notably the Puritans. The new version was to have no marginal notes unlike the Geneva Bible of 1560, a translation which favoured for personal use. Marginal notes encouraged the idea that there existed alternative readings based upon different political and social views with less or non-hierarchical orders of ministry and authority in the church. For example, King James cited two passages in the Geneva translation where he found the marginal notes offensive: Exodus 1:17, where the Geneva Bible had commended the example of civil disobedience showed by the Hebrew midwives, and also II Chronicles 15:16, where the Geneva Bible had criticized King Asa for not having executed his idolatrous grandmother, Queen Maachah. King James knew his Bible! Further, the King gave the translators instructions designed to guarantee that the new version would conform to the established pattern of the church in the use of Greek and Hebrew words. These were to be translated in a manner that reflected the traditional usage of the church. Chief among these was the Greek word “ecclesia” which was to be translated church and not “congregation” as in the Geneva Bible. The word in ancient secular Greek society referred to the assembly of citizens in a self-governing city, it had more than a whiff of democracy and republicanism about it.

This might not seem much to us today but at the time it was dynamite because not too far behind the questioning of the religious ordering of society was the questioning of the political order of society. The Greek “episcopos” was another word that could be translated in different ways, either as bishop or more literally in the Greek as “overseer” The king is reported as saying that no bishop meant no king! The new translation would reflect the episcopal structure of the Church of England and traditional beliefs about ordained clergy by command as authorized and instructed by the King as the Head of the Church in England. To this day the King James Bible is read by people who accept this order in the church and by those who do not have bishops or priests, and who have congregational independence. In discussions of church unity these matters are very much with us.

Most Bibles have a list of contents giving the names of the books that make up the Old and New Testaments. In the development of Christianity the books that are listed have also been authorized. These books and not others are accepted as inspired and provide a true witness to the faith and teaching of the church. The technical word used is “canon”. This is another Greek word which meant, “measuring rod or rule.” By these writings what is said and done in the name of Christ and his church is tested and validated, or not. By the same token the contents for instance of the four gospels as we have them in our Bibles became the measure to test the many dozens of other gospels that circulated read and valued by Christians and communities in the early centuries of the Christian era. I’m afraid there is something of a circular argument here because the books of the Bible witness to the events of the Christian revelation and the revelation itself is the test of the authority and truth of the writings.

The oldest list or canon of the New Testament is known as the Muratorian Canon, dated around the end of the second century C.E., named after L.A. Muratori, who found it in a library in Milan in the eighteenth century. It contained 22 of the Books we reckon as the New Testament today, missing Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter and 3 John. The “canonical” list as we have it today of 27 Books in the New Testament was first set out in by Bishop Athanasius in his festal letter for 369 C.E to his diocese in North Africa. Even then it took many more years for these Books to become universally accepted and other works to be viewed as non-canonical at best and heretical at worst.



Individuals and communities continued to use as scripture works that few have heard of today, like the gospel of Peter or the gospel of Judas (see picture opposite showing a fragment of Codex Tchacos), the epistle of Barnabas, the Acts of Thecla, the Revelation of Paul and the third letter to the Corinthians.

In fact there are hundreds of non-canonical works produced in the early centuries as part of the huge diversity that was early Christianity, produced by people who called themselves Christians, sometimes writing in the name of Paul or Peter to gain a wider circulation and validity for their scripture. Interestingly many in the early church were rather suspicious of the gospel of John and the Revelation of John before they were finally accepted as canonical. In accepting certain writings the early church attempted to destroy all else that was outside the accepted standard. Some works mentioned in the letters and writings have been lost for ever save for a mention or sometimes a quoted passage in the writings of the Christian greats like Origen or Tertullian. However now and again they turn up! In 1886-7 a French archaeological team excavating in Akhmim in Upper

Egypt uncovered the tomb they took to be the grave of a monk from the first millennium who was buried with a sacred book containing four texts, one of which was the gospel of Peter. Though the gospel was not complete, it was a major find and addition to the history of the world and literature of the New Testament and early Christianity. □

With every blessing, *Rev. Kim Nally.*

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Elizabeth Fiddick THE METHODIST CHAPELS IN DERSINGHAM

Several years ago I was returning from a holiday in Europe with a group of friends. We were traveling by car and had arrived in Dover just after Midnight with a long journey still ahead of us. In order to keep ourselves awake (and more importantly the driver) we all sang as loudly as we could. We set ourselves topics such as songs with flowers in the title but we kept going the longest when the topic was Hymns. It was only then that I realised the great repertoire of Hymns that we had all acquired over the years. Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer, When a Knight Won His Spurs, He Who Would Valiant Be, rang out as we sped down the A30. Many of the hymns we inflicted on the night were written by Charles Wesley who wrote some 6000 in his lifetime.

John and Charles Wesley were born into a family of nineteen children. John was born in 1703 and his brother Charles in 1707. The family home was at Epworth in Lincolnshire where Samuel Wesley was the rector. Their mother, Susannah, enforced a very strict regime where even a seemingly trivial offence was punished with a beating. She schooled the children herself. When John was five years old there was a fire at the rectory and John was trapped in the nursery on the top floor. A group of villagers rescued him from the flames and from that day he took as his motto *"a brand plucked from the burning."*

When John and Charles went to Oxford University they were ordained as Anglican Priests during their time there. They were extremely earnest in their belief in God and founded a club for others who felt the same. They devoted all their time to God, reading scriptures and praying together. This club attracted many derogatory comments and was nicknamed "The Holy Club" or "The Bible Moths". But the name which really took hold was "The Methodists" owing to the methodical approach they had to religion.

John and Charles wished to remain within the Church of England and always maintained that Methodism was not a separate church but many of the steps he took, like open air preaching and lay leadership, alienated the Anglican authorities. He established the first Methodist Chapel in Bristol and in London he bought the ruinous Moorfields foundry in which he used to preach. Although at times 10,000 to 30,000 people would wait many hours to hear him preach early Methodists met with a lot of opposition. Crowds attended to try to disrupt the preaching, cause harm to those who listened or pelt them with unsavoury items. John Wesley first visited King's Lynn in 1721 when he preached at a house in New Conduit Street and described the Lynn people as *"affable and humane"*. In his journal he commented that Lynn seemed bigger than Great Yarmouth and that the houses were in general better built. He wrote. *"The market place is a spacious and noble square more beautiful than either at Yarmouth or Norwich."* He continued that the people *"have the openness and frankness common throughout the county: and they add to it good nature and courtesy"*.

In 1790, when he was 87 years old, he had been preaching in Swaffham and wished to come again to Lynn. He was too old now to ride horseback but the only transport available was a single horse chaise. He set out in this to Lynn during a violent storm when the wind and rain blew in on him and he was chilled to the bone. When he arrived in Lynn shivering and wet he still went on to preach and said that the crowd was so large and enthusiastic that he *"soon forget this little inconvenience."*

It was after John's death in 1791 that divisions began to open in the ranks of the Methodists often because of conflict over the role of ministers and church government. The differences were never over the doctrine. In 1797 a group seceded from the main body and called themselves the New Connexion. This group had a slow but limited growth but by 1906 had 37,017 members throughout the country. It was in 1851 that this group opened a chapel here in Dersingham which still stands at the bottom of Dodds Hill opposite the old school and next to the Feathers' car park. This chapel was in use until its closure on April 13th 1913 when it was let to the Territorial Army.



The territorials used it until they were offered a piece of land on Dodds Hill by the King to build the Drill Hall in 1929. Norfolk Education Dept. offered to buy the premises but the Trustees would only allow them to rent. Dersingham School used the premises for craft I and cookery lessons. In her Millennium interview Mrs. Beatrice Roper recalled, "We used to go down the alley was at the side of it. Just inside the door was a big pantry where the old cookery mistress used to keep all the things. In those days you had to take all your own

food. Take all your own ingredients. The only thing I remember the cookery teacher gave us was old powdered milk. But that used to be nice to eat and we'd sometimes pinch a bit when the cookery mistress wasn't looking. It used to stick to the roof of your mouth. We used powdered egg as well."

Mrs. Pat Franklin remembered that "where the pulpit or altar would have been our cooking range stood. Miss Pearce used to be in charge. We would have the surrounding area children in, from Fring and Shernborne. We would learn to make apple pies or a loaf. The mistress would send us across the pastures to Andrew's shop which was a little grocery store and green grocery in those days. Buy our provisions and go." (Andrew's shop was still trading when I first came to the village but is now a private residence in Chapel Road on the corner of Post Office Road opposite Walden's Barns.)

Mr. Geoffrey Rolfe also remembered having woodwork lessons there. The chapel was sold in 1934 and has been used by the Feather's Hotel.

During his lifetime Wesley took a keen interest in political issues and encouraged William Wilberforce in his quest to abolish slavery. By the start of the 19th century the Methodists were acquiring more respectability and sought to minimise any activities that could interpreted as seditious. In 1815 Lynn's Methodists expressed disapproval of "worldly persons indulging themselves at the Mart." However two men Hugh Bourne and William Clowes did not like this development believing Methodism was betraying its founding principles by abandoning among other things the open air preaching. In 1807 they held a meeting at Mow Cop in Staffordshire and over two days held a prayer meeting that included several "revival addresses". This resulted in the Wesleyan Conference expelling them and thus in 1811 were born the Primitive Methodists. They were nicknamed in some quarters The Ranters and notable features were the connection with the Society of Friends, its use of women as preachers and a close relationship with trade unions and the Labour movement. It appealed to many of the labouring poor, sailors, fishermen, miners and agricultural workers. The Lynn congregation met in a sail loft in North End until a chapel was built in London Road in 1826. From there three preachers were paid 10 shillings a week to tour West Norfolk. A Rev. Pole kept an account of his visits to our area. When he preached at Burnham Market he commented on the surprised reaction of the crowd when he began to sing but, he noted, his voice silenced the mockers. At Ringstead he recorded that "many stout hearted sinners trembled" when he preached. However when he had concluded his meeting and inquired if there was somewhere he could lodge for the night a man present said, "You can go and lodge with my dog if you will." He was doubtful if he should continue on to Snettisham but eventually preached there on the steps of a cross and he recorded that everyone seemed very moved. In fact some fifty persons formed a chapel and met regularly.

It was in 1878 that the Primitive Methodists built their chapel here in Dersingham in what was then called Sandringham Road but we know now as Chapel Road. In



1835 at a Methodist Conference a Rev. Richard Pyke stated that it was time that the denominations adopted the custom of calling chapels by a sacred name. The Dersingham group chose Bethel for their chapel and two ministers and four laymen laid the foundation stones. On July 27 1878 the Lynn News reported on the opening of the new chapel. On the opening Sunday three sermons were preached by the Rev. Seaman of Lynn. On the Monday a public tea was served to a large number of persons. There were many speeches and the members of the Lynn choir enlivened the proceedings. I have mentioned this chapel before as William Potter the blacksmith and Farmer Jackson of Centre Vale were members of the congregation. So there were now two Methodist Chapels in the village.



A third group in the village, The Wesleyan Methodists, did not have a building themselves in which to worship but used to join the New Connexion members at their chapel for services. This arrangement worked quite well for some time but eventually disagreements arose and the New Connexion members decided to ask the Wesleyans to leave. However the Wesleyan group had already taken the decision to build their own chapel.

As I wrote in the last issue the pasture land in what we now call Post Office Road had been released for building and was divided into plots for sale. William Potter the blacksmith had bought one such parcel of land for his smithy and in November 1889 a plot of land in Post Office Road was bought from Mr. Chambers the builder for £10-10-0 and an architect appointed to build a new Chapel. Several local builders showed interest in the project but the contract was awarded to George Chambers. The foundation stones were laid on the 26th February 1890 with a large crowd in attendance. Following the ceremony a tea attended by 90 people was held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel. (A photograph was found with other papers in the chapel and I wonder if this was the occasion of the stone laying. Unfortunately no-one at the time thought to record details of



the event or the people in the photo but I hope one day to identify some of the people or even the house.) The cost of building the chapel was £232. So in 1890 there were three Methodist chapels in this village. The New Connexion Chapel closed in 1913 but the other two continued to flourish. In 1907 a school room was added to the Wesleyan Chapel.

It was in 1962 that the decision was taken to close one of the two remaining chapels and it was decided that the Wesleyan Chapel in Post Office Road should be retained. Members of the Bethel Chapel made a torch lit procession to the Wesleyan Chapel singing hymns all the way. A brass plaque near the pulpit of the Wesleyan Chapel records the uniting of the two groups on 1st November 1962. The Bethel Chapel still stands but has been converted recently into a stylish residence.

On May 18th 1978 Mrs. Bird laid the foundation stone for a new school room at the Wesleyan Chapel.

So from the three chapels in the early part of the last century the Chapel in Post Office Road is the one that still flourishes. □



Identity – a new club for 10 - 14 year olds

“Identity” began with a Pizza Party. Nine young people and three helpers met together in Dersingham Church Hall on 16th December. The best bits were Musical Chairs, ball games, eating pizzas, and talking about knowing God ! But we can’t do pizza every time ...

Next meetings are on Saturday mornings once a month 10am – 12 noon in the Church Hall

- Sat. 18th February
- Sat. 17th March

Games, challenges, talking points and more ...

Come along and bring a friend. £1 per person. You are very welcome.

Contacts : Steve Lofts tel. 0742 5145887 and Alan Crawshaw tel. 543836.

Kidz Klub – continues for 5 – 11 year olds

We meet on the second Saturday of the month 10am – 12 noon in the Church Hall.

£1 per family

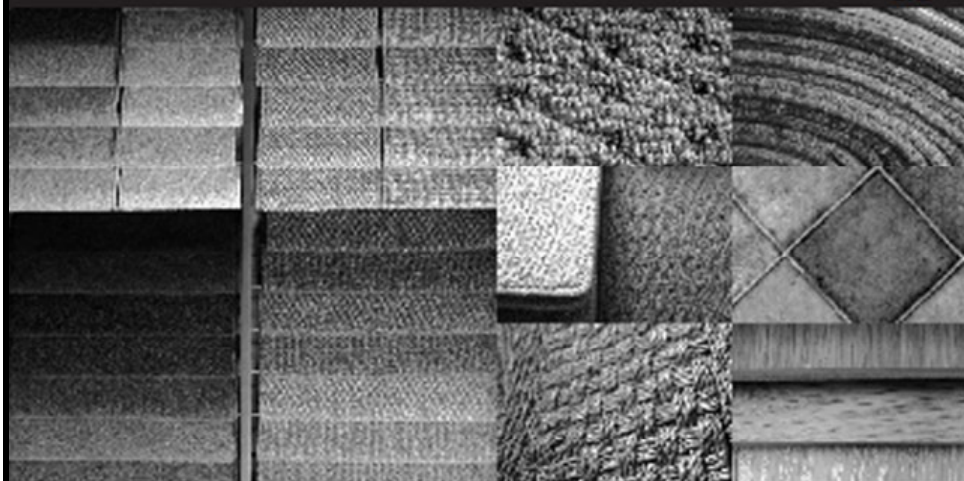
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Picture from one of our recent sessions.

Contact : Alan tel. 543836



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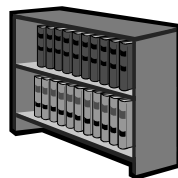
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Dersingham Library



February and the Dersingham Village Read continues....

We are on a mission to see how many members of the local community we can encourage to read and share the same book at the same time.

The book we have chosen is 'Water for elephants', by Sara Gruen. It's a life affirming tale of a 90 year old man looking back over his life. It has something for everyone – with adventure, thrills, romance and a very large elephant.

Come along and pick up a copy of the book any time before the end of March.

You can share your views on the Village Read via our website at

<http://norfolklibrarybookreviewblog.wordpress.com/> or on the Village Read noticeboard at the library. Other readers have said.... "I loved the secret he kept – it was not what I expected." Paula.

"I would never have thought of picking this book up. I really enjoyed it and found it an easy and absorbing read. Very unusual subject matter. Thanks for recommending it." Marian.

"Good read! very different to what I expected. I had not realised it was about a circus, but enjoyed it, and it had a happy ending which always pleases." Norma.

February read Reads.... new paperbacks from

Peter Robinson - Before the poison - murder mystery set in the Yorkshire dales. *Val McDermid* - The Retribution - more adventures with psychologist of Tony Hill. *Anita Shreve* - Rescue - a romantic thriller. Is love always worth saving - no matter what the cost? *Henning Mankell* - The Troubled Man - the last ever Kurt Wallander book. *Susan Lewis* - No turning back - a multi-faceted tear jerker. *Patricia Scanlan* - Love and marriage - families in crisis, passion, tragedy, and the healing powers of love

new hardbacks from

Jodi Picoult - Lone wolf - When Luke Baxter is involved in a car accident which leaves him in a coma, his family are gathered together and face an impossible dilemma. *Sophie Hannah* - Kind of cruel - a psychological thriller that will have you on the edge of your seat. *Jill Mansell* - A walk in the park - a sweet, funny and romantic novel. *Josephine Cox* - Three letters - another beautifully spun family epic. *Sophie Kinsella* - I've got your number - A standalone novel from the author of the Shopaholic books

new non-fiction titles

Celia Imrie - The happy hoofer. *Steve Coogan* - I, Partridge, we need to talk about Alan. *Anne Sebba* - That woman : the life of Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor. *Sue Johnston* - Things I couldn't tell my mother : my autobiography

What will you be reading!?

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We have something for everyone, with board books and Bookstart packs for babies, homework books for students, great reads for anyone looking for a good book to read, and titles available in different formats for those who are visually impaired. We also have DVDs, games and CDs for hire and free access to the internet. If you have any questions, just pop in and ask!

A reminder of our opening hours... Mon 1.30-7.30, Wed - 10-1, 2-5, Thur - 10-1, 2- 7.30, Sat 10-1.

Regular events

Scrabble club - Every Monday 1.30-3.30pm, DVD Happy Hour -Every Monday 6-7pm - Borrow one DVD, get the second DVD free, Knit and natter - Every Thursday 10-12, Computer help hour - Every Thursday from 12-1pm, Read and Rabbit - Every Thursday 2-3pm. No set book, just come along and share what you're reading with others, DVD Happy Hour -Every Thursday 6-7pm - Borrow one DVD, get the second DVD free, Crime Book Club - Second Monday of the Month 6-7pm, Book Club - Third Monday of the month 6-7pm .

Happy reading,

Alison

Dersingham Evening W.I.

Dersingham Evening WI group continues to meet on the third Wednesday evening of each month (except August). Besides the monthly meetings, there are plenty of smaller groups that enjoy a variety of activities.

December saw two coffee mornings and a cheese and wine evening. The Lunch Group enjoyed a visit to Peckover House before having lunch, the Dining Group had a delicious dinner at the College in King's Lynn and the Theatre Group had a trip to Thursford.. The WI decorated one of St Nicholas' Church Christmas trees with useful gifts.

January got off to a good start with a 'sherry and mince pie' morning! A special lunch celebrating the start of the 50th Year of the Dersingham WI was enjoyed by many members at the LeStrange Hotel in Hunstanton.

The January 18th meeting speaker talked about 'Handwriting', 15th February's subject is 'German Cooking', March 21st is 'Travelling the Silk Road', 'Radio Norfolk' is the subject for April 18th and the topic for May 16th is 'Sandringham Gardens'. The dates and times for coffee mornings, Dining Group, Theatre Group, Lunch Group, Walking Group and other events together with contact numbers are on a News Letter handed out at the meetings.

Contact Olive - 543666 or Gilly - 540375.



Coffee morning



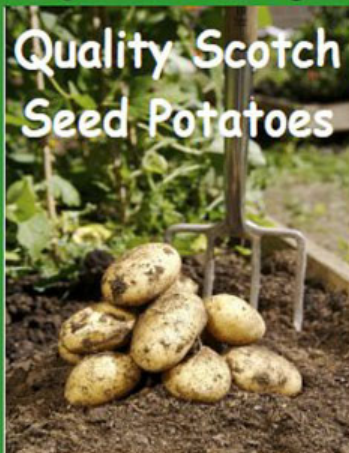
Walking group



Lunch at the Le Strange. *I can see a man! - Ed*

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The Dersingham Weather Observed by John F. Murray

The exceptional autumn that we had continued into November. Although we didn't have any exceptionally high temperatures the lack of any very low temperatures ensured that this was the warmest November I have so far recorded. This year the mean temperature for November was 9.8°C. This was a full 3° warmer than last year when we were going through our mini ice age. It was over a degree warmer than 2009 when it was 8.7° and 2008 and 2007 the mean temperature was just over 7°. The lowest temperature this year was exactly zero. Last November it was a bitterly cold -6.1°. The previous three years were all below zero too but not to the extent of 2010. The highest temperature recorded this year was 17.1°. This was actually marginally lower than last November which produced 17.3°, however if you remember this was right at the beginning of the month and it went downhill shortly after that.

The rainfall for November was once again disappointing. We had 43.5mm, less than two inches. We had just under half of the rainfall all on one day, the 4th, when we had 20mm. Previous Novembers have produced between 41mm and 108mm so it would seem that November is a bit of a hit and miss month for rainfall.

I held my breath when December came, thinking that the mild weather could not continue, but it did. The warmest November recorded was followed by the warmest December. The mean temperature was 5.6°C. Last December it was 0.3°C and the previous highest was 3.9°C in 2008. Looking at Christmas day shows the difference between this year and the five previous years. This year the average temperature was 9.8°C with a high of an almost unbelievable 11.7°C. The previous best was in 2007 with an average of 6.4°C and a high of 8.6°C. Last Christmas day the mean temperature was a very cold minus 1.1°C with a high of only plus 1.1°C. The rainfall for December was slightly above the average with 57.6mm recorded; however this failed to stop the downward spiral of annual rainfall.

The chart shows how 2011 fared compared to previous years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Mean Temp</u>	<u>High Temp</u>	<u>Low Temp</u>	<u>Rain</u>
2008	10.5	29.8	-5.9	828mm
2009	10.7	30.4	-5.3	726.2mm
2010	9.6	31.4	-8.7	594.7mm
2011	11.3	32.2	-5.6	475.2mm

It is easy to see that 2011 was a warmer and drier year than the previous years. However, there is a rather worrying pattern as you can see by the rainfall. This has fallen steadily over the years that I have been recording the weather. From 2008 to 2009 there was a decrease of 12%. From 2009 to 2010 there was a decrease of 18%. From 2010 to 2011 the decrease was 20%. I have rounded up these percentages but they are accurate. I said in my early reports, a few years ago that East Anglia is one of the driest parts of the country but this trend cannot continue or we could find ourselves having water rationing. I would strongly urge all of you gardeners to employ as many water collecting devices as you possibly can.

So ends my final report for 2011. I wish you all a very happy new year and would remind you to check out the current weather using the link from the parish web site. A lot of you are doing just that, there were 300 hits in December. □

Dersingham Infant and Nursery School

All our children have returned to the New Year full of enthusiasm. We have also welcomed a number of new families who have joined our Nursery this term, taking full advantage of our flexible provision. Our high quality broad and creative curriculum has resulted in seeing our Year 2 children achieve brilliant end of year results above the national average for the last three years.

Following a successful Ofsted Report, our School is now rated as being 'Outstanding' in every area by the Local Authority.



The school is bright and well resourced with an exciting outdoor area that gives children the opportunity to extend their learning further.

We enjoy being part of the village community and appreciate the local links we have. Our school offers a variety of after school clubs including sports, dance, music and gardening. We provide a Breakfast Club daily where children enjoy a healthy breakfast and are supervised from 7.30 - 8.30 a.m. Within the school, we also run a Parent and Toddler group. This runs every Thursday within term time for 0 - 4 year olds. All are welcome.



We now have a federated Governing body with St. George's Junior School. This enables us to make even closer links with the Junior school and helps to make a smooth transition.

Please visit our website to find out more: www.dersingham.norfolk.sch.uk

If you would like to come and look round, please contact the Headteacher, Mrs. Gayle Platt, on 540022.



Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

Tuesday 28th February 2012, 7.30pm at the Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Mangate Street, Swaffham.

An illustrated talk:

David Cromack - Asia's Teardrop – Birding in Sri Lanka

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.

NarVOS 2010 Annual Reports are now available from Philip Parker 01553 630842 or at the meetings, price £5.



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The Old Biddie and her cottage garden

Valerie Anckorn

It's that horrid time of year again when we all desperately yearn for sunshine and so look forward to burgeoning blooms in our gardens, to hear the birds sing again, to see blue skies and fresh green leaves appearing on bare branches. Thank goodness, as I write in January, the weather has remained mild, roses are still blooming in the garden and only a few overnight frosts. No burst pipes either!

The first real frosts occurred on December 10th. I had been meaning to bring in my geraniums, but they were still blooming nicely out in the mild weather, so I became complacent. However, they were in a sheltered spot and not too frozen, so I brought them indoors, snapped bits off and potted them up to form new plants, as well as keeping the old plants for next year. I'd got all my bulbs planted, but not all of them in the beds as I had intended. In the end I put the rest in the pots that had been used for my vegetables during the summer. Tipped some peat over them to keep them warm, and they should look gorgeous in the spring by the front door. When I bought the peat at the garden centre I could smell the rank smell of animal, then realised that Father Christmas's reindeer had been there the previous day – what a shame I forgot to go and see them, but phew, their gamey odour really lingered!

There was ample time to get the garden 'to bed' before the frosts in December, but alas my plans were scuppered by my hips and knees. Old age is such a nuisance. I've been really pleased to see that loads of birds have been availing themselves of all the food containers I have hung around the garden. Unfortunately when I go and sit on the covered bench to watch them from a little distance they fly away, except of course the resident Robin who is not frightened of me at all. Although I have cut down quite a few of my dead-heads and the garden looks reasonably neat, there is still enough standing for the birds to peck at and be protected by. They need tangled undergrowth and hedges to shelter from the harsh winter weather, as well as fallen leaves full of insects, to scratch around.

Ivy has been growing rampantly everywhere especially up the house walls. One day I read that ivy kills trees and ruins houses, the next day I read that it is no problem as it only clings on with suckers and does no real damage. My favourite TV gardener, Monty Don, is a keen ivy fan, and so I stick with his story. I like to see it, especially as it adds some colour to the garden in the winter. When planning a garden I think it's a good idea to have a good amount of evergreens, otherwise the garden looks drab and depressing in the winter months. I have always made sure I've got rosemary, ivy, euphorbias, as well as variegated and silver over-wintering plants. When you look out of the window on a grey and miserable day, at least something looks perky in the garden apart from robins!

I had been looking forward to bypassing the winter blues by visiting a friend who lives in Lanzaroti. However, after a very squashed flight in October, I swore I would never, ever travel by air again. If the NHS award me new joints for my hips and knees I might reconsider, but for this winter there will be no escape to the sun when I am at my blackest moments in February.

I can remember when I was younger air travel was fun and people dressed up in furs and furbelows for their flights. I was in my best clobber on a small aircraft flying from Brittany, seated next to a most handsome French man with the sexiest of accents, who, when discovering it was my birthday, asked the steward for Champagne in the most Barbara Cartland hero-type manner. No, there was no romance involved – he was married and I was being met by the handsome young man that is now him-indoors-with-the-remote-control-welded-to-his-hand – but it was part of the fun and excitement of travel in those days - alas something that is no more. So,

instead of leaving the country, I will bring out the SAD light box that I purchased last year and pretend I am sitting in sunny climes. Hope it works!

I've been looking through The Village Voice, and it has been so interesting to read Dick Melton's historical reminiscences, and Elizabeth Feddick's well researched village insights. It must be rather wonderful to have lived in an area all your life and known all its ins and outs and all who have lived there.

I've been a bit of a gypsy most of my life, having moved quite a few times, but I have to say, while I loved the county of Kent when I lived there and was quite loath to move away from friends and family I have never regretted moving to Norfolk. I have been very happy ever since and love the area hereabouts. Forty years later, I still feel as if I am on holiday.

I think our family was one of the few early 'incomers' and we probably seemed a bit outlandish to all the people who had lived all their lives in the village. We came from the countryside near London, and had all the 'flower power' outfits – being the hippy years - and my son aged nine, was togged up in purple velvet jump suits with flowered shirts under. His long hair was tethered with a colourful band round his forehead. Par for the course for London, but apparently not in Norfolk! I soon realised my mistake as he was horribly bullied at his new school, and I quickly acquired some 'bovver' boots and jeans for him so he would blend in with the other children. He found, for some reason, that he was better liked if he said he was a twin! His imaginary twin's name was Lucien, and when the kids wanted to talk to Lucien, off he would go, and come back as his twin.... I guess he won them round by being funny, but I cringe now when I remember what the poor child had to wear...he was soon accepted in his normal attire, the bullying stopped and he made great friends.

There were a number of 100 year old men who sat in their bath chairs under the old Chestnut tree in Snettisham by Doe's the Baker. What a wonderful name for a bakery! We couldn't get over the wonderfulness of everybody, though I found it difficult to understand the accent, which unfortunately seems to be watered down these days, but at the time I was particularly worried about 'the *rude*' that the postman told me about. I thought perhaps it was a colloquialism for a 'flasher' who lurked along the track - and told my children to run fast if they ever saw him. In the end I asked the postman who the rude was, and he said, "What do you mean? You just driv up it!" He meant our *road*, the unmade track!

Then a lovely lady I had made friends with said her son had trouble with his hair – or 'air' as she called it – like the cockneys 'darn sarf'. I said, what's wrong with his hair? It's a lovely colour and it looks gorgeous. 'Not his *hair*, she said pulling on her earlobe, his '*air*'! Of course, she meant *ear*.

I moved from Snettisham to Docking, then from Docking to Walsingham, from there to Heacham, and have now settled in Dersingham. I love it in this village and have found it such a friendly place.

My Mum will be 100 years old on March 15th. If any of you who remember her wish to send her a card, she would be delighted. Her name is Margery Anckorn, c/o The Close Care Home, Snettisham – she is still spry and doesn't look her age at all – must be something to do with all the gardening she used to do until her nineties. She only has an aspirin, a calcium pill and one for blood pressure and no medical problems at all while - I need new knees and hips and am on a multitude of pills. I blame the war years!

I do trust that you had a great Christmas and that 2012 brings you good health and happiness. □

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 75	Wednesday 14th March	Monday 2nd April
No 76	Wednesday 9th May	Monday 28th May
No 77	Wednesday 11th July	Monday 30th July

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 14th March 2012**

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 14th March 2012 for publication on Monday 2nd April 2012.**

(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.

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

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

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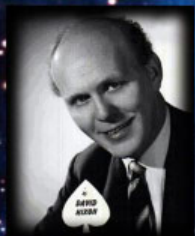
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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday February 7th

A MAGICAL EVENING



STEVE SHORT

An evening with Magic Circle member Steve Short who has co-written a biography of David Nixon, one of the pioneer TV magicians. Steve will give an illustrated talk for the first part of the evening about his hero and after the break he will be baffling us with some conjuring.



St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £4.00 including refreshments & raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday March 6th



All Aboard AMERICA



A coast to coast trip
by
Walter Blaney

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.50 including refreshments & raffle