

Number 75

April 2012

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



It's spring - let's go bowling

page 33



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Editor's Notes

I've been getting about a bit since the last edition. First a trip to Birmingham for a celebration birthday dinner. An almost relative was 70 and, as he is a professor at the university, this was held at the conference centre. The bulk of the guests - some 68 of us - were university types with more PhD's than you could shake a stick at so a lot of the conversation was somewhat rarefied. It never ceases to amaze me just how nice Birmingham is. Built of a lovely deep red brick, it is a very wooded city. The King's Heath area around the university is particularly countrified with trees and parkland everywhere you look. Out of our bedroom window, as a frosty dusk settled, I counted 28 magpies flying back to their night time roost in just 5 minutes. Yes there are some unattractive parts but that is the same everywhere.

I also had a quick trip up to the lakes where this bakers van was spotted. Now I know our chairman will do almost anything for a Battenberg

And so to Norwich. Time was when it was a pleasure to walk around the "Fine City" but recently the whole ambience of the place has deteriorated, the open spaces filled with people begging and drinking, empty shops on the increase, skateboarders in the busy streets and generally an air of going down market.

Talking of going down market we stumbled upon a farmers market at Sandringham recently. With no signage to tell you what was going on and no apparent publicity beforehand the lacklustre semicircle of stalls was only attracting a handful of visitors. Very few of the vendors actually seemed to be connected with the producers and no attempt was being made to engage with the potential customers. Other markets I have been to are thriving but there the participants are enthusiastic about their wares.

This April issue is the first of our year. We run to the financial year with all our advertisers renewing their orders for the run. Without these good folk there would be no magazine - what would you light the fire with then - but it does mean a lot of shuffling and rearranging of the layout. This time I am also having to fit in several longer than usual articles. This is great as I hate reading short pieces that leave you wanting more but it is a bit of a challenge fitting it all in. Occasionally I have to split a piece and the fascinating writings of William Pemberton fall into this category. Bob Tipling has put together a comprehensive review of the Bowling Clubs in the village, past and present. We have a new series on antiques, Elizabeth Fiddick is on top form as are lots of others too numerous to mention.

I visited Ion Trewin the other day at his new abode and was greeted with a view of what can only be described as a water filled crater. This was explained as being their refurbished pond. There is a story here, I said, and so you will find on page 18, the first of a series on it's rehabilitation, a sort of mini version of Norman Thelwells "A plank bridge by a pool" from 1978.

Right the sun has been out today and so has the mower. The pond is heaving with frogs and toads and everywhere there are ladybirds sunning themselves. So we must be in for cold and rain - you didn't think it was spring yet did you?

You have another 82 pages to get through after this one so I will not detain you further - happy reading. □



Tony

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Dear Village Voice



I read with interest Debra Melton's letter especially about Askers Row and Askers Cottages. In 1931 my father died and my mother returned to Dersingham to live with her brother and his wife who lived in the far end cottage of Askers Row. This cottage was previously occupied by my grandparents, John and Sally Nurse. Next door to them lived Elijah Lines with his wife Emma. Then came Tom Woods with his daughter Olive and her husband Bill Pithers. Next door to them was Smiler Smith who was supposed to be one of Edward VII illegitimate children and he had every reason to be suspected as he was the image of the old king and finally in the front cottage lived Mr and Mrs George Collison. Sadly Mrs Collison took her own life by jumping in the well.

Tom Woods' daughter Florence returned to Dersingham and had a prefab bungalow in Centre Vale as Mrs. Blondell. Opposite the police station the other row of cottages called Askers Cottages were occupied by Mr Emmerson and Mr John Asker. The other people I cannot remember their names but to this day at least I can visualise them. I think one was a Mr Sizeland who used to sweep the roads etc. I can remember Billy Asker who owned these cottages because when he came to collect the rent I always had a kiss from him and a penny and I believe he used to live in Brook Road. My friend and I love to reminisce about the village. It had loads of characters and some very dear old people living in it.

Doreen Wright

I just wanted to correct Debra Melton about Hannah Asker. "William's other daughter Hannah married a William Patrick, then Thomas Woods". She originally married Isaac Patrick (not William) 25.Sep.1872 at Westminster, London. I have the marriage certificate, I research the Patrick tree. Isaac was born and buried in Dersingham. Interesting to read about the Askers.

Richard Patrick.

It's the time of year when my thoughts turn to deciding which worthy cause to put my efforts into by riding a 500 mile sponsored cycle ride. To keep the expenses down as far as possible I pre-plan my routes so I end up at home each night. Many B and Bs are so expensive now I think this is the best way of doing it, so I pack sandwiches each night. I have an independent person who checks my cycle computer a.m. and p.m. I carry a digital camera with me and get "passersby" to take photos of me at well known places like The Forum at Norwich or King's College Chapel at Cambridge. It then proves I've been somewhere. I enjoy the riding anyway.

To get back to a "worthy cause", it has proved more difficult than I ever thought. I assumed charities would be falling over themselves to get me to ride for them, but no such thing! As I have supported the R.N.L.I. for a number of years, they were my first choice but I haven't heard another word. Then, out of the blue, I had a letter from Macmillan Cancer Support asking for money in the form of so much a month on a standing order. I wrote back telling them that, as my wife and I are in our late 70s, that was out of the question but what I am prepared to do is a sponsored ride. By return post I got sponsor forms etc. so they are my choice this year. If anybody in the village would like to sponsor me there is a sponsor form in Thaxters shop or at my home address which is Springfield, 15 Pansey Drive, Dersingham. Tel: 01485 540672 or the Day Centre in the church hall opposite the surgery on a Wednesday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. I must thank you all who have sponsored me over the last 2 years when I rode for Cancer Research UK and Alzheimers and Dementia. I'll try my utmost to do what I can while I can. I'll be 79 years old in August. Wish me luck.

John Lambert

Many fond memories were brought back to me when I opened the property section of the Lynn News on Friday, 10th February, to see Jersey House, Senters Road, Dersingham, for sale. Jersey House was lived in by my parents, Bill (William James Herbert) and Joan Playford (nee Helsdon) and was the house I was taken home to after my birth in 1950. At that time my grandparents, Charles (William Charles) and Nellie (Ellen) lived at the Bake house, 46 Manor Rd, which stood in front of Jersey House, running the family business of Bakers & Confectioners.

The Bake house was built by my great grandfather, Herbert Playford, in 1909. He moved from the mill at the top of Fern Hill, which has been pictured many times in the Village Voice, and started baking. His son Charles (William Charles) took over the business in 1933 and dad and his brother, uncle John, joined the business as they became of age. On Charles's death on 21st February 1952 his widow, Nellie, and son, John, moved into Jersey House and my parents and I moved into the Bake house, where mum and dad lived until 1983 when they retired to Crest Road, staying in their beloved Dersingham.

Mum and dad spent the majority of their married life running the shop and bakery; dad and uncle John baking while mum ran the shop with great support from Sally Wells, still a resident of Dersingham. One of the great highlights of the family was being awarded the Royal Warrant. Family history always said that Jersey House was named not from a Jersey Cow, but from a Jersey Giant, a breed of chicken that Charles bred in his younger days. I have photographs of me as a toddler next to the chicken run, which was situated in the front garden of Jersey House. I have no recollection of any mention in family conversations that Jersey House was ever a Dairy Farm or anything other than a domestic dwelling. If any Village Voice readers know to the contrary, I would be interested to hear from them.

Jersey House from the outside does not appear to have changed dramatically over the last 60 years or so. I have enclosed a picture of mum (Joan), granny (Nellie), myself and my great granddad (Jimmy Emmerson) outside Jersey House in 1954.



Family was extremely important to mum and dad, their greatest pride being taken in their grandchildren, Emma and Andrew. Unfortunately, dad passed away in August 2001, five months before his great grandson, named after Emma's beloved granddad, William James, was born. Mum passed away in November 2010.

I never fail to see how life turns in circles; I was born and raised in Dersingham and now my daughter, Emma, son-in-law, Simon, and grandson, William, live in the village and call Dersingham "home".

Susan George (nee Playford)

It was in 1983 when I was standing as a candidate in the Parish Council election that the idea came to me of the value of producing a village newsletter. I envisaged that it could inform villagers of the range of clubs and organisations that existed in Dersingham and also the times and dates that they met as well as venues. As a regular publication it could provide updates and related news.

With the backing of the Parish Council and with advertising income from local business the *Village Calendar* was launched in August 1983.

I typed everything on a word processor; a very basic machine with no spell checker and definitely no graphics!

To enable my idea to get started I had to find someone who could draw 'pen and ink' pictures to go with some of the articles and a proof reader so that typing errors were spotted. The actual folding of the magazine proved a long and often tedious job calling on help from friends and family. Often there would be a gathering of friends in the kitchen sitting drinking coffee and folding as we chatted. Volunteers took a pile of *Village Calendars* to deliver to residences in their area.

Basically the *Village Calendar* came to an end when friends and helpers (me included) went back into paid employment after spending years at home bringing up children and endless coffee mornings !!

As mentioned above the first issue went to press in August 1983 and the final one was dated Summer 1987; eighteen issues in all!

Judi Morgan

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DERSINGHAM COMMUNITY DINNER

In thanking those who attended the Dersingham Community Lunch Dinner which was held on Thursday 8 December 2011 and in particular those who have passed so many comments on the success of the evening and who have asked for a repeat of the event, it is my pleasure to announce that, given sufficient support, it will be repeated on Friday 7 December of this year.

The venue, The Le Strange Arms at Hunstanton, has already been reserved, and the band, Gentle Jazz, have been asked if they will play for us again. All it needs now is for me to discover what support I will be receiving, the maximum number to be accommodated being 120.

Although I am aware that this is a long way off, if you wish to make a note of the date in your diary and make a tentative booking for this occasion, it would be appreciated if you could please let me know how many are likely to be in your party by e-mail at derscommddinner@talktalk.net or by post to 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, Norfolk PE31 6JQ.

Bob Tipling



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

From: Tom Morris, PPG Committee

PPG Meeting – 23rd February. First, my apologies for indicating the incorrect time for the meeting causing some members to miss the early part of the presentation by Dr Jonathan Dosseter on the workings of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation Trust. In a most informative address, Dr Dosseter, who is one of the Governors on the trust, explained how and why the application to become a Foundation Trust had been made and what this meant for the public served by the hospital. It was reassuring to learn that the trust would operate and develop in line with local as opposed to national needs. Although the trust would be free to operate and develop with greater independence, it would still be required to meet national standards where set and would be subject to external monitoring and inspections. Members of the trust would be able to hold it to account in a manner similar to that of shareholders in a company and he therefore encouraged more people from the community to become members. From these members, governors are appointed who act as a conduit between the trust board and the general public.

Further information on the trust may be found on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital website - <http://www.qehkl.nhs.uk>

Quiz Night. Over 100 people took part in the quiz held on 9th March in aid of the PPG and the Friends of St Nicholas Church. The response to some very testing questions set by the quizmaster indicated that there is no lack of intellect in the Dersingham community. We extend our sincere thanks to all who took part in the quiz and to those who supported the event by providing refreshments and prizes. Congratulations to all 19 participating teams but especially to the winners – the inappropriately named ‘Amnesiac’. Pictured right is their captain receiving the first prize from Keith Blythe, Chairman of the Friends of St Nicholas Church. □



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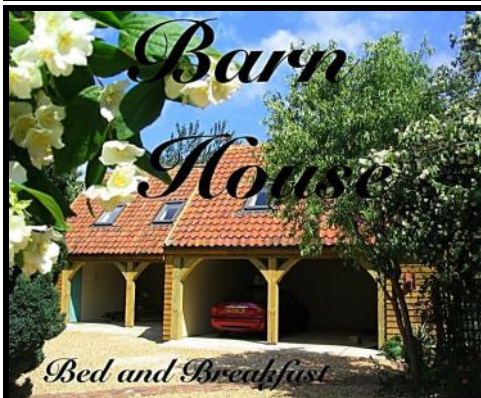
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West Norfolk Diamond Jubilee Awards For Voluntary Service

John Cole

In 1995 the then Mayor, Fred Juniper, instituted the Mayor's Civic Award for Voluntary Service, as a form of recognition, for people from the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk who give of their time and efforts without reward for the good of others or to enable money to be raised for charity. The award scheme is now well respected and has a high profile in the Borough.

The Diamond Jubilee provides a special opportunity to acknowledge all those who support and contribute to their communities through public service and voluntary endeavour. The West Norfolk Diamond Jubilee Awards are for residents of the Borough of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk who have provided voluntary work for the community for a period of at least 20 years during the last 60 years.

The Judges are the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Civics Officer, Mrs Penny Harrison, who worked with Fred Juniper in setting up these awards, Mrs Alison Croose, a journalist, who was for over 25 years with the Eastern Daily Press and Mrs Jill Bennett, the West Norfolk Producer for BBC Radio Norfolk.

Fred Juniper, who was the inspiration behind these awards died in 1999. As a tribute to Fred each award certificate depicts a branch of a juniper tree.

One of the twenty awards given a ceremony on March 13th in the Town Hall was to John Cole. John, who has lived in Dersingham for over 30 years, has boundless energy and coupled with his wide range of skills has devoted a great deal of his time to help those in need.

He was involved with the Scouting movement for some 20 years becoming District Commissioner for Sandringham and Deputy County Commissioner. Overlapping with this he has also been involved with the Hunstanton and District Talking Newspaper making his first recording in 1992 and is still a volunteer co-ordinator and Chairman of their publication, the "Beacon".

The Citizens Advice Bureau benefited from John's volunteering for some 15 years. John has given huge service to REMAP – REMAP is a nation wide organisation whose volunteers design and make aids for disabled people which are not commercially available. He has during his time with them been the regional organiser, a role which involved co-ordinating the activities of around 14 panels in the Eastern Region. He is a member of the local panel based in Kings Lynn and is its chairman. In addition to designing and producing many aids each year he gives talks on REMAP's activities, and works hard to source funding for the group.

If all that was not enough in 2007 John joined AGE UK Norfolk as a volunteer on their Money Matters Project where he assists older people with their day to day management of their finances.

John is truly deserving of a Diamond Award.□



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DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

The Dersingham Walking Group has been formed since May 2005, and since that time Keith Starks, who was the instigator and inspiration for the creation of a walking group within the village has been the Chairman & Walks co-ordinator. He has now relinquished that position. I feel an acknowledgement of all the work he has done in guiding the group to its present form is owed to Keith from all those who have benefitted and enjoyed the walks. Thank you, Keith.

I have now taken over this role from Keith and hopefully we can continue to provide an interesting and varied selection of walks.

Also, without the assistance of the band of walk leaders the group would not function as it does. We have recently held a planning meeting and a full programme of walks has been arranged for the summer months, some evening and some afternoon walks. If anyone has a favourite walk route and would like to lead it in the future, please contact me. My contact details at end of article.

On January 11th we gathered for our first group walk of 2012 at Ingoldisthorpe lay-by. After a clear sunny morning it was a bit disappointing that the afternoon was so cloudy, but it remained dry. Christine led a 4¾ mile walk which was enjoyed by 20 walkers.

We walked to inspect progress of the renovation work being carried out at Snettisham water mill before walking alongside the River Ingol and on to Park Farm. The route from here followed some permissive field edge paths and farm tracks before returning past some of the deer compounds of Park Farm. In one of them was a doe with a young deer.

On February 8th - 13 hardy walkers assembled at "Bray's Pit" (duck pond) in Heacham on a cold day with snow and ice underfoot for a walk which incorporated a variety of terrains, some pavement, some tracks, some field edge paths and a short distance along the beach. Although the tide was out it was very pleasant on the beach, with several wading birds on the sand banks. Later we witnessed huge flocks of geese taking off from a field creating a massive black cloud in the sky. Also, toward the end of the walk we stopped to watch a barn owl searching for a meal.

What an awful wet day March 4th turned out to be!!! The proposed walk from Courtyard Farm, Ringstead didn't take place because of the weather.

Details of our next walks are:

WEDNESDAY 11th APRIL

Start at 6-00pm from the Sandringham Visitor Centre, Map ref: L132/689 287. A 4½ mile circular walk through the Sandringham Country Park led by Keith Starks 01485 542268

SUNDAY 15th APRIL

Start at 2-00pm, meeting at the entrance to Lynnsport, Greenpark Avenue, Off Columbia Way, King's Lynn. PE30 2NB. Steve Martyn 07879 885516 will lead a 4½ mile walk around Old King's Lynn. Map ref: L132/632 210.

MONDAY 7th MAY

Starting at 6-00pm. Steve & Lindsey Davis. 01485 543138 are leading a 6 mile walk around the Snettisham Bird Reserve. Meet at Dersingham Old Railway Station, Station Road. Map ref: L132/680 307.

WEDNESDAY 9th MAY

Start at 6-30pm. A circular walk of 4½ miles around Gayton Thorpe & Soigne Wood, led by Elizabeth Fiddick. 01485 540940. Meeting place is Gayton Thorpe Church, Map ref: L132/745 185.

TUESDAY 22nd MAY

Starting at 2-00pm. A circular walk around the Rudhams, led by Steve Martyn 07879 885516 with a distance of 4½ miles. Meet at East Rudham village green, Map ref: L132/827 282.

*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 organize 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. If you would like more information please contact me or the walk leader.*

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How many of you have seen our new website at *dersingham.org.uk*? And perhaps more to the point, what do you think of it so far? We *usually* like to hear from you!

Each month the service that we use to host our website at **1and1.co.uk** emails us a report and we can reveal that during the month of February a total of 5,401 visits were made. Now we would like to think that the UK would account for the vast majority of these, but in fact it is only 943 visits, a substantial chunk of which is quite possibly down to Stella Gooch and myself updating the content of the site. So where do the rest come from? The United States accounts for 2,640, China for 567, Russia for 235, Germany 113 and the Ukraine 105, the rest dwindling away through double and single figures.

It even tells us which search engines people were using to find us (not surprisingly *Google* coming out top of that), as well as the keywords words people were entering to find us with. We can understand words like *village voice*, *parish council*, *clerk*, or *dersingham*, (spelt in a variety of ways), finding us but why *dip*, *froze* and *george*?

Come on, lets see if we can do better next month and make the UK stand out!

Steve Davis

News from Ingoldisthorpe C of E Primary School

Little Owls our pre school group continues to be very popular with the children meeting every morning and having lots of fun. Meanwhile our Wednesday morning pre school dance group with Music and Movement is going from strength to strength.

Developing the arts has been a focus in school this term. We have put up a range of new displays set up a new singing club and our violinists have played in church. We have a lot of projects planned for the year including a tapestry with a Creation theme for the school hall and decorated glazed tiles the children will complete to be displayed outside.

With spring just around the corner we are thinking about our grounds and "Outside learning." We now have two football pitches marked out and our children are enjoying the trim trail. We also have our amphitheatre for drama and our willow structure as well as our outdoor classroom.

We have a range of trips planned for the summer term with the older children visiting the London museums and our younger children going to Amazonia near Cromer. We also have our school field sleepover planned and our Jubilee "Street party."

Keith Twaites, Head teacher

EASTER FUN

Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe Volunteers

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For further information contact: Lindsey Atkin at the Norfolk Hospice:
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Dick Melton

Well now, what a lot of answers to her questions Debra Melton is looking for. I have come up with some of the answers and I have no doubt some of the Village Voice readers will help us out.

First of all, Manor Road. There was a manor in Manor Road - Albert Victor Cottages, that were turned into a workhouse and then the cottages that are there today. I believe I am correct in saying that when the road only had buildings on the north side the length of road from the Lynn Road to Heath Road was called Manor Road; and the length of road from Heath Road to Parkers Corner was called Sandringham Road. Then it was renamed Manor Road after 1880, when some of the buildings were built on the south side. The row of cottages opposite the police station has always been known as Manor Road Cottages.

Askers Row is opposite the junction with Manor Road. It was also known as Senters Row as the Senter family lived in the cottages on the eastern side. Askers Yard was to the west side of Askers Row on the area of land where 29 Manor Road now stands. Askers Yard was an assortment of old cottages and sheds. I think I am right in saying a Mr Hudson lived in one when I was a boy and I am sure Dan Greif lived there too. Marsh Cottage was, and I think still is, No 18 Brooke Road.

Now for the barber's shop in Manor Road. The name of the barber was Nickolo, Nic for short, Napolitano. He was married to Norman Towers's daughter and Gino is their son. Sadly, Nic passed away a few years back. I found an advert in a 1967 Dersingham parish magazine where it said that if you were an old age pensioner you could get your hair cut at Nic's any morning for two shillings. Before Nic took the shop over in the early sixties it had been run by George King for over 30 years.

Many families by the name of Asker have lived in Dersingham over the years and some still do. In Kelly's Directory for 1925 it mentions a William Asker, who was a carpenter in the village, but it does not mention where he lived. In the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Blue Book for 1965 it lists seven families by the name of Asker living in the village of Dersingham.

Chapels

I must just mention the old chapel in Manor Road just past the Feathers Hotel. Some time after 1951 it was turned into a dining hall for the school opposite. When I went to that school we had to walk home for dinner, even in the snow of 1947.

Elizabeth Fiddick, in her excellent article about the chapels in the village, asks about the picture of the house with all the people outside. Well there are not many large houses in the village. I have ruled out Wellswell (Woodroyal), Mere House or the Old Hall, so I think it could have been The Oaks in Chapel Road. The Oaks was a very large house with over 20 rooms; it was destroyed by a fire in the sixties.

Sandringham

This is a big year for Her Majesty The Queen so I thought I would write a bit of trivia about Sandringham and its connections with the area around it and the people.

Dersingham and Sandringham are both mentioned in the Domesday Book but Dersingham was here first and Sandringham took its name after the sandy part of Dersingham.

Since the royal family purchased the estate in 1862 most of the royal family over the years have loved the place and spent a lot of time there, except for Queen Victoria, who only visited once or twice, and King Edward the Eighth who spent less than one day at Sandringham during his reign. George the Sixth was born in York Cottage on the 14th of December 1895 and he died at Sandringham House on the 6th of February 1952. Queen Alexandra, who spent most of her time at Sandringham, died there on November the 20th 1925, and George the Fifth passed away there on January the 20th 1936. Olav the Fifth, King of Norway, was born at Appleton House in 1903.

Our present Queen, Elizabeth the Second, and her husband Prince Philip have spent a lot of time at Sandringham over the years and they always like to keep in touch with what is going on in the area.

Queen Mary was always out and about in her later years. One of her chauffeurs, Mr Humfrey, retired to live in Heath Road, Dersingham and she would always go and visit him at least once a year. A retired coachman and his wife lived in Lynn Road, Dersingham, next to us, and she would often pop in to have a cup of tea with them.

Queen Alexandra had a bungalow built down Snettisham beach. It was built by a Mr Riches from Dersingham. She would often go down there to get a little peace and relax. In 1925 Queen Alexandra died and the bungalow was demolished; the carstone was salvaged and re-used in the construction of Shernborne village hall.



I myself remember going down the pumping station at Wolferton with my father in 1948 when it was opened by King George the Sixth and his daughter Princess Margaret. I was also at the Royal Norfolk Show when it was held in Anmer Park in 1950 and opened by King George the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth.

The present Queen and Prince Philip have always gone out of their way to keep in touch with local people and what was going on, I remember being at a gun dog trial down Wolferton Marsh when she came down, sat on a straw bale, and had some lunch with everyone. A lady told me that she went to a local nursing home to visit a friend and there sat Prince Philip, visiting one of his gamekeepers that was being cared for in the home at the time.

In 1923 there lived a lady called Eleanor Coates Tylden. She was the lady of the manor at Ingoldisthorpe. On the 31st of January 1923 she was 100 years old and, on that day, she was visited in her home at Ingoldisthorpe Manor by Queen Alexandra, Queen Mary, the Queens of Norway, Spain and Romania and the Dowager Empress of Russia. That is certainly a lot of royalty to have in your house all on the same day.

I have no doubt that many of you readers have stories to tell about meeting and seeing royalty in and around Sandringham, so let's see them in Village Voice.

Hudson and Kiddle

Before I end this month's article I have done a bit more research into Debra Melton's article. She mentioned a builders' firm that traded in Dersingham around 1887 in Asker's Yard, Hudson and Kiddle. I looked through another copy of Kelly's directory for 1905 and in it was listed a Mr William Hudson, who was a builder and wheelwright, and a Mr George Kiddle, who was a farmer and also the landlord of the White Horse public house.

The railway

As you have all no doubt seen in the press there is a group of people, mainly in the Hunstanton area, who would like to reopen the King's Lynn to Hunstanton railway line by using the old track bed. It's not a bad idea, but I would like to know how they are going to get across all that water on Dersingham Fen. Put the train on a boat? Or will they give all the passengers water boots?

Well that's about all for now. I hope by the time you all read this the weather will be warmer



Ion Trewin Ponderings

After a decade in Dersingham Sue and Ion Trewin moved from Chapel Road to a house near Snettisham. While their new and smaller home immediately proved to be just what they wanted, the garden is proving more of an unknown quantity. Here Ion Trewin writes about what he and Sue have done so far in restoring its dominating and most attractive feature, a large expanse of water.

The adage Location Location was never truer. When we decided to find a house a little smaller I don't think either Sue or I thought that we would gain a large pond (or is it, we wondered, a small lake?), and its inhabitants – at the last count 62 ducks plus several moorhens. Our new home is still only six minutes by car from Dersingham, but more like living in the country with magnificent views across the Ingle Valley. Out of the south-facing kitchen windows we see just one other house. From the top floor we glimpse the Wash.

For Sue the house was love at first sight, with the views and extensive bird and wildlife an unexpected bonus. I saw it a day later and had no hesitation in agreeing. I was also immediately struck by the possibilities of the neglected gardens, even though the pond, with trees on one quarter, also had a deep thicket of brambles and ivy that descended into the water on much of the north and west facing sides and obscured the view. A rough-cut lawn with a small spring-fed stream trickles downhill and south from the house and through a small goldfish pool to the remaining pond edge. And at the back of the house is a separate garden with rectangular lawn and a western aspect. But that, as Kipling would say, is another story.

On the pond/ lake question perhaps a Village Voice reader can provide a definitive answer? When is a pond a lake? Is it, as has been suggested to us, simply a question of size? Ours is about 50 yards by 20 yards.

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Our first ambition was to be able to walk round our pond, but this was impossible unless we first tackled the horrendous and extensive brambles and ivy. A grandson, who came for a weekend from London, helped get us started. The pall of smoke from the resulting bonfire could be seen in Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham. But at the south eastern corner the brambles had been allowed to grow through the debris, including substantial trunks from felled trees, several yew, sycamore and cherry among them.

Following a lengthy period between exchanging contracts and completion we finally acquired our new home in the summer. By now three-quarters of the pond itself was covered in what at first we thought was a variety of water lily, although the flowers were small and yellow and more like a buttercup. Whatever it was we would, we thought, prefer less and with greater variety of colour. Round the edge were clumps of yellow water iris. We decided we liked these.

The woodland area, we soon realised, had enormous potential. Planted with aconites, snowdrops, crocus, bluebells and foxgloves, it could be transformed. Maybe we should also consider rhododendrons? And a dead monkey puzzle tree would, surely, be an ideal host for a rampant climbing rose? On the eastern border we decided that a wild hedge would soften the boundary between our garden and farmland.

Come the autumn we called in experts to tackle the bramble area, which was more than we could cope with. Within two days what a transformation! Now we gained the views we had hoped for across the Ingle valley. We see curlews in the fields, a barn owl regularly takes a swing across our sightlines in search of food. And at last it was possible to walk round our pond. But as



autumn turned to winter we began to wonder about the pond itself. The water buttercup was all very well, but as this died off, it became obvious that in places our pond was close to silting up. A heron that flew in one day was able to walk across the pond with the water barely covering its ankles.

In the next issue of Village Voice, dredging our pond and where should we put the spoil?

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Old Picture Corner - then and now

Off to the pub. Well back when the top photo was taken - kindly furnished by Dick Melton - it was called a hotel. Remarkably unchanged, the Coach & Horses seems to be doing good business. The old house on the right has been replaced. The new properties on the left were built where once there were garages but that wall suggests that there was something else then - any ideas?



David Bingham

Meet the Flintstones

I've been to Happisburgh. It was a long time ago and I can't recall why I went there – perhaps it was to look at the lighthouse. Happisburgh is pronounced Hazeburra - as would be expected in Norfolk because of the traditional pruning away of unsightly syllables from place names. In this case it is appropriate because Happisburgh isn't a particularly happy burgh, due to the fact that the sea is constantly nibbling at its border – on stormy nights it's more of a munch than a nibble. My recollection is of a road leading straight to the cliff edge - lined on one side by a row of large Edwardian houses, most of which had been converted into bed and breakfast establishments. I wasn't tempted to stay for the night but I did have time for a short walk on the beach to view the cliffs. They looked crumbly and untidy as if a giant JCB had pushed up some boulder strewn dirt into a rough pile and left it for the happy burghers to build their houses and church on. I'd seen more exciting cliffs - the wave wracked granite of Cornwall and the fossil filled limestone of Dorset, the soft white chalk of Sussex and the hard black basalt of County Antrim. I'd cycled all the way to Cape Wrath and stood on the towering cliff top high above the raging Atlantic Ocean. Hunstanton's cliffs seemed to have much more to offer with their bands of colour and rich fossil beds. In my opinion Happisburgh's cliffs were definitely the least interesting cliffs in the whole country. As it turns out my opinion was completely wrong.

Just how wrong only came home to me during a conversation with one of the county's archaeologists that I had a few months ago. He gave me a handaxe to hold and told me that it had been uncovered by cliff erosion and was found on the beach at Happisburgh. Although it fitted in the palm of my hand, I couldn't imagine using it for very long without feeling fatigued. The handaxe was one of many that have been found at Happisburgh and the archaeology is pointing to a date for their manufacture of between 500,000 and 950,000 years ago in the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age). This makes Happisburgh the oldest known site of human occupation in Britain - or northern Europe for that matter. I was told that no human bones have been found so far but it is certain that whoever made the handaxes were not modern humans. Nor were they our ancestors who were still busily evolving in Africa at this time. They were instead an evolutionary dead-end that may have led to the Neanderthals or could have disappeared without a trace. At the time the handaxes were being made Europe was home to early humans such as *Homo Antecessor* and *Homo Heidelbergensis*. These were big strong hominids, which would account for my feeling of inadequacy when wielding the ancient tool. During the Paleolithic, the site where Happisburgh is today was on the bank of a wide river that would later change course to become the Thames. This river discharged into what is now the North Sea, but was then an inlet of the Atlantic – Britain was a peninsula on the western edge of the continent. Scientists have been able to determine that the climate at the time was like that in modern day Scandinavia, with similar summers to our own but much colder winters. Animal bones found at Happisburgh also show that our handaxe makers shared the landscape with mammoths, hyenas, wild horses, elks and beavers. These creatures roamed in wetlands and woodlands and the hunting must have been good. The cliffs and beach are still being investigated by archaeologists as each year more material is uncovered by the winter storms. The work is organised by the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain (AHOB) Project and they have an excellent website at <http://www.ahobproject.org/> if you want to dive a bit deeper into the subject.

The temperate conditions enjoyed by the ancient people of Norfolk didn't last long (in geological terms) and the ice returned making this part of the world uninhabitable. When we next get a glimpse of people in Norfolk we have left the Palaeolithic and are in the Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age), which started around 10 000 years ago and coincided with the end of the last Ice Age. These were fully modern humans, *Homo sapiens*, just like you and me. They no longer used the multipurpose handaxe but made finely crafted tools to perform different tasks. The wood, antler and bone shafts from these tools and weapons rarely survive the ravages of time but the small exquisitely crafted flint blades that were hafted into them are regularly found - particularly those

that were fitted into hunting and fishing harpoons, spears and arrows. They often had many blades on one shaft and would have been very effective. These blades are called microliths and crop up in several locations in Norfolk. They have been found on very low tides at Titchwell beach, in what would have been woodland during the Mesolithic - this site is believed to have been a place where they were manufactured. Kelling Heath is the richest site in Norfolk for microlith finds. It is likely that Mesolithic hunter-gatherers would have stood on the high ground at Kelling looking out over the vast plain that is now the North Sea for animals to hunt. Mesolithic people did not leave any very obvious features in the landscape for us to remember them by and lived in harmony with their natural surroundings (give or take a bit of stabbing and bludgeoning). They would have modified their environment to some degree, for example by clearing trees to encourage grazing animals, but they didn't farm and led a generally nomadic life.

Evidence of their seasonal encampments have been found - most famously at Star Carr in Humberside where, in addition to tent like dwellings and other structures, interesting headgear has been discovered made from stag skulls and antlers. These were either used as camouflage during hunting expeditions or as ritual headdresses. The richness of the prehistoric wetlands in this part of the world means that somewhere in Norfolk a Mesolithic encampment is probably waiting to be uncovered.

That completes my quick whizz through the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic ages in Norfolk and I will write about the Neolithic next time. There are some interesting Neolithic sites in the county but, apart from a stroll on Kelling Heath or along Happisburgh beach, I can't suggest any special local landscape that is worth visiting to get a feel for how life must have been in more ancient times.

If you are willing to travel a little I would recommend a visit to Cresswell Crags (<http://www.cresswell-crags.org.uk/>) on the border between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. This site contains Britain's only known rock art and you will get a chance to see images of deer, bison and birds that were carved into the cave walls 12, 800 years ago. The carvings at Cresswell may not be as impressive as the paintings found in the caves of southern France and Spain but they are the most northerly known rock art in Europe. If you want to get inside the mind of someone who lived



thirteen millennia before our time in a very different world to our own then nothing beats a close look at these enigmatic pieces of artwork. There is also an excellent visitor centre at Cresswell Crags, which you have paid for if you do the lottery so it's worth the trip just to recoup some of your money!□

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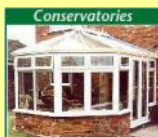


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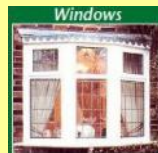
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The Sandringham Newsletter

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compiled by Helen Walch*

Sandringham House, Gardens and Museum will open to the public on Sunday 1st April for what is bound to be a very busy season in this, Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee year and Estate staff were busy last month improving and upgrading in various areas.

Regular Visitor Centre customers will have noticed major work being done at the Plant Centre installing display benches outside to offer a much wider range of plants there, and the inside of the Centre has also been improved, painted and relit.

Visitor Centre car parks have been resurfaced, work has been done to improve the Restaurant and Terrace Coffee Shop and the Gift Shop has been freshened up to prepare for new ranges which have started arriving.

The latest addition to the Visitor Centre, "Everything Outdoor", celebrated their first birthday recently. 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, rambles 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.

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. A number of paths have been lined with stone edging and beds have been reshaped to accommodate maturing planting. Work has started on pruning the red-twigged limes to maintain their shape and ensure that in the summer they will produce the green canopy which frames the North Garden. In bad weather, gardeners are keeping busy preparing the twiggy brushwood stakes and willow cones which support sweet peas and perennials in various areas of the Gardens.

On the Fruit Farm, some of the blackcurrant fields are being cleared and replanted with cuttings, and the long job of pruning the apple trees has begun.

On the Farm, November this year was one of the warmest on record, which 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, so farm staff are hoping they continue to stay off the crop. It was also one of the driest autumns on record which helped with autumn ploughing. Elsewhere on the Farm, hauling sugar beet for processing continues and organic land has been spread with manure from the organic Red Poll cattle being raised on Estate land.□

VV Sudoku No 22 solution

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

St Nicholas Church News



Lent Lunches

During our Lent Lunches the Bishop of Kings Lynn, The Rt Rev Jonathan Meyrick, on his "Nine-Deanery See by Cycle Tour" came and joined us and even ended up helping to wash up.

Services in April:

Monday 2nd April	– 7pm Compline
Tuesday 3rd April	– 7pm Compline
Wednesday 4th April	– 11.15am Stations of the Cross finishing with the Eucharist 7pm Compline
Thursday 5th April	– 7pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
Friday 6th April	– 9.30am Walk of Witness short Service 12noon Church open for prayer 2pm "The Cross of Christ" – a devotion for Congregation & Choir
Sunday 8th April	– 10.30am - Easter Sunday Communion Service 3pm – Easter Tea in Church – Games for children, tea & quiz for older ones with Worship with songs, readings and prayers.

On Good Friday 6th April we will be having our usual "**Walk of Witness**" which will start at 9.30am at St Nicholas Church for a short service, then the walk around the village meeting up with the other Churches in the village on the way and finishing up back at St Nicholas Church Hall for a cup of coffee and a hot cross bun.

Our normal Coffee Morning in April will be on Friday 13th the 2nd Friday because of Good Friday falling on the 1st Friday of the month.

Future Events Coming Up

28th April - **Grand Sale - 9am to 12noon** in Church Hall
Any items for this can be brought to the Hall on Friday 27th April, if you want any items picked up for this please contact Doreen Asker on 540601.

5th May - **Lyra Ensemble – 7.30pm**
A welcome back to this wonderful Russian Group of musicians – tickets £7.50 on the door

26th May - **6pm for 6.30pm - Church Hall Centenary Celebration**
On the day the Hall was officially opened – we are having outside caterers in to do a 2 course meal – there will be entertainment by the Dersingham Strolling Players. Tickets £10. There will be a Raffle and the proceeds from this will go towards the Church Hall Centenary Restoration Fund.



Dersingham Guide Groups

The 22nd February is an important date in the Guiding calendar; it is the birthday of our Founders, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell and we call the day, Thinking Day.



On Thinking Day we celebrate Guiding as an International organisation and think about Guides in other countries. There is no set way to celebrate, but in this area all the groups from Dersingham, Sandringham, Snettisham and Gayton gathered together in Kings Lynn for a fun evening of dressing up in international costumes from recycled materials, games, Promise renewal and refreshments.

As the 22nd was a school day, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides were allowed to wear their uniforms to school. Two Dersingham Leaders also visited two local schools, Dersingham Infant



and Nursery and Sandringham and West Newton Primary, to give an assembly about Thinking Day aided by Rainbows, Brownies and Guides at those schools.□

Lynn Wheeler



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Maggie Grey

I NAME THIS BUS..... TURKEY SMART

The Welney area of the Fens is considered to be the birthplace of Fen Skating. It began in the 19th Century, and was the favoured winter pastime of the Victorians, and one which attracted large crowds. When the English Fen Skating Championships were held in 1870, it is reported that 6000 spectators watched the final race between two local men.

William Smart, who came to be known as ‘Turkey’ Smart from his style on the ice, was one of the many great Welney skaters and his style is one still favoured today – bent over forwards with his arms behind, which he used to flap. He was the first person to skate this way, and probably due to his successes, it was a style that was soon copied.

Turkey won his first Fen skating championship in 1854 and for the next twelve years or more his only close rival was William See, another Welney man. These two men dominated the Fen skating scene well into the late 1860s when other, younger skaters from outside the local area, started defeating them.

However, in the 1870s Welney skaters took back the Fen skating championship title when George Smart won in 1878. He was a second cousin to Turkey and won most races he entered for that decade, when his younger brother then came onto the skating scene. James dominated for a time until being beaten – by his cousin George See, son of William!

Fen skating is still going strong, and in February, when we had our fair share of snow and ice, the frozen stretches were checked over regularly by skaters and supporters of the sport, snow ice having to be cleared as it gives way though looks fairly solid. You need several inches of real solid ice for safety.

Anyone who has watched Fen skating will know that it’s exciting and strangely elegant in a way as well, but a sport which may well be under threat due to global warming. However as long as we keep having the cold temperatures we experienced this last winter, then the sport will continue providing entertainment for its spectators.

I NAME THIS BUS..... FANNY BILLING

Burnham Market – such a pretty village, lovely period homes, interesting individual shops, popular craft fair each year, and a favourite weekend and holiday destination for many people. A genteel sort of place, not one you’d associate with serial killers possibly? But it was the home of a female serial killer of the 1830s, one Fanny Billing who was a member of the infamous Burnham Market Poisoners, brought to justice in Norwich in 1835.

The first victim of the poisoners – the other culprit being a Mrs Frary - at least the one which brought them to the attention of the law, was Mary Taylor, who began retching most terribly after eating her dinner and was dead later that same afternoon. The Coroner pronounced the cause of death to be poisoning. Arsenic to be precise. And as no-one could decide how she’d come to be poisoned, it was the conclusion that she’d killed herself.

However, it had been rumoured that her husband was spending time with Fanny Billing, who was a neighbour, and this had been causing great upset for Mary. Then it was further discovered that Fanny had recently purchased a small quantity of arsenic, traces of which were later found in a container of flour in the Taylor’s home.

When these facts came to the attention of the magistrates, it was decided that fuller investigation was needed. As Fanny was led away, another neighbour, Mrs Frary, who was often seen in the Taylor’s house, told Fanny not to worry, to keep quiet because nobody could hurt them. Such comments added fuel to the fire of doubts about Mary’s death, and Mrs Frary was also detained. It was soon discovered that her husband and child had both died suddenly two weeks previously and when their bodies were exhumed for examination, traces of arsenic were found in their stomachs.

Fanny Billing confessed, but claimed it was Mrs Frary who gave the poison to Mary Taylor and that together they had poisoned several other people, with more on their 'hit list'. She later hung for her crimes. Mrs Frary was struck dumb and never recovered her speech.

These women were just two amongst a possible 360 known female serial killers from the mid-sixteenth century to the present day. Some of these women were responsible for the death of several people, whilst there were others, known to researchers of the subject as 'Black Widows' because they 'only' killed two people both of whom were husbands. The last one listed is a Japanese woman dubbed 'The Black Widow of the Web' last year. □

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A huge amount of money has been raised to provide Tennis Courts, which are flood lit.

For too long, this Village has been without an up to date playing area , so whether you are young, old, lapsed player, or just curious; please join us.

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For further Information. Please Contact:

Surjait Singh.	Chairman.	surjait.singh@hotmail .co.uk	01485 526920
Rosie Russell.	Secretary,	rosierussell1@gmail.com	01485 543118
Alan Polaine.	Liason Officer.	alanpolaine@googlemail.com	01485 542147

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Bowling in Dersingham

by Bob Tipling with assistance and pictures from Dick Melton

DERSSINGHAM INSTITUTE BOWLS CLUB

The Dersingham Institute Bowls Club season 2012 commences on Saturday 14 April running through until October. The club currently has some 60 members some of whom play in various local leagues. An internal competition takes place on each Wednesday afternoon, made up of 12 teams who play in an internal triples league. Saturdays are the days when anyone can attend for a 'roll-up' in which teams are selected by draw, with small prizes given to the winners. The club Chairman, Richard Bridges, is a qualified national coach who holds training sessions for beginners, improvers and also for those who simply wish to improve their game, he is also taking on the task of nurturing younger players, and already has a core of teenagers who will be playing along with the other members, perhaps leading to the formation of a youth team in the club. This is a very friendly club which welcomes newcomers to its 'roll-ups' and runs several social events during the season.

Enquiries can be addressed to Mrs Jenny Pattison, Club Secretary - Tel: 01485 544199 or E-mail: johnjennyuk@aol.com

A little of the history of the Club follows, and, in order not to be churlish, a certain amount of information regarding other clubs which operate in the village.

DERSSINGHAM INSTITUTE

(The following is adapted from an article which is on display in the Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Room and is almost certainly copied from a local paper which has not been credited)

Dersingham Institute was established in 1912, at which time the Car Park at St Nicholas Church Hall was utilised as a Bowling Green, this being converted into a Tennis Court in 1919, when the King gave an adjoining piece of land (now the Dersingham Institute Bowls Club) to be used as the green. The Dersingham Scout Group disbanded in the early 1920s and their corrugated tin and wooden meeting room, formerly in the Vicarage grounds, was adopted by the bowls club and set up on the perimeter of the green, where it served the club well for more than 70 years. It was basically a shelter from the weather, but, with ladies joining the club, became a tea room and place





Dersingham Institute
V
Working Mens Club
1921
Won By
The Institute
Presented By
Mr W J Hyner

to entertain visiting clubs after matches. There was no electricity but running water and toilets were installed by club members, but the club having been standing for 70 years really needed replacing. In 1993 a new Chairman, Gordon Fisher, was elected to the club, who made a pledge to carry out improvements and install toilets. Sandringham Estate, who own the land, permitted work to go ahead and planning was granted for a new clubhouse. Gordon spent a great deal of time arranging finance and deals for materials and he and some of the members helped with labour, professional expertise and fund-raising, resulting in a new clubhouse which was completed for the start of the 1996 season. The brick building, with sealed unit windows and doors, provides a kitchen area, toilets for the disabled and a large area for entertaining. The official opening was performed by Gordon Fisher assisted by Vice-Chairman Dick Murrell and President Dick Stanton and was attended by members and invited guests.

(The following extract is from an article which was first published in 1912 prior to the opening of the building which is now known as the Dersingham Village Social Club)

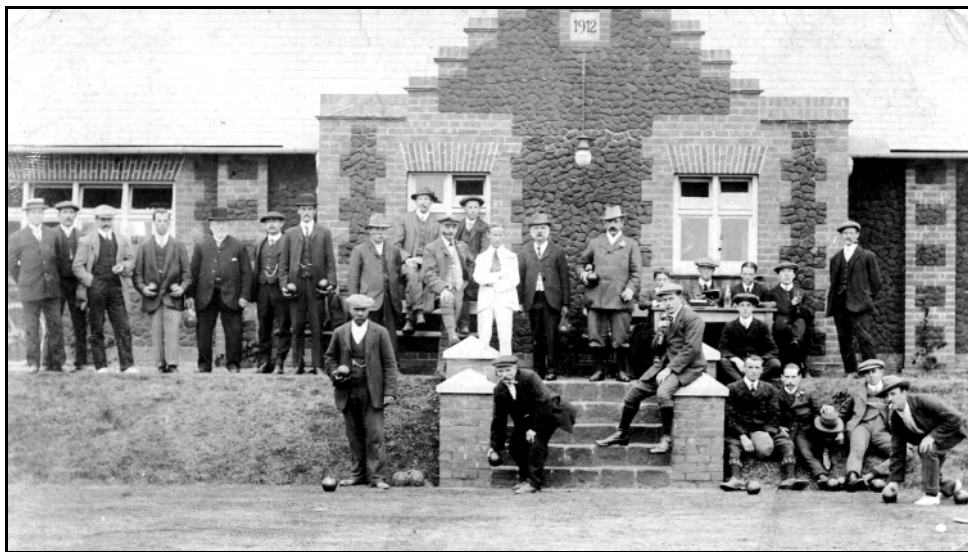
"The late Dr. Bellamy of Ingoldisthorpe, was always ready and willing to give any material assistance in providing an Institute for parish use but his views as to the character and management of such a club or Parish Hall, as appeared to him to be most desirable in the general interests of the people, were not entirely in consonance with the opinion of many of the working men of the village, whose object was to secure a club which could be managed on much the same lines as were the several clubs which had already been built, or were in course of construction in other parishes on the Sandringham estate. Owing to this difference of view Dr. Bellamy's scheme fell through to be revitalized however, on the advent to the living of the present Vicar of Dersingham the Rev. R. W. M. Lewis, who, taking up the old scheme at the point where negotiations had been broken off has found it possible to secure for the parish the very handsome Hall which stands close to the church of St. Nicholas, and was opened a few months ago. His Majesty the King graciously gave the site, and Mrs. Tylden the sister of the late Dr. Bellamy, bore by far the greater proportion of the cost of construction, and the club which has been formed in connection with the Institute already has a membership of some 120 men."

DERSINGHAM WORKING MEN'S CLUB

(This is a further extract from the article which was first published in 1912)

"The very success of that scheme put the men who had stood outside it - and their dissent was not in any way based on sectarian or political motives - on their mettle, and in February last the proposal to form a club, which would open all day, and be managed on the lines of the other Sandringham Estate Working Men's Clubs, was taken seriously in hand, and a scheme was formulated for the acquisition of a site and the erection of a building suitable for the purpose - His Majesty graciously gave his assistance to the scheme and granted a lease for 99 years of a convenient site near the Dun Cow Inn for the erection of the club buildings, at the nominal rent of 10s. a year; The club premises, which stand well back from the Lynn Road have been designed by Mr. C. E. Prince (chief engineer at Sandringham), and have been built by Mess. G. Riches and Sons (of Dersingham) of Snettisham carr stone and Heacham and Peterborough bricks. A drive is in course of construction from the main road to the front entrance of the club, and a bowling green and quoit beds will be laid out on land adjoining the approach road and will be available next summer."

(Author's note; It must be noted that the Bowling Green was eventually built but was to pass out of use in the late 60s early 70s and was converted into the Car Park which now exists)



THE ALBERT VICTOR BOWLS CLUB

(extracts from an interview by the author with the late Arthur Daw in 2004)

Arthur Daw and his wife Barbara took over the tenancy of the now defunct Albert Victor Public House in Manor Road in 1970. The Bowling Green had become unusable but following a great deal of planning and hard work it was re-opened in 1971. The new green was perfect, except for one thing, it had only three rinks and the local leagues demanded that members should be able to provide four! The committee members were downhearted, but decided to do something about the issue. They called a meeting of all members of the West Norfolk League who had been County Cup Winners, suggesting that a new 3-Rink league be formed. Out of fifteen winners attending, eight signed up immediately and the Albert Victor 3 Rink League was formed. Although having been very busy, Arthur and Barbara decided to tender their notice in October 1981 as the business had become unviable (their overheads had gone up from £26 to £700 per week!) The consequence of this was that the brewery decided to close the pub and sell the premises. This was doomsday for the bowling green! An offer was made by the owners of Ingoldisthorpe Manor to prepare and



supply a bowling green on their land, but shortly after the green was ready this fell through, owing to the major fire at the Manor House. Arthur was very grateful to Wolferton for allowing the club to play on their greens from 1981 to 1983, during which time the new green was created in its current location on land which was owned by Arthur.

This green has five rinks one way and six the other. (There is still an Albert Victor League played in the area in which many of the local clubs take part).

Information regarding the club can be obtained from Mrs Barbara Daw, Tel: 01485 542414

THE COACH & HORSES BOWLS CLUB

Originally having a green at the rear of the pub, the club now play at a green behind the Church Hall in Ingoldisthorpe, the former green at the pub having been converted into a garden and car park. The author doesn't have a great deal of information to hand regarding the history of the club but knows that its present site was opened there in 1999, following a resurrection of the old green which hadn't been used for several years.

THE FEATHERS HOTEL

Although the author is aware that a Bowling Green was in use at some time at The Feathers Hotel, he can find no reference to it which would indicate when this was available. The only indication that a bowling green existed is in a photograph of the rear of the hotel, showing the area which is now the garden. The picture is unfortunately undated.



OTHER PUBS AND HOTELS

There were other places which may or may not have had bowling greens, but no evidence has been found of greens at the former Dun Cow Inn, The White Horse Inn or the Alexandra Hotel.

INDOOR BOWLS

Bowls like many outdoor games, becomes less easy to play in winter, so indoor variations of the game have come into existence. One popular variety is called simply Indoor Bowls and is essentially Lawn Bowls played on an indoor surface with the majority of the rules consistent with that game. For those who wish to play this game there are opportunities, all the year round, at The Oasis Centre in Hunstanton and at Lynnsport in King's Lynn. In both cases equipment may be hired for use if required.

DERSINGHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club, was formed in July 2004 with equipment loaned from The Sports Development Council, meeting at the Dersingham Community Centre. After a successful application for Lottery funding they were able to buy their own carpet and bowls. Toward the end of 2005 more space was needed and the Club moved to St. George's School. The Club has entered teams in several one-day tournaments at various venues in West Norfolk and further afield. The Club also has 'friendly' matches with other local Clubs. The Club meets on Friday evenings, 6.45 - 9.15pm at St. George's School and is looking for more members. There is no lower or upper age limit, no special clothes are needed and all equipment is provided by the Club. Anyone who is interested is invited to 'have a go', and will be made very welcome. Carpet Bowls has seeded itself as a community activity. The bowls mat is round 30 x 6 feet. Bowls are delivered from an 18 inch wide space at the front of the carpet and must avoid an 18 inch circular block placed in the centre of the carpet. The Jack is 2.5 inches in diameter (the same as for Lawn/Indoor Bowls) the bowls used are smaller than in the other games, players rarely own their own set of bowls; instead the club owns the bowls for their club members' use.

Contact: Suzanne Eastmure (chairman)- Tel: 01485 543870 or Ron Bell (Sec) - Tel: 01485 541985

THE DERSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH CARPET BOWLS CLUB

This club meets at the Methodist Church Hall in Post Office Road every Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm and is open to everyone for an afternoon of friendship and fun.

Contact Melvin Golding - Tel: 01485 542031 for details.

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Dersingham Evening WI report March 2012

In reply to the Editor seeing a 'man' in some of our photos, yes we do *sometimes* include men at special social occasions. They seem to enjoy themselves but do not attend meetings!

2012 is a special year for Dersingham Evening WI as it is the year when they celebrate their 50th Birthday.

A 50th Celebration Garden Party will be held at The Feathers on 27th June from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. with entertainment and stalls. Tickets, to include tea, are £5.50 from Gilly- 540375, Maggie – 542424, Stephanie - 544819

The February meeting had the demonstration of German Cooking by Antje Franke which was much enjoyed. The March meeting had a Talk on Travelling the Silk Road by Lynne Monck and the competition was to decorate an Easter fairy cake.

April 18th meeting will be a Birthday supper to celebrate 50 years of the Dersingham Evening WI followed by cutting of the Birthday Cake. The talk will be by BBC's David Clayton on Radio Norfolk and the competition 'How we were 50 years ago'.

May's topic is on Sandringham Gardens by Martin Woods and the competition '3 blooms from your garden'.

Besides the monthly meetings there are several smaller regular groups and various 'one-off' events.

The weekday 'Activity and Lunch Group' had a guided tour of King's Lynn's Museum before lunch at The Lattice House. In February they enjoyed some 10 pin bowling before having lunch in Hunstanton. (*photo attached*) The March lunch saw members enjoy a visit to Fakenham Garden Centre before lunch.

The Sunday lunch group ate at The Feathers then Castle Rising and are looking forward to a meal at the LeStrange. An extra lunch will be attended by the group at The Church Hall in April.

The walking group managed 4 miles round Snettisham and are due to do another 4 miles at Ashwicken in April.

The evening dining group have been to Knights Hill, The Feathers and are booked to go to The Market Bistro in King's Lynn.



A monthly coffee meeting is held at different member's homes. A special coffee morning was held for new members in March with the committee present so they could get to know one another in a smaller group. A coffee morning is regularly held at Thaxters the day after the main monthly WI meetings.

The Keep Fit group continue to meet on Monday mornings for a work-out.

On 24th May members can enjoy a guided tour of Sandringham Gardens and lunch at The Sandringham Visitors Centre.

A 2 week holiday to Ireland is being planned for September.

On 1st December a two day trip to Germany for the Christmas Markets and shopping is shortly to be booked. □

Maggie Guest

Spring has almost sprung on the reserve with many of the birds beginning to sing on territories and look to mate.

We are nearing the end of our winter scrub works on the site and this has opened up a few areas of heath that had been lost to small trees. By removing the trees off the heath and bog we allow the heather and bog plants to flourish. If the trees were left on the heath this would cause more nutrients to be put into the soil from the dropped needles and leaves. Heather is a plant that likes nutrient poor soils so the more nutrients that are in the soil the more likely scrub is going to grow which will then out compete the heather. In some of the areas that had around ten years growth on we were quite surprised to find quite a large area of heather underneath the trees. These had obviously flourished in a few large gaps between the scrub and now that they have been revealed they will help in the restoration of the slope by seeding onto surrounding areas.

Recently we have finished our cut and collect works. This is where we manage the heather by using a tractor mounted mower and cutting the heather down to soil level. This then allows new heather to grow in the bare areas which in turn will provide a varied structure and different height of heather for insects and birds. This is done on a rotation with around 2ha a year being cut. Another reason for this is the heather on the site is all a similar age and will all mature at the same time meaning that there wouldn't be much young heather appearing. By cutting these areas we can vary the age of the heather and provide the different niches required by different species.

Woodlarks particularly like the bare areas to feed in and by creating these areas we are providing feeding habitats for this important bird. Woodlarks are an important species at Dersingham Bog NNR and are very vulnerable to disturbance due to the fact that they nest on the ground. This is quite a precarious place to nest and disturbance to the birds can cause the nests to fail and not produce any young.

From February 1st to September 1st it is especially important for dogs to be kept on a short lead (i.e. less than 2m) or close to heel. The reason that this is important is that it helps to safeguard the ground nesting birds on the site when they are nesting and feeding young. A dog off the lead running a long way into the heather can disturb birds incubating off the nest and if a lot of dogs are running into the heather during the day this can cause the birds to be off the nest for long periods of time which over the course of a season can cause the nests to fail. The main species that can be affected by this are Tree Pipits, Nightjar, Woodlark and Shelduck as well as other species. We will be wardening the site throughout the breeding season just to keep a check on the birds and dogs off leads so if you see us please feel free to have a chat.



In a matter of weeks it won't be long before the first churring Nightjar can be heard on the site with the first returning birds normally arriving towards the end of April.

Hopefully I will see some of you out and about on the site enjoying the longer and lighter days.□

*Tom Bolderstone,
Reserve Warden*

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Norfolk Open Studios / Dersingham Art and Crafts Trail 2012



For the last 16 years, as the Norfolk Open Studios element of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival, hundreds of artists scattered across the county have opened up their studios, homes, garden sheds and outhouses to the public to create a unique and personal visual arts event.

This year, from Saturday 26th May to Sunday 10th June, Dersingham is going to play an even greater part than before by putting together the Dersingham Art and Crafts Trail. The Trail will include the photography of Jo Halpin Jones at her studio at 14 Post Office Road, watercolours by Stephen Martyn at The Birches, Alexandra Close (off Station Road) and paintings by Marty Griffin at The Drift, Ingoldisthorpe, together with six further artists, Mark Jordan - wood turner, Rachel Simpson - silver jeweller, Carolyn Coe - potter, Wendy Long - painter, Jean Mulligan - textile artist and Heather Wells - weaver, who will be exhibiting at Potter & Dibble at

61 Manor Road. You can see nine very different forms of art at four nearby locations all in one go.

Whilst much of their work may well be familiar to you, the Art Trail provides a chance to meet the artists, take a look at the techniques and processes used to create it and perhaps buy or commission their work. There will also be a small series of workshops and displays throughout the period at Potter & Dibble.

This is an exciting opportunity to discover the diverse talent which is literally on our doorstep here in Dersingham and the immediate surrounding villages. Without your support these events will either disappear or retreat to Norwich – so please do come along and take an interest. The studios are open from 10am to 5pm on the following days:

Potter and Dibble: Open daily May 26th - June 10th

Jo Halpin Jones, Stephen Martyn: May 26, 27, June 2 - 5, June 9, 10

Marty Griffin: May 26, 27, June 2 - 5

A trail guide and more information about all of the artists exhibiting is available on the website **DersinghamArtTrail.org** or on **Twitter@DersArtTrail**. At the time of the event, watch out for the Norfolk Open Studios posters which will appear around and about to guide you on your way. □



Dersingham Infant and Nursery School

A Right Royal Visit



On Monday 6th February 2012, the 60th (Diamond) anniversary of the day the Queen came to the throne, she chose to come and visit our school.



We only had two weeks notice and worked hard at learning songs to go with a short play about how the world has changed over the last sixty years. The areas we considered included technology, fashion and the environment.

It was an exciting day. We all made a special effort to get to school looking our best even though we had to trudge through the snow!

On the day, the whole school was searched by security Police and we particularly enjoyed watching the sniffer dogs doing their work.

The Queen was due to arrive just before our normal lunch time so we all had a bacon roll for brunch and had an inside 'street party' lunch when the visit had finished.

Her Majesty came into every classroom and looked at the different activities in each room. We put on our production about changes over the last 60 years.

The Queen seemed to enjoy it and clapped at the end of our songs. Children from each class gave her presents – a book of our work, a picture with photos from our school, a book of Diamond Jubilee Dress designs made from recycled materials, a sun catcher and a posy of flowers. Her Majesty then unveiled a plaque to commemorate her visit. We did 'Three Cheers' as she left and she turned and waved to us all. The Queen told our Headteacher that she had enjoyed our play and said, 'Well done!'.

Do come and join us for ongoing Diamond Jubilee celebrations at St. George's School on Friday 1st June – 2p.m. until late! There will be a Hog Roast, musical entertainment, various craft and activity workshops for the children along with demonstrations by different organisations from the local community.

If your local group would like to run a stall, please contact our School Office on 01485 540022. We look forward to seeing you there!





The World of Antiques

by John Vost

This new regular feature addresses the world of fine art antiques with the intention of giving the reader an overview of that market as well as covering some specialist subjects issue by issue.

With the exception of some types of furniture and collectibles, namely indifferent of the late Georgian and Victorian periods, the market seems to have avoided the worst of the financial climate we have been enduring for the last few years. One might say 'What Recession?' when it comes to Chinese works of art, jewellery and precious metals as the values of these just seem to go on rising.



Some readers may recall the Chinese vase that sold at auction two years ago for the staggering sum of £53 million! The vase was found in an attic when the owners were clearing their mother's property after she had died. It seems the world's media were euphoric about this apparent new world record price and its picture must have appeared in just about all media throughout the world. Sadly, the vase has never been paid for and the supposed Chinese buyer has disappeared, the owners and the auctioneer have been to China to try and track him down but to date this has been to no avail.

In circumstances such as these it is difficult to apportion blame other than to the mysterious buyer but the auctioneers were, admittedly with hindsight, naïve. They, nor anybody else save the two final bidders, had any idea at all that the vase would reach this sort of figure. If they had they might well have demanded a deposit or at least passport and debit card details before allowing the man to bid; this is what happens universally today because of this sorry tale.

A lot of my work is valuing and advising for individuals and collectors and it is vital that I am in touch with prices and trends in the market as this can influence values enormously. Another factor is provenance, if this can be proven it will, if the item is to be sold at auction, have a significant effect on how an item is marketed and this will subsequently enhance the final figure realised.

If, for example, an item has an intrinsic value of say £2,000 without any history this figure will increase substantially if it has a proven history. A recent case in point is a brooch that came to light on a recent valuation I was carrying out.

The brooch illustrated is attributed to Enrico Serafini (1913-1968) a Florentine jeweller to many celebrities in the 1950's and 60's who made it for Violet Trefusis; it was bequeathed to the present vendor, a distant relation, in 1974. It represents the Roman God Neptune and is set with moonstone, diamonds, sapphires and pearls.



Violet Trefusis nee Keppel was a socialite, writer and member of the Bloomsbury Group. When she was born in 1894, it was widely thought she was the daughter of King Edward VII whose lover was Violet's mother Alice; however, this was discounted by her family who believed the biological father was William Beckett.

Violet's love affair with Vita Sackville West was, and still is, much reported and continued after both women married; it ended when Vita fell in love with Virginia Woolf.

Supporting the provenance and therefore making it 'cast iron' is Trefusis' will that mentions the bequest of the brooch. The brooch is to be sold at auction and is bound to attract a lot of publicity because of its provenance.

In the next issue I will look at silver and gold and try to make readers aware of the pitfalls when selling such items without taking the proper precautions in a hyper fuelled bullion market.

If readers have any specific questions or items they would like more information on then they are invited to contact me providing an image where possible at enquiries@vosts.co.uk □

A Magical Evening

Village Voice Live February 7th

A snowy evening somewhat curtailed the audience for Magic Circle member Steve Short when he gave a potted biography of the late David Nixon. Well researched and well illustrated, Steve took us back down TV memory lane with clips from many old familiar shows featuring Mr Nixon as well as pictures of him in his formative years. There were perhaps just a few too many programme excerpts which meant that there was less actual magic than hoped for in the second half.

As well as giving his talk, Steve had copies of his book on David Nixon for sale, an opportunity taken up by several of the audience.

The upside of a small audience is, of course, extra helpings of cakes in the interval but it would have made for a better evening had there been more of us.



Dumpling

All Aboard America

Village Voice Live March 6th

Until very recently I had never had any intentions of ever visiting America and had dismissed it as being too modern with little history and a cuisine largely consisting of hamburgers and fries. Walter Blaney's talk and slides changed all that and America is now at the top of my list of places to go.

Mr Blaney captivated his audience with his account of the trip he and his wife took across America from New York to San Francisco. We learned about Pocahontas and about the first European settlers, moving on to the Chicago skyline and then to the Great Plains and the extinction of the buffaloes. Then it was on Route 66 towards Los Angeles, passing evidence of gold mines on the way. It soon became obvious why a railway was needed. We were shown a coach trip to The Rockies, Monument Valley and the locations used for many cowboy films. The flight over the Grand Canyon was particularly stunning then on we went to the Pacific coast and Hollywood, finally stopping at the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz. Throughout the journey we were told of the friendliness of the American people and the delicious food on offer.



I look forward to hearing about the Blaneys' next trips.

Beancounter



From the Parish Council Office

It is good to be back after a long time away after my maternity leave. I am just about finding my feet and not wading through treacle so much.

We are now getting some nice weather occasionally and looking forward to the sun and it's warmth. Everyone has now started grass cutting, tidying and planting their gardens/allotments. Here at the office we are getting

ready for our office move not too far from here and nearer the Post Office/Shops so you can inform us of things happening or not happening in the village on your way by with your pension, food or paper.

The village now has new streetlights on the main roads, which have new numbers, hopefully they will not go wrong but if they do and you had a note of the old number it will have changed. We will need the new number to report any faults.

Still keep the laminated posters coming for the Public Noticeboard it is well used and must be an asset to the village and its organisations.

Well I think that is all from me, more next time when I have my feet out of the treacle for good. If there is something happening in the village that you wish to know more about, or not happy about, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office, and I will do my best to help. Happy Spring, and Happy Planting for all you gardeners.□

Sarah

Evening out on Thursday 26th April 2012 in aid of Tapping House

7.00 for 7.30pm at the Le strange Hotel – Old Hunstanton

7.30 pm 'The Power of Colour' ~ Discover which colour you should wear

8.30pm Refreshments/Bar Open

9.00pm Natural Lotions & Potions ~ Discover what you can use from your store cupboards

9.30pm Raffle Draw

Stalls on the night

Tickets available for £7.50 from Fundraising, Cherry Tree Chocolates
& our Hunstanton Charity Shop.



The West Norfolk members group invites
you to the illustrated talks:

Thursday 26th April – 7.30pm

East African Wildlife by Robert Ferguson
and

Thursday 24th May – 7.30pm

Snow Leopards by Peter Pilbeam

Venue: Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street, Hunstanton

Cost: £1.50 members/£2 visitors

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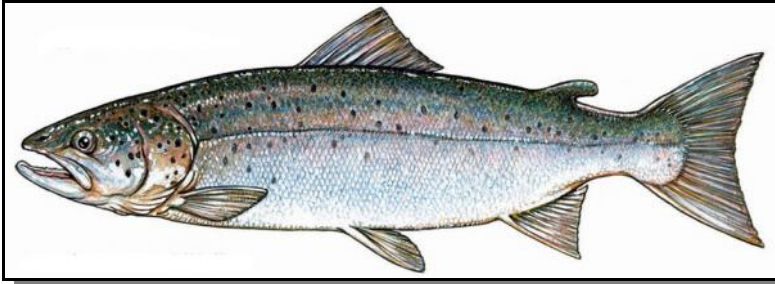
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The Salmon



Until about 30 years ago, salmon was considered a luxury and rather a preserve of the rich. Tinned, it was a treat for Sunday tea or in sandwiches at funerals. With the advent of fish farming it is now one of the most commonly available offerings on the fishmongers slab. Farmed salmon is recognisably paler than it's wild cousin and purists will say that it has less flavour but it still makes good eating.

For the cook its bones are fairly large and easy to find making preparation a doddle. Salmon can be served hot or cold and of course it is superb smoked. Here are a couple of hot recipies.

Salmon with spiced cucumber

Season salmon portions and place in an oiled dish, sprinkle with oregano olive oil and seasoning and roast in a hot oven for around 20 minutes. The length of time will depend on the thickness of the fish. Meanwhile melt a little butter with some oil in a pan and gently sook some finely chopped onion. Cut 2 to 3 1 cm slices of cucumber per person and cut into 9 like a noughts and crosses frame. Sprinkle with salt and plenty of smoked paprika and turning up the heat under the onions add to the pan. Cook for 3 or 4 minutes before dressing over the fish. Serve with rice cooked in fish stock - the cubes are fine for this.

Salmon and mushroom tagliatelli

Poach the salmon in a little white wine in a covered pan until just pale pink. Remove from the pan and keep warm. Add a generous knob of butter to the pan, season and add finely chopped mushrooms. Cook until the liquid has evaporated then add some chopped parsley and finish with double cream. Place the fish on a bed of cooked tagliatelli and finish with the sauce.



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Cricket Fixtures

Can summer be far away if cricket is being played in April?

Norfolk Cricket Alliance Fixtures 2012 Division 3

Sat 28 th April	Old Buckenham A	Away
Sat 5th MAY	GREAT WITCHINGHAM A	HOME
Sat 12 May	Swaffham	Away
Sat 19th MAY	SPROWSTON	HOME
Sat 26 th May	Acle A	Away
Sat 2 nd June	Sheringham	Away
SAT 9th JUNE	NORTH RUNCTON A	HOME
Sat 16 th June	Hardingham	Away
Sat 23rd JUNE	GARBOLDISHAM	HOME
SAT 30 JUNE	OLD BUCKENHAM A	HOME
Sat 7 th July	Great Witchingham	Away
Sat 14th JULY	SWAFFHAM	HOME
Sat 21 st July	Sprowston	Away
SAT 28th JULY	ACLE A	HOME
SAT 4th AUG	SHERINGHAM	HOME
Sat 11 Aug	North Runcton A	Away
SAT 18th AUG	HARDINGHAM	HOME
Sat 25 th Aug	Garboldisham	Away

Mid Norfolk Sunday League & Cup

22 nd April	1.00pm	Welney Croft	Away
29 th April	1.00pm	Littleport Town	Away
13th MAY	2.00pm	NARBOROUGH	HOME
20 th MAY	2.00pm	Bircham	Away
27th MAY	2.00pm	NORTH RUNCTON A	HOME
17 th June	2.00pm	Snettisham	Away
8th JULY	2.00pm	LITTLEPORT TOWN	HOME
29th July	2.00pm	BIRCHAM	HOME
5 th Aug	2.00pm	North Runcton A	Away
12th AUG	2.00pm	DENVER	HOME
19th AUG	2.00pm	SNETTISHAM	HOME
26 th Aug	1.30pm	Denver	Away
2nd SEPT	1.00pm	WELNEY CROFT	HOME
16 th Sept	1.00pm	Narborough	Away

Junior Carter Cup Zone 4

10/06/2012	BRADFIELD BULLS	HOME
01/07/2012	Fakenham Lancastrians	Away
22/07/2012	HORSFORD KINGHTS	HOME

2nd Sept 2012 Final - Manor Park, Horsford.

Roger Poll



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

Ella and Eve build a nest

Ella and Eve were talking about the new nest that Mum had helped them to build in the beech tree with the hole in the side of the trunk.

‘Isn’t it good Mum knew of that tree?’ said Ella. ‘We’ll be safe in there, now, without Mum. It seemed funny sleeping on our own in there last night without her for the first time.’

‘Yes,’ Eve agreed, ‘but the days and nights are getting warmer now, so we’ll manage OK. It’s a good job we know of those old, fallen-down birch trees where we can easily strip the bark.’

‘But the best thing was Scoot finding all that moss in the meadow by the pond,’ said Ella. ‘The trouble is, I want to go on and build one of those round nests that Mum was talking about. They take a lot of moss, and Scoot has gone away now. He wasn’t in our nest last night, and now the weather’s getting warmer, I don’t think we’ll see much more of him.’

‘I saw him looking for Cassie early this morning,’ said Eve. ‘Anyway, we know where he got the moss, so we don’t need him. Let’s go and find some nice chestnut trees and build some round nests.’

Some time later, the two sisters stood at the base of a tall sweet chestnut tree, looking up at its swaying branches.

‘There doesn’t seem to be anyone living in this one,’ said Ella, ‘and I don’t smell anyone else’s scent at the bottom of this trunk. I’ll tell you what, Eve, I’ll scent this trunk, and then, will you come with me and get a round bird’s nest that I saw in a large bramble on our way here? It will be a last-year’s nest, and it will contain all we need. It will be a good start if I can get it here, and if you will help me, I’ll help you to find a new tree and get started.’

They soon found the bramble, and together they managed to get the old bird’s nest, but it was a lot more difficult than they thought. They were not used to climbing in such slender branches covered with thorns. The nesting material had been wound round and round some very thorny branches. The sharp thorns helped to hold the tiny twigs and the moss in place, but pulling it away in one piece caused Ella and Eve to scratch their forepaws a lot. They were both bleeding by the time they had got what they wanted. Finally, they added some fresh moss and had it fixed safely on some bark in a fork of the chestnut tree, very high and near the top.

Because the chestnut tree was very high, they had a good view of the top branches of some nearby spruce trees, and Eve saw something that really surprised her.

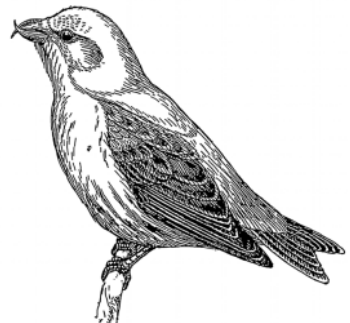
‘Hey, Ella,’ said Eve, ‘there is quite a flock of small birds in those spruces, and I’ve never seen birds like them before.’

‘What’s different about them?’ asked Ella, who couldn’t really see the part of the trees Eve was talking about.

‘They’re about the same size as many small brown birds,’ said Eve, ‘but some of them have sort of pinkish breasts, and they all have very strange beaks.’

‘What’s strange about the beaks?’

‘Instead of being normal birds’ beaks, with the top and bottom parts meeting at the same point, these birds seem to have the ends overlapping, so that they come round in a sort of hook.’



‘Oh, yes, I can see,’ said Ella. ‘They’re also feeding on some old cones they have found in the trees, and I’ve never seen little brown birds do that before. Robins have red breasts, but they are certainly not robins.’

‘No. They’re not,’ agreed Eve. ‘Look! They are biting into the cones to open them, and I bet they are licking the seeds out once they get them open.’

‘But that’s not bird food. That’s our food,’ said Ella rather alarmed. ‘We don’t have many cones left at this time of the year, and I don’t like the idea of them eating up our food.’

‘I’ll tell you what, Ella,’ said Eve. ‘Let’s go and pay Mum a visit and tell her we’ve built another nest for you, and we’re going to build another one for me as well. Then we can tell her about these strange birds.’

‘OK,’ said Ella, ‘but we won’t stay too long. She may not be very pleased to see us again. She has told us to stay away, you know. We’ll go back for a short visit just this once.’

Mum stopped what she was doing to speak briefly with Ella and Eve, and she laughed when they asked her about the pink-breasted birds.

‘Because of that strange beak, they are called crossbills. There’s a story about them. Ages and ages ago, a flock of small brown birds fell into some very thick bramble bushes. They had to struggle and struggle to escape, and as they did so, they were scratched deeply and bled from their breasts. When they finally tore themselves free, they fell to the ground. They landed on their beaks and twisted them, and that is why they look as they do now. So their breasts have stayed pink, and their beaks have stayed twisted.’

‘I wouldn’t worry about them, though. I’ve only seen them once before. They come to an area, like ours, and you see them feeding for a while, but then they all go away again for many years. They won’t harm you, and I don’t think they’ll make much difference to our food supply.’

With those comforting words from Mum, Ella and Eve left her with a smile, and went away to carry on with their nest building. □



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Old Girls Patch

by Meetze

Can you believe it, there are actually 100 ways how to train your human! Incredible. I have successfully mastered a few of them, like laying down, belly up and all four paws in the air to get an “ohhhh” and a cuddle or sitting in front of the bed at night and meowing sadly to be let into the cosy warm bed.

Strangely, Sidney does not like to be in bed, nor do Armani and Johnnie. But Beauty and Vladimir are big competitors these days. Especially since neither of them ask first like me. They just jump on the bed and curl up. And Beauty is very cheeky. She squeezes right between our two humans, starts purring and goes to sleep. No consideration for poor me.

I also found a new spot in the house from where I have a purrfect view all day. The window sill in the office! There are small people passing just before 9 and 3 and larger people with a 4 legged species (I think they are being called dogs) passing between 6 and 8. Some 2-legged ones are in a big hurry, because they are running past with a bottle of water at around 7. They all come back at one point. But at around 2 a group of elderly 2-legged ones walk past. And they do not come back. I wonder where they go? There is not much to see between 10 and 2, therefore I have a nap to freshen up for 2.

I also got a nickname. Because of my white bib, I am now called a Reverend. Whatever that is. I will ask Google later to find out. I need to wait until my big friends are asleep. They do not like me walking over the keyboard. Apparently I am changing settings.

Then one night our humans had a dinner party. A Swiss one. And there were lovely 2-legged guests. They all gave me pats and cuddles and occasionally a piece of ham and cheese fell coincidentally off the table. They all have 4-legged friends at home too. A shame they did not bring them to play with us. Or to snuggle up to. Or to just have a cat chat or a nap together. Never mind. Maybe next time.

I just checked it out. A Reverend is a *Honourable*. I am touched. Thank you Pat!!! We also have been advised of a Polo. We are all not sure about this. Could be a new car. Or loads of mints. or a game. Or just a new shirt for the 2-legged male. I hate this uncertainty. I prefer to know what I can expect.

Our playground now stays open 24/7. In the past the humans closed it when their bedtime approached and re-opened it the next day in the morning. That means our TV is now switched on all the time and “Things with Wings” has become more exciting. Johnnie, Armani, Sidney and I are sitting on our pier very early now to watch the visitors. They are mostly regulars but occasionally there is a new guest.

Vladimir is now a hooligan just like Sidney. They are inseparable these days. Vlad climbs up anything even up our 2-legged friends. There he makes himself comfortable on their shoulders. If he would be a different colour but cream, you could get the wrong idea. He so far destroyed the shower curtains and

wrecked the big plant in our playground. He also likes to sneak into the seed bags and distribute the seeds evenly over the whole carpet. It looks funny when he does that, but our humans are not so happy about it. □



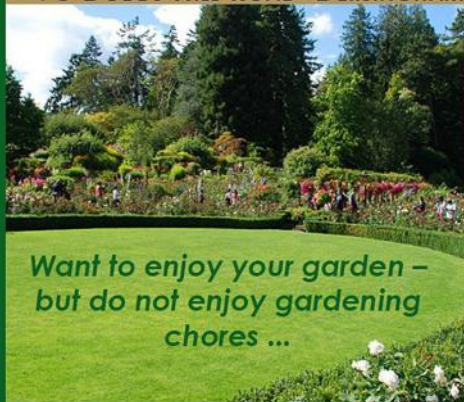
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Steve Davis Spring is Sprung

*Der spring is sprung,
Der grass is riz.
I wonder where dem boidies is?
Der little boids is on der wing.
Ain't dat absoid?
Der little wings is on der boid!*



So says The Budding Bronx version of the poem as published in the book *Verse and Worse* by Arnold Silcock, though it appears to have been around for some time dressed in a variety of dialects. Here perhaps we have little cause to wonder where dem boidies is, having got through around twenty kilos of sunflower hearts and niger seed so far this year! We seem to be getting an assortment of tits and finches, predominantly goldfinches in our garden and even the odd redpoll (see above). It is the goldfinches however that for us have become the new sparrows and I was interested to hear on the news recently that according to the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology), there are nearly five times as many goldfinches about in gardens as there were 16 years ago. They suggest that it is due to the better quality food we are putting out for them! Well, life is still pretty tough for all wild birds so we count it a privilege to be able to pamper them a little and hope that, as in previous years, they will be bringing their young wing fluttering offspring to join the feast.

Just a little way down the Old Beach Track (on the other side of the bypass opposite the end of Station Road) in the late afternoon this week I saw no less than six marsh harriers swooping around in the air at once, one close enough to see the distinctive light head of the female. As I continued onto the beach and around the Snettisham RSPB reserve the varieties of sounds of courting birds was as always a delight, even if rather dominated by the ever increasing raucous assembly of black-headed gulls who will soon be vying for position for potential nest sites and stealing each others nesting material in the process! No doubt they will be taking advantage of some of the extra space on the two recently built up islands that can be seen from the first of the four hides (the Rotary Hide). But occasionally flying overhead I could hear the more refined upper-class nasal exclamation of a Mediterranean gull: "aeoh!" Three to five pairs of these can regularly be seen occupying the long central island of the pit. In keeping with their cry they are clad in a more exotic plumage with a very distinctive full black head, red beak and legs and strut around a little more aloof than the less glamorous, chocolate faced, so-called black-headed gull riff-raff. I also noted around 60 avocet huddled together, though I am told that as many as 200 have been seen there, so we can look forward to seeing their gangly blue-legged chicks there later on.



Mostly, I tend to time my visits to the reserve to catch the high spring tides when the much-publicised wading birds, especially the swirling masses of knot can hopefully be seen swarming in to occupy the banks and islands of the reserve pit to roost before returning an hour or so later to feed along the edge of the retreating tide. For me this makes the cyclaride or trudge down the uneven Old Beach Track on a cold morning just before dawn, so worthwhile. But when the sun lights up the reserve pit with a golden glow, the view from the southernmost Sanctuary Hide can be absolutely stunning and a paradise for any opportunist photographer. Unfortunately such very high

tides are always early morning or evening and are the only times when the lower southern reaches of the Wash mudflats are covered, as the tide effectively floods in from right to left as viewed from the beach pushing the wading birds along as it does so until eventually they have no space left and are forced to take off en mass, we hope in our direction.

It just so happens this year that the next batch of suitable high tides will be on the evenings and early mornings over the Easter weekend: Friday 6th April: 6:57pm, Saturday: 7:29am & 7:41pm, Sunday 8:10am & 8:24pm (if light enough!) and Monday 8:51am, though you need to be on the beach at least an hour before high tide to see any action. You do not need to be a member of the RSPB to enter any of the four hides around the reserve pit, nor to use the RSPB car park off to the left near the end of



Common Road in Snettisham though of course they would be very pleased for you to join and support their worthy cause (rspb.org.uk). From that car park, it is about a 20-30 minute walk to the reserve. Those with mobility difficulties can apply to the Snettisham or Titchwell office of the RSPB for a permit to allow access to the start of the reserve by car. Alternatively the walk down the Beach Track from the Old Dersingham Station takes around 40-60 minutes. Most of the waders will soon be taking off for their relatively short breeding season in the Arctic Circle before trickling back from late July onwards. However there may be a few left to see at the spring tides

over the May Day Bank holiday weekend and you would be most welcome to join Lindsey and I when we lead the Dersingham Walking Group walk to the beach and around the reserve on the Monday (7th) starting from the Old Station at 6pm.

*Oh, the butterflies are flying,
Now the winter days are dying,
And the primroses are trying
To be seen.*

*And the turtle-doves are cooing,
And the woods are up and doing,
For the violets are blue-ing
In the green*

*Oh, the honey-bees are gumming
On their little wings, and humming
That the summer, which is coming,
Will be fun.*

*And the cows are almost cooing,
And the turtle-doves are mooing,
Which is why a Pooh is poohing
In the sun.*

*For the spring is really springing;
You can see a skylark singing,
And the blue-bells, which are ringing
Can be heard.*

*And the cuckoo isn't cooing,
But he's cucking and he's oeing,
And a Pooh is simply poohing
Like a bird.*

On the other side of the spring coin for me is the guilty feeling that I should be tackling all manner of spring-cleaning chores and maintenance issues that have been building up! I am just thankful for relatively maintenance-free UPVC doors and windows and any DIY developments such as One-Coat or water-based exterior paints that can ease the tasks enabling me more time to get out and about and soak up the delights of the spring season. No wonder so many wax lyrical about this time of year. The United States and Canada celebrate April as National Poetry Week, and I understand that UK booksellers have now adopted it too. So I feel justified to finish as I started with one of my favourite poems about spring as recited by *Winnie the Pooh* whose attitude to life and work I feel I probably share a lot in common with! It is from A.A.Milne's second volume *The House at Pooh Corner* and entitled simply *NOISE, BY POOH*, which for optimum effect should be read aloud.

What more can one say? Do make the most of Spring!
Email: steve@davista.co.uk or visit www.davista.co.uk for links to docs, photos & videos □

DERSINGHAM DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY



The Day Centre was up and running again on January 11th with lots of chat about what we had all been doing over Christmas. Thanks to the very efficient heating system in the Church Hall we were able to keep everyone warm. Unfortunately, as is usual at this time of the year, several members and volunteers were absent through illness, but we were back up to strength after a week or two. Since Christmas we have been able to take in three new members who have settled in well. We are up to our maximum number of members again but please don't let this stop you applying or recommending someone, because circumstances do change. We were also pleased to welcome a new volunteer, Cathy Carter. We always need more volunteers so, if you have some time to spare on a Wednesday, please contact me on 01485 544673 for more information.

We hear so much these days, both in the press and on TV, of elderly people in various parts of the country being neglected whilst in hospital. It was, therefore, very reassuring to hear from one of our Members, Mrs Vi Woodbridge, of her recent experience at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn. Following a fall in her home she was taken by paramedics to A & E and from there transferred to BAY 4. She has nothing but praise for all those who looked after her from the paramedics, who saw her first at home, to the nurses who looked after her during her stay in hospital.. She tells of their understanding and kindness when dealing with patients who had a variety of problems, even when they were under pressure and extremely busy. The food was good and nicely presented on trays, water jugs were always available and at all times she felt secure and reassured. She couldn't speak highly enough of her treatment. Her report certainly cheered Members and Volunteers alike.

When Anglian Water informed residents of Dersingham that they were going to clean the water pipes in the village and water would be off from 9.00am to 6.00pm over a three day period, we realized that we would not be able to operate at the Church Hall on the 25th January. Despite only a few days notice we were able to make arrangements for lunch at the Lavender Centre. We were very well catered for and after a good lunch, we had the chance to visit the shops on site.

Then came the snow. It was with regret that we had to cancel the Day Centre on the 8th February due to appalling weather conditions. The Day Centre is only cancelled when conditions are such that our members might be at risk from severe cold, icy paths, etc.

On Saturday, 21st January Day Centre volunteers joined others at the Church Hall with a Table Sale. We hired a table and filled it with bric-a-brac which we were able to sell to raise funds for the Church Hall Restoration Fund. Our Members will benefit greatly from the changes planned and we felt that we would like to make a contribution to show our support of those working so hard to raise the necessary funds. We were able to hand over a cheque for just over £200.

We are now looking forward to Spring and, hopefully, warmer weather. We are starting to plan our usual Easter Party and no doubt Carol, our crafts lady, will be encouraging the decorating of Easter Bonnets ready for our annual competition.

Teresa English paid us a visit on 7th March with her large selection of clothing for women and men. Her visits are always looked forward to by us all and her selection of clothes never disappoints.

The Members and Volunteers at the Dersingham Day Centre wish all Village Voice readers a Very Happy Easter.

Alice Worth

King's Lynn Corn Exchange

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Dersingham St. George's Church of England Junior School

We have had an amazing few months at the school. Last summer we had the best results ever for our SATs. Eighty-eight percent of our children achieved a Level 4 in both English and maths. We were very proud of them.

Mrs. Parton joined our staff in September to teach in one of our year 3 and 4 classes. Since joining us she has been working hard with the children to launch our new website which went live earlier this year. Please visit www.st-georges.norfolk.sch.uk and see all the lovely things we do.

In September too, we were able to open our new Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for behaviour. This is separate from the main school but provides a much needed facility for West Norfolk schools. Children visit the SRB for a maximum of two terms so that we can help them return to their home school successfully having learned strategies of how to behave. We also help train staff from other schools too.

Luke Bolderstone, one of our year 5 pupils won the opportunity to be presented with a signed Bible by the Queen. He and his parents were presented to the Queen at Sandringham House. This event has happened every three years.

We were also delighted to be invited by Dersingham Infant and Nursery School to their visit by HM The Queen. All our children walked down in the snow to participate in this amazing event.



This special event took place at Dersingham Infant and Nursery School.

Luckily for me I got to meet her as I am a House Captain and I was representing our school with other House Captains and Prefects. This amazing experience meant a lot to me, since it was the Queen of course!

I think I was very lucky because not only was I going to meet the Queen but I was also offered one of my favourite lunches in the world – a bacon sandwich.

Eventually the Queen arrived. I was so nervous when she walked in, but when I actually looked into her eyes I realized she was just an ordinary person. She was very kind though!

Overall I had the best day of my life, especially since I got to see my little brother perform in front of me! I will remember this day for the rest of my life.

By Charlotte Farey

AMALGAMATION

Dersingham Infant and Nursery School and St. George's CE Junior School have shared a governing body for nearly two years, and the two schools have been working closely over that period. At a meeting of the Full Governing Body this week, it was unanimously agreed to start the process of fully joining the two Dersingham schools to create a single, all-through, Church Primary School for Dersingham. Obviously, this process will take a while to complete and we are only at the beginning of that process. However, we wanted to share this exciting news with you as soon as possible. We will be sending out more information in the near future, but if you have any queries in the meantime please approach any of the governors or either head teacher.

Sarah Harmer on behalf of the governors

If you would like to visit the school please feel free to do so. Tel: 01485 540308

THE OLD BIDDIE AND HER COTTAGE GARDEN

Valerie Anckorn

What a mild winter we had until mid January when some good hoar frosts occurred. It didn't seem to matter much, as the sun shone and lit up all the icy glory – Jack Frosts Incredible Rime Magic – not so good for folks who can't afford to keep on their heating, and even worse for homeless people, though thankfully we don't have cardboard box occupants in Dersingham. The last time I spent an evening in London I was horrified to see how many people were sleeping rough in shop doorways. Until you witness it, you don't realise how unfortunate some people are.

However, spring is on its way, thank goodness, and life will be easier for everyone. I didn't suffer from the SAD syndrome this year as the sun kept lighting up the winter days, which goes to show that it is the lack of sunshine that lowers our defences. No wonder there is such a high suicide rate in Sweden.

All the flowers in the garden of course have been confused this winter. It was so mild, that bulbs were shooting far too early, buds on branches getting ready, and then the frost comes and shocks them into submission again. Very heartening, however to see all the burgeoning I have to say.

I had a carpal tunnel operation in February, and I'm happy to report that I had no problems whatsoever, enjoyed recuperating indoors with a lovely fire and all the snow looking pretty outside. I was digging (cautiously) again in less than a month! You hear so many people who have these ops and don't seem to reap any benefit. Had a let down with the knee consultant – as I still have a bit of cartilage, they won't operate, but he told me he thought my spine was the problem, and so I had to go into one of those claustrophobic MRI scanners and am waiting to see what the result of that will be. My gardening has been severely thwarted what with one thing and another, but despite lack of attention, I know that the flowers will still bloom, and if the weeds have taken hold, well, most of them are pretty anyway. The one thing about cottage gardens is that they are packed with flowers that bush out and keep weeds at bay – my flower beds always look pretty come what may.

When I began this column I was very keen to impart the various uses of plants in a cottage garden, then I forgot about that, getting old and forgetful - but now it has resurfaced in my mind. My borders have a lot of lovely purple hardy perennial geraniums, with high catmint beside – green, purple, silver and lavender shades. Other plants thrust up beside them with roses peeping out the highest – there is never any earth to be seen under this glorious display.

Cottage gardens were grown for a purpose in the old days and that was mainly medicinal. Most

plants have their uses and catmint is the one I'm going to rattle on about today. I have always loved the look of catmint (or catnip) – it's not a particularly beautiful plant, being quite straggly, but in a border amongst other flowers I think it looks lovely with its silvery leaves and small purple blooms. If you have a cat, you will know how much they love catmint. My felines have always enjoyed rolling with relish in the plant, and there must be a good reason for it. Maybe they like the smell, but probably it is a good insect repellent which gets rid of fleas and mites – the aroma is quite pungent - if you roll a leaf in your fingers you get the strength of it.

You can make yourself catmint tea by using some leaves and flowers, put them in a pot, pour over boiling water, leave for five minutes or so, drain through a sieve and serve. If you have a sweet tooth,

Village Voice Sudoku No 23								
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then add a spoonful of honey and you have a delicious drink. If you wish, you could pluck other herbs like rosemary and lavender and add to the infusion – all free and also very good for you.

The uses for catmint are for controlling fevers, stress, sleep, pain and headaches, stimulating appetite, rheumatism and arthritis, anxiety and colds and flu – so quite a handy plant to have in the garden – and of course the bees love it too, which is very important.

I've grown very fond of euphorbias for a dash of lime green amongst the rest of the garden's foliage. They grow quite large and are ideal for height in borders. I keep musing as I look at my front garden where I have already added five new beds and after my ponderings am thinking about creating more, so that I can totter along lots of little pathways, listening to the bees a-buzzing, looking at all the flowers as they progress from bud to bloom and then to seed (I am acquainted with them all and speak to them personally) but at the same time realising what a lot of work I am letting myself in for – then I think – oh, what does it matter if I can't keep the weeds down – so long as Him Indoors mows the grass for me, it always looks nice! Talking of seeds - when I was a nipper, we actually had gardening lessons at school. Every block of classrooms had large flowerbeds outside full of blooms, and it was the children's task to keep them tidy. When seedpods had ripened, we went out armed with small paper bags into which we emptied seeds, labelling the bag with the name of the flower. It's a simple task, and when you consider how expensive a packet of about 5 seeds cost, it's very economical. It would be a nice idea to swap seeds with neighbours. As usual, I am idle, as I leave the seeds to scatter themselves randomly which does the job just as well. I love to discover what has sown itself, and usually have beds thick with self-sown forget-me-nots in early spring, which always delights me. Aquilegias (Columbines or Granny's bonnets) are good self-sowers too and it is always interesting to see how they evolve with different shapes and colourings.

Talking of evolution, I read an article recently about how the English language is evolving – what with 'street speak' and abbreviated texting I don't think youngsters have any idea of word meanings or spellings anymore and it is a sad fact that the English words and grammar that we oldies learned at school are in fast decline. Such a shame, as there is nothing better than a well-turned phrase - spelt properly of course. Also in decline is handwriting. We spent hours at school writing lines of joined up letters making sure that we had nice handwriting. This seems to be a thing of the past, and how I hate to see people with a pen clenched in a fist as they write, instead of poised properly for a lovely flow. Computers of course are used more extensively than handwriting, but it's just another skill that youngsters don't seem to be taught, or want to learn these days

We had cooking lessons at school, as well as sewing classes, so were well set up for life when branching out on our own. When I look into shopping trolleys full of frozen pizzas and other junk food (which must cost a fortune) I wonder why people don't even think of making a nourishing and tasty soup out of some vegetables that will cost a fraction of the price of the rubbish they are putting into their bodies. Well, I could go on but I'll sound too much like a grumpy old woman.

Spring is now happening around us – a glorious time of the year. I'm so looking forward to seeing my garden re-emerge from it's underworld and bring me cheer.

I've mentioned it before, but it is a fact that old people who enjoy their gardens, live longer – they have something to look forward to you see, waiting for their flowers to bloom. I'll admit I get excited about mine, especially after the bleak winter months.

Spring is a time to enjoy watching the lambs cavort in the fields – which reminds me of my pet sheep, Lambert Ramshackle, many moons ago. I would throw corn to my free-range chickens and he would rush in and nibble what he could get. One spring morning I was puzzled to see that his back was emerald green. On closer inspection, I discovered he had his own 'back' lawn. Yeah, 'corny' joke, eh. The corn had rooted in the ideal warm and damp conditions and had sprouted on his fleece. It took me ages to pick it out!

Don't forget to try some catmint and lavender tea from your garden and have a great spring. □



George Vancouver

Village Voice was sent this picture of the statue of George in Vancouver in British Columbia recently so we thought it would be interesting to let you compare it with ours in King's Lynn.





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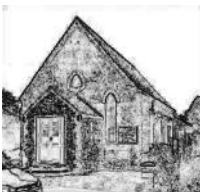
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Greetings from the manse

Have you ever mused that if everything shrunk and got smaller you wouldn't notice any change. Equally if everything uniformly got bigger, again you wouldn't notice that anything stood out as bigger or smaller. Nothing would in fact have changed, or at the very least you would not have noticed any change.

Well I've got to tell you that I have noticed some disturbing changes in my favourite breakfast cereals. They have definitely got smaller! Once upon a time I was satisfied with two s***** w**** but now it's three and I find I need another w***** to release the same amount of energy! People certainly noticed when last autumn a well-known chocolate manufacturer admitted that it had reduced the number of chocs in the tins and boxes of their much loved products. This morning the news reported that the UK Border Agency is to be broken up. I can well remember the then Home Secretary Dr. John Reid announcing the creation of this service describing the Home Office Department it replaced in a phrase that really caught on, saying it wasn't "fit for purpose." The news today was suggesting that no change could be noticed in the work of its replacement.

Folks may well ask what noticeable difference Easter makes to the world. I often say to people who are looking for change, that the experience of those first disciples and believers has something to tell us. After Jesus was taken from them and crucified and even after some of them had met and experienced the risen Jesus, the buses still didn't run on time and you still couldn't find a plumber or electrician when you wanted one! Outwardly the world was very much the same and yet nothing was the same because of their faith, their Easter faith that Jesus who was dead was alive and that he had through selfless and unconditional love conquered the power of sin and death. Put another way, this new Easter faith in the risen Jesus had changed them good and proper so that nothing was the same and everything had changed. They were different people who saw life and others differently even if the buses didn't run on time!

Perhaps this could be a kind of way of seeing the Easter faith in the risen Jesus at work in his followers. Have they changed and do they communicate and demonstrate this change in loving and peaceful action and service for God and neighbour and not in a change that brings self-centred superiority and an ugly judgementalism. This can often be the change that happens, the change that stands out and the difference people notice. As His people we need to be fit for purpose. With every Easter blessing to you and yours,

Rev. Kim Nally

Greetings from Dersingham Methodist Church. During the first months of 2012 we have been busy with several activities and a number of you have supported our coffee mornings or attended 'lunch at the chapel'. Thank you to those whose helped raise over £300 at February's coffee morning, this was divided equally between Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged. We look forward to seeing you all again at our coffee morning on 21st April with proceeds going to the Church.

The Easter festival is one of the most important for the Christian Church, you are welcome to join us for any of our services.

10.00 a.m. Good Friday meditation. 10.30 a.m. Easter Sunday service conducted by Jackie Austin. 6.00 p.m. service with Holy Communion conducted by Rev David Howarth.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness starts at 9.30 a.m. from St Nicholas Church and will stop for a hymn and a prayer at the Methodist Church at approximately 9.40 a.m. for any who wish to join the Walk before continuing round the village.

Forthcoming event: The annual Flower Festival is from Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th May, the theme is 'Count on God'. Make a note in your diaries so you don't forget to come and see the beautiful arrangements, enjoy coffee, lunch or tea, and treat yourself to something from the stalls from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Thursday to Saturday. On Sunday we will be open from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. to see the arrangements and enjoy a cup of tea, stalls will not be available. Any further information about any of the above from Elizabeth Batstone, tel: 541068.

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Elizabeth Fiddick Jannoch's Court and the Dersingham Lily Nursery

On October 29th 1925 the villagers of Dersingham woke to the sad news that a well respected member of their community had passed away. Thus it was that on Monday November 2nd they gathered to pay their last respects as the Rev. J. Douglas Willan conducted the burial service in the church and at the graveside. The coffin was brought across from Dersingham Hall and Theodor Carl Wilhelm Jannoch was laid to rest in a grave lined with moss, chrysanthemums and dahlias. Among the many floral tributes placed alongside was one inscribed, "*Sandringham: From Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria.*" Theodor's final resting place, in the shadow of the church tower, was just a few steps from Dersingham Hall and Brandenburg House the two homes he had occupied for the forty years he had lived in the village. So who was this man who commanded such respect and was remembered by the Royal family? Theodor Jannoch was resting far away from the land of his birth.



Theodor was born in 1850 in Pomerania, Eastern Prussia. Prussia was a large powerful state bordering the Baltic Sea. At this time the country we now know as Germany had not been formed. There were just a number of fiercely independent states, electorates and cities. It would be the state of Prussia lead by Otto von Bismarck in 1871 that would unite them all as Germany. Also since 1517 when Martin Luther had attacked the Roman Catholic Church the area had divided into a Protestant North and Roman Catholic South. For this reason Theodor's grandparents, being protestants, had migrated from the then Kingdom of Bohemia, a Roman Catholic state in the south where the modern Czech Republic can now be found, to Prussia. Mr. Jannoch's father married the daughter of the Chaplain to the Court of the Grand Duke of

Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Her family had been closely associated for many years with the Lutheran Church. Near to Theodor's place of birth was the independent state of Mecklenburg and the Electorate of Brandenburg names which would become significant to our own village in the future. As a young man Theodor studied sculpture and intended to adopt it as his career but he suffered from delicate health and perhaps the dusty atmosphere of a sculptor's studio exacerbated his condition. So he decided an outdoor occupation would be preferable and devoted himself to the study of Horticulture. This led him as a young man to leave his home and travel to England where he entered the Botanical Gardens at Kew to study for several years. He left Kew in March 1874 and around this time he married. I often wondered before I started this research what had brought Theodor from London to this small village in West Norfolk but the census return of 1881 gave me the answer. His wife Mary was born in this village in about 1855 but

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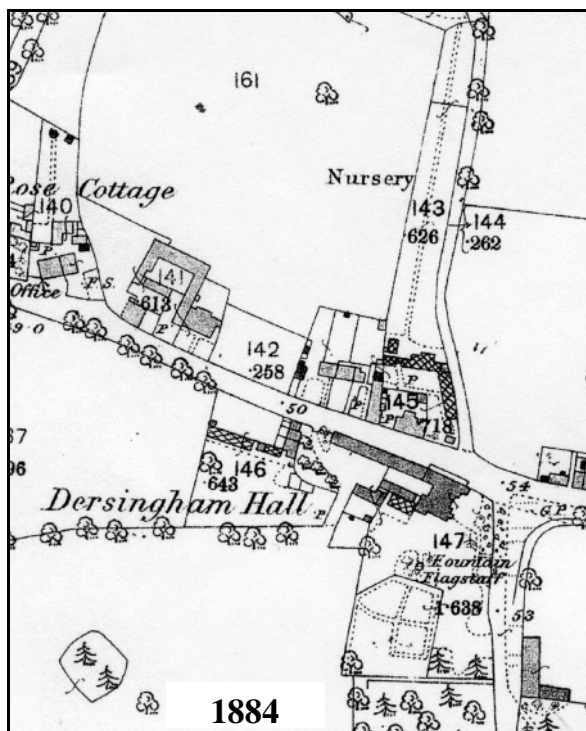
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King's Lynn, January 23rd, 1880.



unfortunately at the time of writing I have not yet discovered her family name. In 1875 while still living in London Theodor and Mary celebrated the birth of their first child Daisy. It was shortly after this that Theodor, Mary and baby Daisy left London and travelled to this village as Theodor had decided to set up his own nursery. The family settled in the house at the bottom of Sugar Lane now known as Lane End but shortly after Theodor's arrival it became known as Brandenburg House. Next door was another large property still called Mecklenburg House today and by its name alone must have had a connection to the Jannoch family. I have speculated that perhaps this land or some of it could have belonged to Mary's family. The Dersingham map of 1884 shows the property at the bottom of Sugar Lane with many greenhouses and the nursery extending up the hill towards Hill House. The village when Theodor and Mary arrived here had a population of

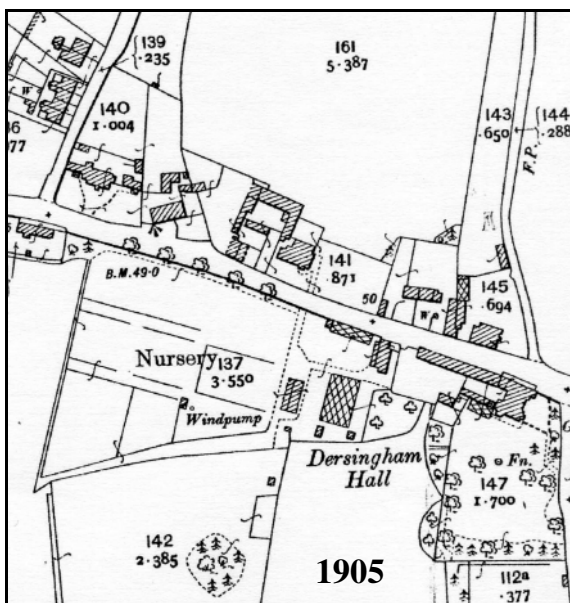
just over 1000. It was smaller than today with much more pasture land and marsh. Across the road from the nursery Dersingham Hall was occupied by John and Hannah Goggs and their nine children. The church, which had become very dilapidated over the years, had been restored at a cost of £5000 and an imposing new Rectory had just been completed on the high ground above the church. The Reverend Edward William Penney had taken up residence there and had no doubt welcomed Theodor and his family to the village. As I wrote in the last issue one Methodist chapel had been built and the Bethel chapel was completed shortly after the family's arrival. A new village school had also been built at the bottom of Dodds Hill and Alfred Firth had been appointed Head Teacher. He was living in the School House which I believe was the large carstone cottage which once stood in what is now the playground and had been the Manor House of Pakenham Manor. A few doors away from Brandenburg House Enoch Beckett the Post Master ran his Post Office, grocery and drapers in the long cottage at the end of King's Croft. Joshua Freeman was living with his wife Susan and two daughters at the Manor House and farming 1300 acres. The railway of course was well established and Matthew Bullock was the station master who supervised the frequent services to Lynn and Hunstanton. Theodor and his wife could also have travelled directly into London and there were frequent special excursions. In 1875 one was advertised at the cost of 12 shillings First Class or 6 shillings in a covered car. The train left at 6am and reached London Bishopsgate at 10.10 a.m. It returned the following day at 5.30p.m. but no luggage was allowed apart from a small bag carried by the owner. There were six public houses in the village. Also high above the village the last remaining windmill was operated by Matthew Fitt the master baker and corn miller. The village was quite self sufficient with butchers, grocers, bakers, coal merchants, shoe makers, carpenters, builders, tailors, dressmakers and if you so wished Elizabeth Wyer would make you a straw bonnet. There were several farms both large and small with all the trades associated with an agricultural community, wheelwrights, hurdlemakers,

blacksmiths and so on. Theodor's nursery would fit into the village pattern extremely well.

Over the next few years Theodor worked to establish his nursery business and soon adverts were appearing in the local press. In 1880 from *The Lily Nursery Dersingham* T. Jannoch begged, "to announce that his stock of bedding plants is in excellent condition. Orders for the same are now being booked." Another advert that same year advised that he had Camellias, Azaleas, Primulas, Cinerarias, Hyacinths and Lily - the - valley for sale along with Palms and Foliage plants of all kinds. Furthermore floral work of any description would be carried out in, "the most artistic designs". Bouquets, wreaths and crosses would be made to order and sent to any part of the kingdom and hotels could be supplied with plants and flowers on the hire system. The business was clearly flourishing. Theodor and Mary's family also grew steadily. Dora was born in about 1877, and Aveline or Vena in 1878 and a year later Rudolf was born.

While at Kew, Theodor was regarded as one of the pioneers in the application of the "retarding" principle to many plants but at Dersingham he also became interested in experiments that would produce the opposite effect by subjecting plants to the influence of ether. He also began to specialise in the growing of Lily-of-the-valley and soon proclaimed that he was the largest grower of those plants in England with a stock of over two million. Someone who took a keen interest in his experiments and frequently visited the nursery was The Prince of Wales. On his accession to the throne as King Edward VII he still maintained his interest so that Theodor advertised that he was "nurseryman, florist and Lily-of-the-valley grower by special warrant to their Majesties The King and Queen Alexandra." Christmas Day 1909 was the last time the King visited the nursery before his death the following year.

As the twentieth century dawned Theodor's business was thriving. His family were grown up and we learn that his youngest daughter Vena had inherited her father's artistic abilities as the parish magazine reported that she had received the honour of having a picture hung at the Royal Academy of Arts. The year after this Dersingham Hall had become vacant and Theodor had obviously bought it and was advertising it to let furnished. However it was not long before he had moved his family to The Hall and set up his nursery on the land which is now the Old Hall Estate. Brandenburg House and Mecklenburg House had new occupants. Perhaps the most significant change however was noted in the 1901 census where Theodor was recorded as a Naturalized English Subject. He took a full and active part in village life. He donated generously towards the fund for the tower clock to be placed in the church tower to mark the 1901 coronation as well as making regular donations to the cricket club. He was active in the Sandringham Estate Cottage Horticultural Society and in 1911 he was one of the first names put forward to serve on the committee to consider all the suggestions for marking the coronation of King George V. He was a member of the Royal Horticultural Society and regularly exhibited at that Society's Spring Show in London where he won both gold and silver medals. The Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew have many entries in their records of the plants that he sent there. By 1911 his son Rudolf was living in London and working in Islington as a Clerk in a



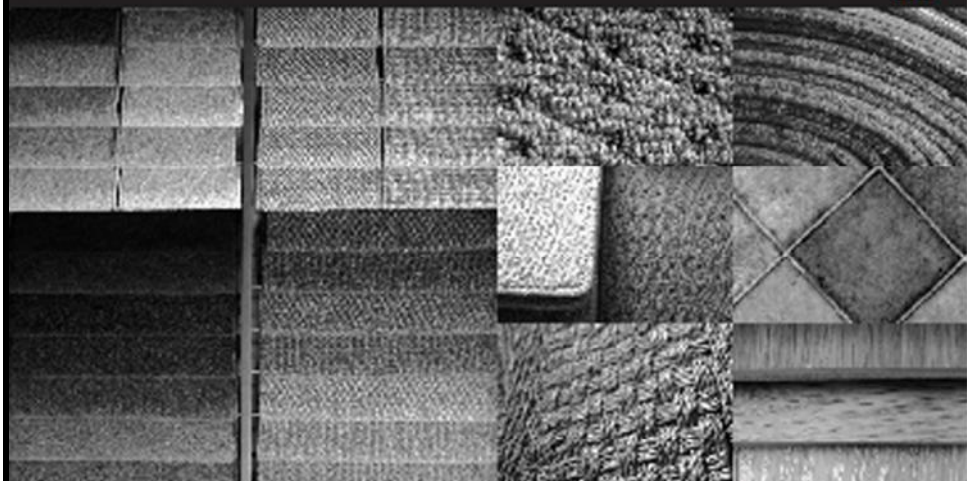
Marine Insurance Office.

The years 1914 to 1918 must have been a difficult and uncomfortable time for Theodor as the war with Germany was fought. It was after all between his adopted country and the land of his birth. The papers were full of anti- German rhetoric and reports of attacks on businesses with German sounding names filled the local press. There was special unease about aliens in Norfolk because of the closeness of the North Sea. In August 1914 the Alien Registration Act was published and all Germans had to register with the authorities by August 17th. Aliens had to have a permit if travelling more than five miles from their registered place of residence and they had to carry an identity document. In a letter to the local press the Chief Constable reported there were just 4 German males in the county. One was a pauper in the workhouse and the other 3 were found to be perfectly harmless after thorough investigation. One of these I assume must have been Theodor. I was told some years ago that Theodor had been interned but so far I have not discovered if he did leave the village during these years. Nevertheless it must have been an uneasy time for him especially when in January 1915 the Zeppelin L4 flew over the village and went on to cause death and destruction in Lynn (VV No.38) Then the following year another Zeppelin raid damaged a cottage up Doddshill and killed the lady living there. There is no evidence that Theodor experienced any difficulties at this time. His son Rudolf served with the Middlesex Regiment from 1914 – 1920. After the war he and his family continued to be held in high regard. By this time Theodor had largely retired from active business and in his final years he devoted his attention to raising new varieties of Lilacs. His collection was considered to be the finest in the country. He had just developed a lilac of primrose hue when he was confined to his room in poor health so it was not introduced to the public. After just six weeks illness he died on October 29th 1925. His wife Mary, who was described as a strong vigorous personality, lived on at the hall cared for by her daughter Dora until she died in 1933 and was laid to rest next to her husband.

Theodor's nursery has disappeared beneath the houses of the Old Hall Estate but his home Dersingham Hall now bears the name Jannoch's Court and on the opposite side of the road the property there still carries the name Mecklenburg House. Older villagers used to call the road by the church Jannoch's corner and I can remember the woods where Croft House now stands being full of snowdrops and lily-of-the –valley and perhaps somewhere that pale yellow lilac still flowers. □



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NEWS FROM ST CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The parish Rosary Group meets at St Cecilia's on Mondays at 2pm and prays in particular for sick and housebound people in the area. Recently there was a change of venue for just one meeting, and the group met at the home of May Davey for tea. The Rosary Group has gone from strength to strength, and is always happy to welcome visitors and new members.

Our Social Calendar this year opened with a friendly and informal Pancake Supper at St Cecilia's. Scores of



pancakes and interesting toppings (though the vote still seems to be for lemon and sugar) were consumed by appreciative diners, as we enjoyed this traditional pre-Lent meal. It was especially pleasant to welcome our new priest, Fr Michael, to his first social event in the parish.

On the following day, there was a good attendance for the Ash Wednesday service, marking the start of Lent. We were marked with ashes to signify our sorrow for our failings and intention to make prayerful preparation for the great feast of Easter.

The dates and times of our main services for Holy Week and Easter are below. Further details are on our website www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.

		9.45pm	Compline	Hunstanton
Maundy Thursday	April 5th	7.30pm	Mass of the Lords Supper followed by Watching until 10pm	Hunstanton
Good Friday	April 6th	3.00pm	Liturgy of the Lords Passion	Dersingham
		6.30pm	Stations of the Cross	Hunstanton
Holy Saturday	April 7th	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Hunstanton
		8.00pm	Solemn Easter Vigil	Hunstanton
Easter Sunday	April 8th	9.00am	Mass of Easter Day	Dersingham
		11.00am	Mass of Easter Day	Hunstanton

Our spring Ladies' Lunch will take place on Saturday, May 12th. This is a very friendly and informal occasion and all ladies in the area are warmly invited to join us at St Cecilia's. Newcomers to the area will be especially welcome – you do not have to belong to the Catholic or any other Church. Tickets are free, but you are asked to bring some food to share. If you would like to join us, please ring May Davey on 01485 544953 for a ticket.

We are also making plans for our Strawberry Fair, which is scheduled this year for June 23rd. There will be the usual stalls and of course excellent strawberry teas! Hope to see you there!

We are always happy to welcome visitors to our services, whether they are visiting the parish from elsewhere, or live in the area. Refreshments are served after the 9am Mass at Dersingham on the first Sunday of the month. We also have a friendly and informal gathering after the 10.15 Mass at Dersingham on Wednesdays. Do come and visit – we'd love to see you. □

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Dersingham Library



For those of you with very little time to read, then why not try our Quick Reads! These are short reads, of around 100 pages, written by big name writers. You get a complete book, nothing abridged.

There's a new batch of titles including Maeve Binchy, Conn Iggulden, Alexander McCall Smith, Maureen Lee and Lynda La Plante.

New in paperback

James Patterson - 10th anniversary

Jean Auel - Land of painted Caves

Rosie Thomas - Kashmir Shawl

Elizabeth Buchan - Daughters

Alexander McCall Smith - Saturday Big Tent Wedding Party

Vanessa Diffenbaugh - The language of flowers

Camilla Lackberg - The stranger

Donna Leon - Drawing conclusions

Anthony Riches - Fortress of spears

Katie Flynn - First love, last love

Val Wood - Harbour girl

Annie Murray - My daughter, my mother

Philippa Gregory - lady of the rivers

Wilbur Smith - Those in peril

Mark Billingham - Good as dead

New in hardback (request a copy for 80p!)

Alexander McCall Smith - The Limpopo academy of private detection

Jo Nesbo - Phantom

Jonathan Kellerman - Victims

Camilla Lackberg - The drowning

And just so you can see how well read your library staff are, I've included a few of our recent reads. If you'd like to tell us what you've been reading you can send your reviews to the library bookblog at : <http://norfolklibrarybookreviewblog.wordpress.com/>

Laysrin - I recently read a few books by Stephen Clarke- titles : Talk to the snail, Merde actually, A year in the merde, etc.

I enjoyed reading them. They are really funny stories especially the way the writer deals with the British attitude towards the French and vice versa, the differences between the two nations such as culture, cuisine, language, et bien sûr la vie privée and so on. If anyone loves visiting France, they should read these books ! I hope you enjoy reading them, as much as I did, and find the stories hilarious.

Alison - Still raving about *She's never coming back*, first novel from Swedish writer *Hans Koppel*. I read it in two evenings and couldn't go to sleep without knowing how the book was going to end. It was very violent in parts, as are some of the best Scandinavian crime novels. Wife goes missing, husband presumes she's stayed over with friends after a night out, but she's been kidnapped by a couple who are actually her neighbours. Grizzly, graphic but kept me hooked. Similar in style to *Jussi Adler-Olsen's Mercy*. I'm listening to Joe Dunthorne's *Wild Abandon* in the car which is very funny. It's a novel about a brother and sister growing up in a commune in Wales. Wonderful descriptions. Just started *Me before you* by *Jojo Moyes* on my sister's recommendation. Very different to what I'd normally choose but I like her suggestions and I've loved what I've read so far.

Karen - I have just read *War Horse* by *Michael Morpurgo*. I cried three times and, although the film was excellent, I much preferred the book . I am just about to start other works of Morpurgo and a few other authors I missed in my youth! Other reading has included *The Lavender Cookbook*

and *Natural Housekeeping*, the conclusion being from the latter that all you need in your cleaning cupboard is lots of lemon, vinegar, bicarbonate of soda and a few well washed rags! If only it were that easy! Lining up on my bookcase, in addition to *Kensuke's Kingdom*, are *Moon over Soho* and *Dressmaker of Khair Khana*.

Lindsey - Loving Rachel Vincent's *Soul Screamers* series. Now on book 5 and have persuaded other staff to read it (Alison!) . A twist on the Twilight theme, with banshees and better! Not quite so gruesome but definitely enchanting. Also re-reading James Patterson's *Suzanne's diary for Nicholas* and *Sam's letters to Jennifer* as well as *Howard's End*

Helena - Liked *Buried Circle* by Jenni Mills - crime with some history and adventure thrown in. Couldn't put it down. Made me want to read more by this author. On my shelf to read are Kate Brown's *The Beauty Chorus*, Katherine Webb's *Unseen*, and Peter Lovesey's *Stagestruck*

The Great Reading Takeaway

If you love great books but you're not sure which titles to choose, then help is at hand at your local library. Dersingham Library will be feeding your appetite for great books and films with The Great Reading Takeaway, featuring 4 reading menus based on 4 countries: China, Italy, India and Britain. The reading menus include adult, teenage and children's books, featuring fiction, cookery and travel writing.

The titles in the Great Reading takeaway are...

British Menu

1. The Last Letter from Your Lover - Jojo Moyes
2. The Point of Rescue - Sophie Hannah
3. We Bought a Zoo - Benjamin Mee
4. The Thirty-nine Steps - John Buchan
5. Young Sherlock Holmes: Death Cloud - Andrew Lane
6. Great British Bake Off: How to Bake - Linda Collister

Chinese menu

1. Message from an Unknown Chinese Mother - Xinran
2. Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress - Dai Sijie
3. Little Hut of Leaping Fishes - Chiew-Siah Tei
4. China Road - Rob Gifford
5. The Firework-maker's Daughter - Philip Pullman
6. China Modern - Ching-He Huang

Italian Menu

1. The Snack Thief - Andrea Camilleri
2. Amore and Amaretti - Victoria Cosford
3. Pompeii - Robert Harris
4. The Italian Wedding - Nicky Pellegrino
5. The Sewer Demon - Caroline Lawrence
6. The I Diet - Gino D'Acampo

Indian Menu

1. Bitter Sweets - Roopa Farooki
2. Q and A - Vikas Swarup
3. The Case of the Missing Servant - Tarquin Hall
4. The White Tiger - Aravind Adiga
5. Indian Takeaway - Hardeep Singh Kohli
6. Seasons of Splendour - Madhur Jaffrey/Michael Foreman

You can find out more about the promotion at www.library.norfolk.gov.uk

For our regular library events check out our library website at:
http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Leisure_and_culture/Libraries/Branch_libraries/NCC007488
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The Dersingham Weather Observed by John F. Murray

Both January and February were dominated by prolonged high pressure which started on 5th January and continued, more or less right through until March. As I have explained previously, high pressure at this time of the year means clear skies. At night this generally causes low temperatures but at the same time produced some excellent opportunities for star gazing. Jupiter was plainly visible for both months and Venus was the brightest object in the sky, close to Jupiter for the latter half of February. High pressure isn't always good however. Clear skies mean no cloud cover and no clouds means, of course, no rain. In January we had 37.6mm of rain. This is well below 61.3mm which is the monthly average. In February we had 19.4mm, again below the average of 48.5mm.

January wasn't a particularly cold month. Although the clear skies in winter usually mean very cold nights the extent of the high pressure area was such that it was bringing warmer air from the south, for a time anyway. The average temperature for the month was 5.1°C which puts it between the high average of January 2008, at 7.0°C and the other end of the scale of January 2010, at 1.9°C. The highest recorded temperature was 12.6°C which is about midway between the highs and lows of previous Januaries. The lowest recorded temperature was -3.9°C. This is also round about midway between previous recorded lows.

The only other point worth noting for January was the wind speed. I recorded gusts of 40mph on two consecutive days, the 3rd and 4th. Although this is not the highest I have recorded it is certainly a record for consecutive days. Again the high pressure area was the catalyst for this. When low and high pressure areas move close together, because they are circulating in opposite directions, the wind speeds are increased where they meet.

The month of February differed from January because by then the high pressure had been with us for a while and something had to give. As the high pressure area moved more to the north it brought down cold arctic air. We had a covering of snow and on 11th I recorded my lowest ever temperature of -11.5°C. This was way below any previous February. The closest was in 2008 with -5.9°C. The mean temperature was the second lowest for that month at 3.8°C. However, conversely, the highest temperature this February was 17.7°C. This was because of the lack of cloud cover giving the sun a chance to warm things up during the day. The previous high for February was in 2008 with 15.8°C.

I am tempted to finish the article by stating the obvious. That being that we are being threatened with restrictions in water usage because of the lack of rainfall but I am sure that just about everyone must be aware of this through the media. However these things do tend to even themselves out in the long term and I am sure you all must know from previous articles that I am a climate change sceptic.

So I will finish off on a more positive note. You may or may not have noticed that the Parish Council has a new look web site. It can be found at dersinghampc.org.uk and if you want to see what the weather is like in the village in real time then click on the blue links button just above the village coat of arms. On the links page under weather click on 'current weather conditions'. There were just under 500 hits on the site in February.

That's the end of the report for this issue, but as I am writing this I can hear rain hitting the window. I am keeping my fingers crossed! □

Impossible Pie! from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen by Lindsey Davis

Mix, bake and amazingly it separates into a pastry base, soft filling with coconut crust topping!

Ingredients

4 eggs, ¼ cup (50g) butter or margarine, 1 cup (200g) caster sugar, ½ cup (100g) flour, ¼ tsp salt, ½ tsp baking powder, 2 cups (3/4 pt/425 ml) milk, 1 cup (75g) desiccated coconut, 1 tsp vanilla

Place all ingredients into a blender or food processor at one time and blend until well mixed.

Pour into a buttered 10" (25cm) pie dish, and bake on Gas 4 (180°C) for 1 hour.

4-6 servings



Art Exhibition

There is free admission to Snettisham Art Groups Easter Exhibition at the Royal British Legion Hall, Church Road, Snettisham on the 6th to 9th of April. Open from 10.00am to 5.30pm you can help them celebrate their 15 years of exhibitions. □

New Secretary

Dersingham Carpet bowls Club have a new secretary in Stuart Beale of 18 Earl Close, Dersingham, PE31 6XZ. Telephone 01485 540686.□

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Flight Into My Future - part 1

by William Pemberton

In the summer of 1957 I was on the coach from the old London Airport heading into the West London air terminal on Cromwell Road, passing by seemingly endless red brick terraced houses, slick with the rain that had been falling since my flight had landed. It was hard to comprehend that it was only eight hours since I had left behind the heat and sunshine of my home just south of Athens in Greece.

It was my choice I told myself, that I was on this coach in this foreign landscape instead of the bright Greek sunshine. Again I forced my thoughts to look forward to the new life I had chosen for myself, surely I thought all of England can't be this drab. Daydreaming about my flight I thought how marvellous to have been on one of the fantastic machines that used to overfly our house, making that high pitched whine characteristic of the gas turbine engines that drove the Vickers Viscount, the first of the modern airliners.

Eight hours was the journey time from Athens to London with a re-fuelling stop in Rome. The excitement and anticipation outweighed my sadness at leaving my friends and family behind, and the thrill of the flight itself overshadowed any fear I might have felt. The food on the flight was something I will always remember. To start, smoked salmon salad followed by roast chicken and vegetables, dessert was apple pie and custard then cheese and crackers with tea or coffee. All served by liveried stewards off salvers onto proper china plates and eaten with real cutlery, not the horrible plastic things we get nowadays, and I won't forget the lady that sat next to me, she smoked and ate at the same time. She also explained that the strange smelling thing on my plate was smoked salmon, a very expensive delicacy and that I should enjoy it.

Of course this was not my first time in an aeroplane. When I was about 6 or 7 I went with my dad to Crete in an American Dakota. The Americans wanted to recover the remains of one of their citizens, killed during the battle for Crete in 1941 and buried in the British and Commonwealth War cemetery in Chania. The flight was laid on for this sole purpose. The pilot called me up to the flight deck and sat me in the co-pilots seat where he let me handle the controls. I knew it wasn't pretend because when I moved the stick the aeroplane followed. I watched the poor chap dug up, his remains were put in a sack, placed in the boot of the taxi and after that I don't remember any more.

Trying my best to appear what I wasn't, which was a smooth faced fifteen year old in my father's friend's cut down suit, I made an effort to consume my food as delicately as I could. Way back in 1957 only the really well off could afford to fly and they all dressed for the occasion, no scruffs on planes in those days. The fare was £56.10 shillings one way, a good wage then would be about £6.10 shillings a week. At today's prices that would equate to about £900. I think my father's employer, the War Graves commission, paid my fair as this would end their obligation to pay for my schooling at the American community school in the Athens suburb of Kalamaki which was only a short bicycle ride from our house.

Dad worked for the War Graves Commission which he joined shortly after his demob from the army, my mother was Greek and they had married in Egypt in 1941, I was born in Alexandria in 1942. We arrived in Greece in 1946, having first braved the journey from Egypt to England in early 1945 to rejoin my dad who had been wounded in Burma as one of the famous Chindits. Dad went out first and mum, myself and baby brother Peter born in December 1945 followed by sea later. I was playing in the ship's gangway with some other children kicking a balloon, when I kicked it, it burst. Fearful for what I had done, I went and hid under my mum's bunk. When mum came looking for me she couldn't find me, she panicked and ran to the ship's Captain who initiated a man overboard drill. When he found me hiding under the bunk he gave me a good smacking, these

days he would be had up for child abuse.

When the ship docked at the port of Pireaus dad ran up the gangway to embrace me, he was upset when I turned away and ran back to my mother. This was understandable as we were really strangers to each other. Dad had been in Burma since before I was born and since he came back his illness with recurring malaria and my 6 week spell in hospital with Scarlet Fever hadn't given us much time to build a relationship.

Our house was a large bungalow situated behind the War cemetery. Consisting of about six bedrooms, it had been one of the houses of an old German family by the name of Grohmann, they had an extensive estate that stretched from the sea right up almost into Athens itself. Ours had been the home of one of the daughters, the other houses were what could only be described as large mansions. One of them was built on top of a hill within the bounds of the war cemetery itself. When I first took note of it it was in a semi ruined state, I think it had been used by the German army and it is possible the RAF had bombed it at some time during the war. On three sides of this building was a long verandah with views over the Saronic gulf and the Island of Aegina. From the back one had views of the south of Athens, taking in the Acropolis and mount Lycavitos. The Acropolis and Lycavitos were also visible from our kitchen window. For one week every December the Acropolis would be illuminated for some reason I didn't know, as this coincided with my brother's birthday he thought it was for him. At some time in the 1960s the War Graves commission knocked down the house on the hill, an act of vandalism if ever there was one.

The third house, an even bigger mansion, was adjacent to the War Cemetery which when we came to Greece in 1946 was being used as a Greek war veterans hospital. I used to go there and speak with the patients, some were horribly wounded, and I remember being fascinated watching the blind men playing dominoes, one of them I am sure wasn't completely sightless and was cheating because he used to win nearly every game. One unfortunate had lost both hands and his sight and he was terribly scarred, I think a grenade had gone off in his hands. He spent nearly all of his time walking up and down the path and the stairs following a guide wire. He used to ask me questions about our surroundings and ask me to describe the sky to him. It may seem strange not to be repelled at the sight of these disfigurements but I don't think a five year old has the experience to not know that these disfigurements were not usual. This building was eventually knocked down to make a huge block of flats.

The Grohmann estate used to provide fresh water, milk and agricultural produce to the south of Athens, it is only now with hindsight that I am able to comprehend the scale of it all. They had five full size clay tennis courts and a considerable area under glass, to my eternal shame I along with other boys smashed up a lot of them. The Grohmanns left Greece when the German army retreated in 1944 and they were all killed in an ambush on the Greek Yugoslav border except for their youngest son Rudi Grohmann who survived because he didn't join the Nazis and fought instead with the Greek partisans, I got to know him and his son who was more or less my age. Sometime after the war Rudi was able to claim back some of the family estate and become a very wealthy man, his son now has an olive oil factory somewhere in Greece.

I started my schooling in 1947, when I started, the school was run by the British Army. It was great when the British were there, my dad would go to the NAAFI and get our goodies, Mars bars and Crunchies. I can remember my dad used to take me with him on visits to his army friends and all they ever appeared to do was to sit around drinking tea and smoking. One of his friends was the Garrison clerk of works. He built himself a speedboat in the workshops and put a Jeep engine in it. The engine came out of a Jeep he reported stolen and we went out in it several times. The British withdrew from Greece in 1949 leaving a small navy training team behind.

When the British forces withdrew the Americans came in and my school became the Anglo American school. Eventually it changed it's name to the American Community School. Of course while all these name changes were happening the location and size of the buildings was also changing. The last school I attended was in the south of Athens on the coast not very far from our house, it was also on the approach to the main airport. After I left the inevitable happened, a US

Navy plane took off the top floor, where my classroom was located. Fortunately school was out so no one was hurt. The location changed again but by then I was no longer interested.

We had an unusual upbringing in that when we were at school we were with well off American children but when we went home we played with the local Greek boys and girls, some of them were dirt poor. To them in the late 1940s shoes were a luxury.

Some people in our neighbourhood were squatting in what used to be Grohmanns farm buildings. My best friend was one of 9 children and they all lived in what used to be two pigsties. They all lived good moral lives and they all ended up with good futures. One of the boys I played with lived with his widowed father in a hovel dug into the side of a dry river bed. By dint of hard work he became an engineer and rose to be a technical manager for Olympic Airways.

School for me was a very enjoyable experience and some quite interesting things happened. In my final year which was in the American 8th grade or junior high, we were doing biology. One of my classmate's father was the medical examiner for the Greek Police. He arranged for our class to attend a post mortem at the Athens University. A classmate fainted when they opened the chest cavity, I caught him as he fell and helped him out of the room. I didn't go back. Jayne Mansfield visited Athens in 1956 or 7. Two of my friends met her but I went fishing instead, what an idiot!

Greece just after the war was a very interesting place for young boys to be, with all the munitions left over by both sides, .303 cartridges were plentiful and we used to take out the cordite and make small piles which we then fired. Tragedy struck a young acquaintance when he found what he thought was a money box on the beach, it turned out to be a German stick grenade that went off and fatally wounded him. The people squatting in the farm buildings decided to clean their well, all sorts came out of it. I remember machine guns, radio sets, rifles and I don't know what else. Thinking back now who could have been responsible because the Grohmanns were Nazis.

We went out into the countryside one day to see the chicken farm a man from the embassy was starting with a Greek partner. My brother and I went out to explore and we found an unexploded mortar bomb. We took it to show my dad. You should have seen dad's face, it went white. He shouted "DON'T DROP IT!" He had been in a mortar platoon in the army. Of course I heard him wrong and I did drop it. It really was a dud because we are all still here. Oh, the Greek partner stole all the chickens and the enterprise folded.

We swam and fished with line and spear gun and hunted birds with catapults and air rifles, my brother trapped song birds and sold them, dad got angry with him and opened his cages and let all the birds escape. In the summer we used to be out all day only going home to eat and sleep, in just a pair of shorts and often barefoot. The freedom we enjoyed is unimaginable today. All around our house was a large Pine forest, hunters used to come from far and wide to bag the Turtle doves that used to stop over on their migration. My young brother Peter struck up a friendship with the local Chief of police who was a little short sighted. A dove was sitting in the tree branches above him. When Peter pointed it out to him he was over the moon when he shot the bird. After that whenever he came to the woods to shoot he would call for Peter, Peter was like his Pointer dog. The Chief and my dad struck up a friendship that helped to get us out of some scrapes we got into. The biggest pleasure was of course the cinema and we went whenever we had the money. In the summer we schemed of ways to get over the wall of the open air shows. Some things seem to recur like Greek currency inflation, in the late 40s early 50s I recall taking our money in a paper bag to get into the pictures. The Greek finance minister knocked off several zeros from the Drachmae, solving the currency problem but pauperising a lot of people.



Part 2 of this story will be published in Village Voice No 76

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 76	Wednesday 9th May	Monday 28th May
No 77	Wednesday 11th July	Monday 30th July
No 78	Wednesday 12th September	Monday 1st October
No 79	Wednesday 7th November	Monday 26th November
No 80	Wednesday 23rd January	Monday 11th February

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 9th May 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 9th May 2012 for publication on Monday 28th May 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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James Graven's



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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday April 3rd

GARDENING QUESTION TIME

Why did it die?
When do I prune it?
Is it poisonous?
I want something red for
a dark corner?
Do you recommend manure?
How deep should I plant it?

**Bring along your
specimens
and photo's**

**With Martin Woods -
Sandringham's head gardener
and Trevor Harrison - Greak Plant Centre**

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

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday May 1st

Dersingham in pictures from King's Lynn Library

Linda Tree
community librarian
delves into the archives



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