

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



Lace makers rise to the challenge - page 65



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Editor's Notes

I was set to wondering when I saw the window display at the post office the other day, just how you would get the average séance holder into the “medium posting box”?

If, like me, you enjoy a good gardening programme on television but cannot stand Monty Don there is a solution to the problem if you have satellite equipment. At 7.30 on Thursdays on BBC2 Scotland you can enjoy Beechgrove Garden. This little gem just gets on with good, useful information.. You heard it here folks unless you get the Radio Times and looked at the letters page of the issue for the 5th May. Great minds etc.

The Parish council is now in it's new home - 4 Post Office Road. Given the lack of imagination shown in the naming of other village streets - Bank Rd, Hunstanton Rd, Lynn Rd - to name but a few, perhaps we should look to rename it Parish Council Roadhmmm perhaps not.

There are still loads of pigeons around the village. There were at least 20 of the blighters fossicking around by the village sign the other day. Presumably the moles had brought something tasty to the surface though it's hard to think what. Our cat tries his best. He is averaging 4 a week at the moment but the mystery is how he gets them and his portly self, through the cat flap. Fond though I am of seared pigeon breast, somehow his catch is less than inviting. Some of them have taken to perching on a sliver of roof next to our garden path with the consequent slippery additions that we then tread in. I have devised an arrangement of fishing line stretched between sticks in an effort to deter them and I will report in it's efficacy.

We have all sorts again this edition, I note from the numbering that this is my 25th as editor, so there must be something for everyone - a competition, fish, ponds, Dick Melton, two Steves Nowell and Davis, the Social Club, antiques, church bits, squirrels, weather and loads more. In other words your June Village Voice.

Tony

Cheesy Bean Quiche!

from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen by Lindsey Davis

Delicious served hot or cold with vegetables or salad

Cheese Pastry:

225g plain flour

75g butter

75g grated cheese

1 egg yolk

cold water to mix

Serves

4 - 6

Filling:

2 eggs + extra white

150ml milk

1 tbsp chopped parsley

seasoning

125g can of red kidney beans, drained

125g cheddar cheese - grated

1. Mix all the pastry ingredients together and add enough water for it to stick together.
2. Roll out pastry and use to line 10" flan ring or pie plate. Bake for approx 15 mins.
3. Meanwhile beat the eggs well with milk, parsley and seasoning.
4. Add the beans and most of the cheese. Pour into the pastry case and top with the remaining cheese.

Bake 190°C (Gas 5) approx 45 mins until firm



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Dear Village Voice

West Norfolk Befriending works with socially isolated older people living in West Norfolk. Many of our clients are socially isolated due to their role as a carer, or due to a long term physical disability or sensory impairment.

West Norfolk Befriending aims to reduce social isolation and improve life quality by matching isolated older people with a trained CRB checked, and fully inducted volunteer befriender, who will visit them on a regular basis. In addition to offering regular visits such contact helps clients maintain their independence, improves quality of life, identifies risks to health & environment, and where possible facilitates reintegration to community life.

In order to receive the service an assessment is undertaken at your home, and then you will be introduced to a volunteer befriender. All befrienders are reference and police checked, a full induction is undertaken and ongoing support given. As part of the service volunteers will bring to you any relevant current information about other services for example Careline or Fire Risk Assessments.

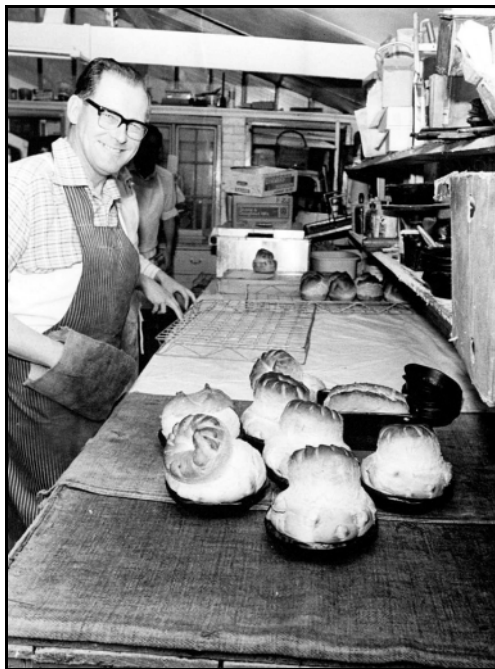
At least twice a year a social event is held for all clients, volunteers staff and trustees. In January this was held courtesy of Sandringham Visitors Centre and a summer event is usually held in Dersingham.

If you are interested in receiving the service or becoming a volunteer, (we particularly need more male volunteers) or to support the organization please visit our website or contact the office at : 12 Thoresby College, Queen Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1HX Tel: 01553 763500 or info@wnbefriending.org.uk

Pippa May, Manager

In Village Voice edition 75, Susan George (Playford) wrote about her parents. Here is a photo of her Dad in Playford's bakery (Jan 1980), also my husband John (Jack) who worked as roundsman '68 to '82.

Joy Pearce



I received a phone call from the editor in response to an enquiry he had had asking me if I knew where Cantelupe House was located in Dersingham. Well, I had heard of this house but I could not recall its location, so I looked in some of my old books and I found out that a Mr. Harry Cross lived in Cantelupe House in Dersingham in 1905 but it doesn't give the name of the road. In 1929 a Mr. Herbert Cross, a greengrocer, lived at Holly Cottage, Lynn Road, Dersingham. Now, him being a greengrocer, could this house have been called Cantelupe (a type of melon) and then renamed Holly Cottage? Two people who have lived in Holly Cottage were Norman Towers and Bernard Twite. I have been in touch with a member of the Cross family, Alan Cross, and, though we had a good old chat, he could not help me out. So, now I hope that someone who reads Dersingham Village Voice can come up with the answer to the question - Where was Cantelupe House?

Dick Melton

Anmer Bowls Club is a small club and we are looking for new members to join us. We play in two local leagues, playing on the evenings of Monday, Thursday and Friday. Contact me on 01485 541979 for more details.

Pamela Manship

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service - preventing house fires.

We need your help! We receive too many calls to fires in people's homes. Sometimes they turn out to be nothing more than a smoke alarm sounding, but often they end in tragedy occasionally, and sadly, with someone dying.

There are many causes of fires in the home, the biggest being as a result of forgetting that something has been left on or in the cooker. Hot fat being the worst offender with many people suffering from smoke inhalation or serious burns trying to tackle them.

The most deadly cause of fires in the home is from smoking. Dropping a cigarette while sleeping kills many people every year.

So what can you do to help? Visit our website at www.norfolkfireservice.gov.uk, join us at Facebook or following us on Twitter. Look out for our #testittuesday campaign encouraging people to test their smoke alarm once per week.

But if you really want to help those around you, who may be vulnerable from fire, you could join our new team of volunteers who are helping us spread the fire safety message in homes, schools and during community events. If you have a few hours to spare every month then contact us through the website, Twitter or Facebook or contact me, Station Manager Tim Edwards at the King's Lynn Fire Station on (01553) 775163.

Tim Edwards

Referring back to my Bowling in Dersingham article in the last issue, further information has come to light regarding the greens at the Coach and Horses and the Dersingham Social Club.

I had said that I could find no evidence of a green at the Dun Cow Public House but it transpires that when the Coach and Horses changed the use of their green to car park and garden, permission was granted for a green to be set up at the rear of the Dun Cow for the use of the club. This was, of course, later put out of use when the pub was demolished, resulting in the club using the present site in Ingoldisthorpe.

As far as the Social Club green is concerned, this had to be dispensed with in 1985, as a part of the conditions of a planning permission application which had been made in order to extend and alter the club house.

Bob Tipling

My enquiries with long standing villagers suggests that the social club green went several years earlier and when I arrived in 1978 I do not remember seeing it. Ed.



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Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly

by Alice Worth



A few weeks ago a special card, made by one of our members, June Dorman, was sent to The Queen with the good wishes of the Dersingham Day Centre, for her Diamond Jubilee. The card and envelope were beautifully crafted with a silver and pearl pattern interspersed with 'diamonds'. Imagine our surprise and pleasure when we received an envelope from Buckingham Palace, not only containing an officially printed card thanking us for our good wishes but also a letter, on Windsor Castle notepaper written by a lady-in-waiting on behalf of the Queen, saying "The Queen greatly appreciates the care you have taken to make this lovely card especially for her and I am to thank you all for your continuing loyalty and support in this, Her Majesty's special year." June and her husband Peter make greeting cards to display and sell at the Day Centre. We all enjoy buying the results of their hobby and all proceeds go to the Day Centre funds.

On the 11th April we celebrated Easter with our traditional lunch, followed by party time. By the time the tables had been cleared our entertainer on key-boards, Leigh Murfet, was ready to start. He soon had everyone singing along to all the old traditional favourites sung on these occasions, and everyone joined in with great enthusiasm. Then it was time for the Easter Bonnet Competition. The judges walked around inspecting the various bonnets and then named the two winners. The prize for the best lady's bonnet was awarded to Peggy Tomkins and the gentleman's prize went to Derek Staples. Each was presented with a Chocolate Easter Rabbit. Tea was served with buttered hot cross buns and then the party ended with another singsong and the distribution of Easter eggs to all the Members. Unfortunately two of our Members were in hospital and too ill at home, but we made sure that Easter Eggs were put aside for them.

Saturday the 16th June is the Day Centre's designated Flag Day, under the umbrella of the Alexandra Rose Day. Sadly this will be our last Flag Day as the organization, which has been experiencing financial difficulties, is going to concentrate on helping young people in deprived areas of London, where the Alexandra Rose Day was first started. What we collect has been an important part of our fund raising, so we hope to make our last Flag Day the best ever. Our volunteers will be out and about in Dersingham on that day whatever the weather. We have had great support from the village in the past and we would be very grateful if you could give us your

support once again.

Well April has certainly lived up to its reputation of "April Showers", in fact it has been more like "April Monsoons". However by the time Village Voice goes to press it will be May and we can but hope it will be warm and sunny with just enough rain at night to keep the plants happy.

We cleared our waiting list in April but already have two new names on hold again. However, don't let this put you off and if you would like to join us, or if you know of someone who might benefit from becoming a Member, please contact me on :-

01485 544673. □

Village Voice Sudoku No 23								
3	9	5	8	7	6	1	2	4
1	7	2	9	3	4	5	8	6
8	4	6	5	2	1	9	3	7
4	5	7	1	6	8	2	9	3
9	6	3	2	4	5	8	7	1
2	1	8	3	9	7	6	4	5
6	2	9	7	1	3	4	5	8
5	3	4	6	8	9	7	1	2
7	8	1	4	5	2	3	6	9

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Gardening Question Time

Village Voice Live April 3rd

After days of fine unseasonable weather the rain duly returned for this Tuesday evening but it did not deter a hardy band of villagers from attending Dersingham's own Gardening Question Time. Martin Woods, head gardener at Sandringham, and Trevor Harrison from Creak Plant Centre joined the chairman Steve Davis on the stage to answer many questions from the audience. With the help of modern technology set up by Steve, any samples brought for inspection by the team were relayed by the use of a camera onto the screen for all to see. Questions and answers were likewise easy to hear via the sound system even if occasionally a wailing banshee interrupted the proceedings.

Martin told us how he had come to the Sandringham Gardens as a young man on work experience and 30 years later was still there having worked his way up to Head Gardener. Trevor explained he ran the Creak Plant Centre and as well as a wide variety of plants he stocked many of the old varieties of scented roses, hellebores, and clematis.

The questions from the audience covered problems with sooty mould and how to deal with the Red Hot Poker after flowering. Advice was sought on hardy summer flowering shrubs, salt and wind tolerant plants for a seaside garden and mysterious growths on a willow. Smiles were raised from all sides with a question about the wonderfully named Bear's Breeches. Trevor and Martin also smiled when one member of the audience produced a sample of a particularly troublesome weed which was duly projected on the screen. Some in the audience also recognised the culprit as Goose Grass.

After the questions were finished Steve asked Martin and Trevor to give a Tip of the Week. Martin's first tip, given with a smile, was to visit the Sandringham Gardens but then he advised that this was a good time of year to take cuttings from Phlox, Euphorbias and other plants in the herbaceous border. Trevor's advice was to develop your garden gradually. Look at what is there doing well and add to it gradually rather than making huge changes all at once. Tweaking he called it. It had been a most enjoyable, interesting and humorous meeting. *CLIO*

Dersingham in Pictures from King's Lynn Library

Village Voice Live Tuesday May 1st

Linda Tree, community librarian, began by introducing herself and her work within Norfolk Libraries. She described the resources that were available from Norfolk Libraries, both on-line via the internet and also from the archives stored within the library at King's Lynn. She illustrated these by showing historical maps of Dersingham and also extracts from books in the archive which referred to the village as it was in past times.

From a large collection of photographs stored at King's Lynn, most of which are unnamed and unidentified, she showed a small selection of those relevant to Dersingham. Some views were well known by most present, some by only a few but the people shown in the photographs were mainly unknown to most, even those taken in fairly recent years. The talk was concluded with some more general photographs from the archives of unknown people and places.

A well attended talk, provided an interesting insight into the resources of the libraries services and the pauses between illustrations providing many opportunities for discussion (muttering) in the audience. But, given the title of the talk, anyone expecting to see many old photographs of locations and buildings within the village, may have left a little disappointed.

For those interested, here is a list of main website pages shown during the talk, with address links:-

Norfolk Heritage Explorer	http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/
Norfolk Records Office	http://www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/
Historical Maps of Norfolk	http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/

Whiffler

News from Ingoldisthorpe Church of England Primary School

This term we have many activities planned :-

Holt Hall

Maple Class (years 3 and 4) will be visiting Holt Hall for three days. The whole class are really looking forward to the visit. Some of the activities will include: pond dipping, survival skills, orienteering and a sports evening.

Amazonia

The reception children along with years one and two will be visiting Amazonia Wildlife Park. They will learn about creatures that live in the rain forest as well as different habitats. Acorn class, (year R) are looking forward to seeing the monkeys.

Our Summer Recipe Book

This year families are getting together to create their favourite summer recipes. These will appear in a book going on sale as a part of the jubilee celebrations. In fact we will be sending a copy of our recipe book to Her Majesty. We also have a cake designing competition to design the decoration for a cake. The winner will then have their design made into a cake.

Readathon

Readathon is our year long event to promote reading. Every time the children read this is recorded in their reading diary, the points are added up and prizes awarded. At the end of the year we have a whole school celebration to celebrate our reading. This year we have a pirate theme. We will be dressing as pirates, play pirate games and we might even be having Jack Sparrow visit us!

Sleep Over on the school field

Soon years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are going to be sleeping over on the school field. There will be BBQ food, lots of entertainment and games. We always enjoy our school field sleep over!

As you can see there are lots of fun activities planned for this term.

By Caitlin, Katie, William, Lucy and Louise, the year 5 News Team.

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Recreation Ground Re Vamp



The Recreation Ground Committee have recently held two consultations to discuss what is required by parishioners to improve the Recreation Ground. A consultation leaflet was also distributed amongst the (Dersingham lower school) students at Smithdon High school and both Dersingham Infant and Junior schools, various groups within Dersingham and the Library in the hope that those that could not attend would take the opportunity to complete the questionnaire.

CONGRATULATIONS:

The competition winner of the Consultation Questionnaire was **EDWARD MURRAY**. When completing the questionnaire on his behalf mum (Vicky Etheridge) was told by Edward

that he would like somewhere nice to ride his bike. Edward liked all the equipment displayed on the plans at the public consultation and said his favourites were the slide, climbing wall and wooden boat. Between the many heavy showers of late we arranged a meeting at the Recreation Ground to present Edward with his £10 James Graven Voucher.

The first consultation included the students from St Georges Junior School and Representatives from three play equipment companies. The consultation was quite enthusiastic and informal allowing the students to express and discuss their opinions and suggestions freely and honestly. New modern equipment was a priority, so a great deal of discussion was had concerning materials, styles, colour and age suitability of equipment. Ground covering, safety, security, the need for more bins and a possibility of being an eco friendly site were also suggested.

A public consultation was also held on the Recreation Ground on what was a very wet Saturday 17th March....although to be fair the rain held off for the two hours we were there allowing us to display the preliminary plans. Parishioners were given the opportunity to meet the Representatives and discuss any ideas or queries. We received very similar suggestions as the school consultation, but this time the priority was on creating a community area that families could enjoy together not just young children. A suitable area for families to sit and maybe picnic. Several young people expressed the need for a separate area for them to sit, benches or seats that are off the floor, open sided but with a roof. Balancing and agility equipment for younger children was also very popular. We would like to thank all of you that attended the consultations or completed the questionnaire. All suggestions have been taken into consideration. The three companies are at present creating and designing the RECREATION GROUND RE-VAMP.

Cllr Suzy Daniels

Where is it ? What is it ?

This, the first in a series of brain teasers, is found within a 20 mile radius of Dersingham.

Answer further on in the magazine..



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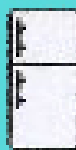
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The Halibut



Halibut is by far the largest of all our flat fish. Like Norfolk, it is not actually very flat and it can grow to lengths of thirteen feet or more. Being big, it is usually available in steaks, fillets and cutlets. Its firm, meaty white flesh has a delicious flavour but it can dry out quite easily so needs careful cooking. There are concerns about the sustainability of wild halibut so farmed halibut is a more sustainable option.

Halibut Normand

Sauté some peeled and finely sliced onions in a little butter. When soft turn into a greased dish that has a lid, sprinkle with chopped parsley and seasoning. Place the fish on top and nearly cover with cider. Put the lid on and cook in a medium oven for around 30 minutes. Strain off the juice and reduce by two thirds finishing it with a little cream, parsley and lemon juice. Return the sauce to the fish before serving, perhaps with olive mash and green beans.

Baked Halibut

Put Halibut portions in an ovenproof dish and spread with either shrimp or lobster butter (if you cannot find these a good substitute is a 50/50 mix of butter and crab or shrimp paste). Sprinkle with breadcrumbs, season and bake until golden brown in a hot oven. Serve with fresh crusty bread and a green salad. □



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Dick Melton

Looking through some old copies of the Dersingham Village Voice I realised that I had been writing letters and articles in the Village Voice since 2001. Since then a lot of new people have moved into Dersingham, so the older folk in the village will have to forgive me if I repeat some of my stories and articles.

Well the April Village Voice was full of some interesting letters and facts, so first I will write about some of them. Doreen Wright mentioned Mr Sizeland. Bill Sizeland came to Dersingham from North or South Creak in the late fifties, early sixties. When I first got to know him he lived at no 77 Lynn Road (Pleasant Place) and he worked as a roadman (lengths man) for Norfolk County Council along with some other men from the village, including Mr Riches and a Mr Batterbee. He was a right old Norfolk boy and was always telling us boys stories. After a few years he gave up his job on the roads and he and his wife took over the Westdene guesthouse on Linfords Corner.

There was also an interesting letter from Susan George (née Playford) and in it she mentions she had heard that at one time Jersey House was a dairy farm. I have never heard of this. I did find in one of my old books that, in 1905, a Mr Henry Towler had a small farm in the village, but I have never been able to find out where it was situated, so there may be some connection. Maybe some day we will find out.

The Flower Show

Sandringham Flower Show is always held in the park at Sandringham on the last Wednesday in July. The first flower show at Sandringham was held in September 1864, which was two years after Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales, bought the then 7,000-acre estate for just over £200,000. It was initially a small show just for the estate workers; then, in 1866, the Sandringham Estate Horticultural Society was established and took over the running of the show. There was an attendance of just over 3,000 people for their first show and this, for a village the size of Sandringham, was very good.

The show stayed quite small until after the Second World War; then, in the late fifties to early sixties, the estate and the show were run on more commercial lines. In the fifties Sandringham grounds were only open to the public on a Wednesday, with one of the main attractions being the kitchen gardens with their different vegetables and fruit tress. Two ladies, Mrs Magness and Mrs Senter, would sit on either side of the Norwich Gates to sell postcards. On the green, near the church opposite the war memorial, Dan Andrews would have his horse and cart selling fruit and vegetables, while next to him would be Ray Dilks with his ice cream trailer. These were the only commercial ventures allowed until, after a few years, the Visitor Centre was built, the museum was established and the house was opened to the public.

In the seventies a lot of demolition and reconstruction took place on the house to make it as it is today. At one time there were 365 rooms in the house, one for every day of the year. When I went to school we did not break up for the summer holidays until the Friday of the August Bank holiday, which was the beginning of August in those days, so we would get a day off for the Sandringham Flower Show and a free pass to get in. There was a large marquee for the schoolchildren's exhibits, one for flowers, one for the estate workers to exhibit their fruit, vegetables, flowers and cakes, and there was always a fur and feather tent. The main attraction, of course, was the beer tent, which was run by Brooke and Brooke Caterers Ltd from Hunstanton.

There were few trade stands and no parade ring, but there was always a marching band like the Dagenham Girl Pipers or such, a cricket match and a tug of war; but, as always, the main attraction was the Queen Mother, who visited nearly every show from the end of the Second World War, until her death.

In 1948 there were just six trade stands, one of which was James Lambert and Sons, ironmongers from Snettisham, who were there for many years. 1948 was also the year that Fred Waite (ex head

gardener) came to work at Sandringham as a bothy boy on the recommendation of the T.V. gardener Percy Thrower.

Since the sixties the Sandringham Flower Show has really grown in size. With more and more attractions, most years now the attendance has kept around 20,000, with lots of money going to a number of charities. The thing that has changed most is the way people get to Sandringham to see the show. Nowadays most of them get there by car, whereas they used to come by coach. In 1972, on flower show day, 108 of these coaches ended up in Hunstanton, looking for somewhere their passengers could get a cup of tea and a cake. Nowadays the coaches and the cars, with the people, stay at Sandringham all day, as with over 150 trade stands and things going on from 10am to 6pm, there is plenty to do and see. Sandringham Flower Show really is a good day out.

Village Voice Sudoku No 24									
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Bowling Greens

In the April issue of Dersingham Village Voice Bob Tipling wrote an excellent article about the bowling greens in Dersingham. In this article he said that he could find no evidence of there ever being a bowling green at the White Horse Public House. So, I did some more research. In 1905 George Kiddle was the landlord and there was no bowling green then. In 1925, when Frederick Houchen was the landlord, there was a bowling green and Robin Thistle was the Honorary Secretary. Then, in 1929, when Harry Chester took over as landlord, there was still a bowling green there but, after the Second World War there is no more mention of a bowling green on that site.

Rows of cottages

Going back to my article in the April Village Voice about Askers Row, I have had a look in one of my books and there were many rows of cottages in Dersingham named after people, such as Leggetts Cottages, Archers Cottages and Parkers Row. Then there were many more named after things and places: Garden Cottages, Sandpit, Mill, Malt House, Ling House, Albert Victor, Pasture, Railway and Dun Cow Cottages and, no doubt, some that I have missed.

How to get a job

My last writing this week is a good old bit of Norfolk squit. It concerns a father wanting his 14-year-old son to apply for a job from a local farmer. The boy protests he doesn't know anything about farming and his father makes him learn by heart the following verse, which he is to deliver, after doffing his cap, as the farmer opens his door. The farmer, his father told him, would ask what he could do, the boy was to reply:

**I can plough, I can sow, and can reap and can mow,
I can stack, and can thatch, scrub a tub, skin a pig, milk a cow,
Chop kindling fast as hail stones going up against a barn door,
I can hoe, rake, and hang a farm gate, and I promise you, sir, I will
Never be late.**

Came the farmer's reaction.
'You know a lot for your age boy, start in the morning.'

Well that's all for this month, keep them letters coming in, all the best. □



Ion Trewin Ponderings 2

With the brambles and undergrowth cleared from around their large pond Sue and Ion Trewin, who had moved from Dersingham to a house nearer Snettisham, were faced with what to do with the pond itself, now all but silted up. Ion Trewin takes up the story.

We had seen in our first spring how the abundant wildlife loved our overgrown pond. One weekend Sue counted 62 nervous chattering ducks of varying types, but mallards in the majority. We also had two moorhens, even shyer, but quieter than the ducks. They had nested amidst the ivy and brambles that touched the wateredge on the south-eastern corner.

The water buttercup that had taken over three-quarters of the pond proved ideal for the waterbirds, who nibbled away at the leaves. Ducklings found the foliage a perfect resting post. We had frogs and toads. A rat occasionally came into view. At this stage I spotted only two grey squirrels, but showing how destructive they could be as they broke through the plastic lid of a dustbin where we kept bird food.

The pond occupied our thoughts through the summer. By late autumn, remains of the water buttercup were still in evidence. Not only were leaves from the overhanging trees on the south and west sides adding to the surface litter, but poking through the shallow murky water we also had rotten tree branches and the detritus of ages. It was, no question, a sorry sight.

We needed advice. The specialist contractor who came to look, reckoned our pond probably hadn't been dredged in a lifetime. Judging by the age of the trees he thought it was at least a century old. Manmade, yes, with the tree roots helping to knit together the southern bank on the slope that eventually finds its way down to the Ingle stream.

Our contractor prodded the pond margins with a bamboo cane and concluded that in places its depth (or should we say shallowness?) should now be calculated in inches. Leave it much longer, he said, and you'll soon own a marsh not a pond. Dredging was the only answer, but first we must, he said, talk to the owner of the field adjoining our eastern aspect, about access. It certainly wouldn't be possible to transport his dredgers down our narrow lane.

The question of where to put the spoil became a major issue. The farmer, while happy to give us access said no to the spoil, explaining that the field was subject to an archaeological order; he was not even allowed to put fertiliser on the grass. We examined other possibilities such as trucking it away, but first we would require soil analysis to ensure that the pond spoil contained nothing nasty. Costs though were mounting. Could we avoid the horrendous extras that trucking would involve? In the end we had the soil analysed (no nasties!) and decided to spread the very wet spoil around the garden, building walls of soil to prevent the slurry sliding back into the pond.

The day came when transporters brought not one but two diggers across the field. Pumps were



installed to drain the pond into a nearby ditch. We were surprised how quickly the water level fell, but not surprised to see how rapidly the pond bottom was exposed. The buttercup (if that is what it was) we could see emerging in places from huge knobbly rhizomes.

On day two the dredgers extended their long arms into the pond, the idea being to go down to what our contractor assumed would be a clay puddled bottom. In places that turned out to be about five feet deep. Work

was interrupted by successive downpours. On the north and eastern side, where hillside springs trickle water into the pond, the dredger started sinking into what was rapidly developing into a quagmire. Work stopped. More expense, but there was no alternative: lorryloads of crushed brick were delivered to provide a hardcore base.

Work finally finished late one winter afternoon. The black spoil where once was grass made our garden look a little like the aftermath of the Battle of the Somme. Don't worry, said our contractor. The spoil is so rich, when it dries out you'll have the base for a wonderful lawn. Dry out? No-one had bargained for the wettest April of the century. Watch this space!

In the next issue of Village Voice, where did the eels come from, what happened to the moles, spring by our pond and plans for the landscape. □





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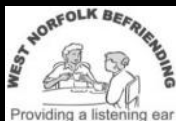
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Old Picture Corner

In 1977 the Silver Jubilee was being celebrated in these pictures. These children will be about 45 now - were you there? Where was there? It's not the sports field or the recreation ground unless there has been much change. Note the very trendy looking Terry Finbow in the lower picture.

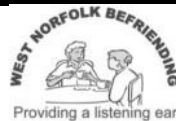




LADIES EVENING

Wednesday 13th June 7-9pm

Catholic Church Hall, Mountbatten Road,
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Anmer Jubilee Bells Appeal Patron H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

Anmer church is aiming to raise £12,000 to restore their bells. Here are details of some of their fundraising events.

Friday 4th May AN EVENING AT SANDRINGHAM From 4.30 pm Stroll around the grounds. Meet at 6pm for a private guided tour of the house followed by drinks at the visitor centre. Tickets £25.

Saturday/Sunday 2/3 June “Anmer Rejoices” flower festival 10am - 4pm

Saturday June 30th A VISIT TO THE ROYAL STUD followed by afternoon tea. Starts at 2pm, tickets £15.

Tickets and information from Mr W Walker, Anmer Lodge, Anmer. 01485 601166

THREE CHOIRS UNDER THE SAME ROOF

A concert to be held in St. Nicholas Church Dersingham on Saturday 14th July at 7.30pm will see Snettisham, Fakenham and Swaffham Community Choirs come together led by their Musical Director Carol O'Neill to sing a repertoire of songs that they have been developing since the beginning of the year. Funds will be raised to support local charities *Headway Norfolk & Waveney* and *Sebastian*. Tickets can be bought locally at Scrappy Cat Crafts in Snettisham.

Learning an eclectic mix of songs that includes sacred, sea shanties, original works, african and pop, the Three Choirs are working separately in their own localities and only come together the day before the concert for a full rehearsal. “This formula has worked well for us in the past and becomes a very special experience for all concerned,” said the choirs’ founder Carol O'Neill.

For local people who are keen to belong to a community singing group, Snettisham Community Choir welcomes new members and meets on Wednesday mornings from 10am – 12pm in Snettisham Memorial Hall.

A new 12-week term begins on 5th September and encourages *wellbeing* and exploration of the voice. The Choir is accessible to all abilities and is an excellent way to meet people and to become part of something special.

“I am passionate about the effect of harmony and what is possible when a group comes together to sing, even when the participants are unsure of their voices.” said Carol, a natural voice practitioner and qualified counsellor who has been running community singing groups for 17 years. “The course is for all age groups and is designed for the absolute beginner. It includes exercises and games to help people get the most out of their voices,” continued Carol whose heart lies in the aural tradition of teaching that relies on the self rather than the intellect. Sheet music, therefore, is rarely used as everything is taught by ear.” Carol’s approach is light-hearted and she strives to facilitate a fulfilling experience that impacts positively on physical, mental and spiritual well being.

For further information and to become involved people should call Carol O'Neill on 01328 838316 or visit www.singforwellbeing.co.uk.



David Bingham Stone

All that happened before, everything from ancient heathen times we see swirling before our eyes as though in a thick fog, in a vast space. - Rasmus Nyerup



The Neolithic, or New Stone Age, was when farming arrived in Britain. This can be dated to around 4,000 BC - thousands of years after the first farming communities became established in Mesopotamia. It took time for farming to spread across the continent and there was an additional barrier because Britain was an island by this date and the cattle, sheep, pigs and cereals had to be transported across the sea. Rather surprisingly, some of the earliest evidence of farming in these islands has been found on Orkney and in Ireland rather than southern

England. It wouldn't, however, have taken these early farmers very long to discover this corner of the Britain because our light soils would have been easy to clear and cultivate. Our local heathland and downland landscapes have their origins in the Neolithic. They were created by felling trees and grazing livestock - activities that must be continued in order to maintain these precious habitats. The first farmers were semi nomadic and moved from area to area in search of fresh grazing and fertile land in which to sow their crops. They would also have continued to supplement their diet by hunting and gathering but farming was undoubtedly a much more efficient way to obtain food and would have led to a rapid rise in population. The original inhabitants of Britain may have resented the newcomers at first but would have been forced to join in with the new ways of doing things eventually. It would only have taken a few immigrant farmers to bring their ideas and breeding stock for farming to become established.

Human remains dating from the early Neolithic often show signs of a violent death with as many as one in fifteen having suffered severe head injuries. Nowadays, the residents of Midsomer Norton may face a similar risk of being murdered but it is unheard of anywhere else. Neolithic people certainly had a need to create a stable society and the enigmatic megaliths, stone circles, henges, causewayed enclosures, cursuses, and long barrows that are found in the north and west of the country are the visible signs of this society in action. Norfolk doesn't have much useable stone so we lack these impressive monuments, but aerial photographs regularly reveal crop marks showing where Neolithic people established ritual landscapes in this part of Britain. We also have a world class Neolithic site at Grime's Graves near Thetford. Grime's Graves was a Neolithic flint mine where over four hundred deep pits were dug using red deer antlers as picks. The galleries leading off from the base of these pits are narrow and were probably worked by children. The miners were following a seam of black flint that was no better than ordinary flint for practical use but its beauty and the fact that it was found in the depths of the earth would have given it a spiritual importance. The many votive offerings found within the mines also point to it being more than a purely industrial activity. Utility and spirituality were closely linked in the lives of prehistoric people. Grime's Graves is open to the public and is well worth a visit, although you will need to climb down a ladder to the bottom of one of the mine shafts to get a real feeling for the place.

We also have some visible Neolithic monuments and one of them is only a few miles from Dersingham. I took the photograph of the long barrow on West Rudham Common but I admit that it isn't very obvious what the picture is showing. It is clearer on the ground and the barrow is quite a large structure shaped something like a wedge doorstep and is surrounded by a boundary ditch. Long barrows were originally open structures where human bones were interred. They were later covered over and became a place to worship the ancestors with ceremonies taking place in a

forecourt, which would have been where the tree is on the photo. The long barrow would have been in the land of the ancestors separated from the land of the living by a transitional zone. It would originally have been orientated either with a solar, lunar or cosmological alignment or towards a landscape feature, but is currently facing a conifer plantation in the middle of a farmed landscape. The long barrow has lost its meaning but we are fortunate that it has survived at all.

I'm old enough to have had the pleasure of playing on the stones of Stonehenge as a child – a pleasure denied to today's youngsters. Stonehenge is the most famous of our Neolithic sites but in my opinion isn't the best. I would recommend the stones at Avebury and the nearby sites of Silbury Hill and West Kennet Long Barrow where you can get a better appreciation of a Neolithic sacred landscape. I have a wish list of Neolithic sites that I would like to visit – the megaliths at Carnac in Brittany, the passage graves at Knowth and Newgrange in Ireland, the standing stones at Callanish on Lewis. And most of all I would love to see Maes Howe, Skara Brae and the Ring of Brodgar on Orkney – the photos I've seen look amazing, as though someone lived there yesterday rather than five thousand years ago.

I would also like to see the remains of the 'Amesbury Archer' who was buried near Stonehenge at the time of its final completion around 2400BC. Scientists have done a stable isotope analysis of his teeth and found that he grew up in the Alps. He had a genetic malformation in his feet – a defect shared by a young man who is buried near him and is believed to be his locally born son. Amongst his rich grave goods are two small copper knives. They are some of the first metal objects found in Britain and mark a divide between the Stone Age, when everything was made from naturally occurring materials, and a time when metal first appears and technology began. The Amesbury Archer carried smooth stones that had been used in the final working of metal objects. The first metalworkers would have had a very high status in society. Copper isn't a very strong metal and was more decorative than useful. However, adding tin makes a much more durable material – bronze. The Bronze Age will be the subject of my next article.□



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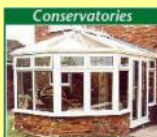


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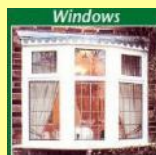
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The Sandringham Newsletter

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A long dry spell in March and a succession of sharp night frosts gave Farm and Fruit Farm staff some anxious moments worrying about seed germination and damage to apple and blackcurrant blossom. When not worrying about the weather, Farm staff have completed sowing all this year's arable crops and have also sown wild flower strips 6m wide around the edges of fields; these strips attract insects, which in turn provide food for the young of birds nesting in and around the hedges surrounding the fields.

Easter came earlier in April this year than last and the weather was much less pleasant, being cold, windy and rainy. Sandringham House, Gardens and Museum were busy despite the weather, and the new-look Plant Centre has attracted a great deal of interest – particularly popular so far is a new range of heritage flower and vegetable seeds, all of varieties that would have been grown in King Edward VII's time, as well as a new range of dwarf rhododendrons. The Plant Centre also now has a greatly-expanded range of gifts for gardeners, including necessities such as gloves and secateurs, and luxuries like beautiful hand-made trugs and elegant ceramic pots.

The planting of the new Diamond Jubilee wood inaugurated by Her Majesty The Queen in January is now complete. Forestry and Country Park staff have now moved to begin preparations in Sandringham Park for the Sandringham Carriage Driving Trials which will take place at the end of June. The Driving Trials are free for spectators, and the skill of both drivers and horses in the different disciplines is remarkable and always worth going to see.

Finally, it has just been officially confirmed that the Olympic Torch will come to Sandringham House on the afternoon of Wednesday 4th July on its way from King's Lynn to Norwich. Full details will be posted elsewhere on our website soon, but the Olympic organisers and Sandringham Estate hope that many people will wish to come to see the Torch and cheer the Torchbearers on their way in the beautiful surroundings of Sandringham Gardens.□

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St Nicholas Church News

Thank you to all we supported our Lent Lunches, we raised over £1,000 towards our work on updating the toilets in the Church Hall.

We also raised over £1,000 at our Grand Sale which goes towards the buying of the flowers for the Flower Festival in July [see below], our grateful thanks go out to Doreen Asker and the Flower Club for all their help in raising this money.

On Sunday 3rd June we will be having a special service to celebrate the **Queens Jubilee** at 10.30am

On Sunday 1st July we will be welcoming our new Curate Julie Boyd who will have been ordained on the Saturday at Norwich Cathedral. There will be a Bring & Share lunch in the Church Hall after the service where people can meet Julie.

Services:

10.30am Sung Eucharist – 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of the month
 Family Service – 2nd Sunday of the month
 Morning Prayer – 4th Sunday of the month

Mid Week Communion 1st Wednesday of the month at 12noon.

Evening Services at 6.30pm:

Evening Worship – 1st Sunday of the month
 Choral Evensong – 2nd Sunday of the month during summer
 Celtic Worship – 3rd Sunday of the month
 Evening Communion 4th Sunday of the month



Future Events Coming Up

Saturday 9th June 7.30pm – JUBILEE CONCERT Norfolk Brass with members of the Kings Lynn Festival Chorus. Tickets £7.50 (phone 01485 544561) or £8.50 on the door.

July 19th to 22nd Flower Festival – Celebrating 50 Years of Flower Festivals in Dersingham.
 10am to 6pm in Church and 10am to 5pm in Church Hall

Have a say on the future of your coastline!

Come along and have a say on the future management of the coastline between Hunstanton Cliffs and Wolferton Creek.

The Wash East Coastal Management Strategy, led by the Environment Agency and the Borough Council, is looking at ways of managing flood and erosion risk to local communities, whilst protecting the internationally important natural and historic environments along this stretch of coastline.

Come along to one of the events below for an opportunity to look at exhibitions and talk to our experts:

Thursday 19 July, Hunstanton Town Hall, 2-7pm

Tuesday 24 July, Heacham Infant & Nursery School, 2-7pm

For more information on these events or the Strategy, please contact Nigel Woonton, Environment Agency, nigel.woonton@environment-agency.gov.uk, 01480 483731.



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Dersingham Walking Group

It is with some sadness that I am reporting the loss of one of the group's regular walkers and also one of our walk leaders. Geoff Toop passed away on 4th April 2012, having been unwell since late last year. He had been walking with the group almost from the beginning, always full of enthusiasm and a mine of information. He made many friends and became a popular figure within the group. We will miss him.

March 14th began under a heavy layer of cloud which remained as the group met at the Dersingham War Memorial for a 5 mile walk led by Steve & Lindsey Davis. There were 14 of us participating in today's walk. Steve told us at the start of the walk that the route he has planned was fairly familiar to most of us but he had inserted a few extra twists.

After a stroll through Life Wood to Ingoldsthorpe we turned to cross the main road and climb the hill to eventually join permissive paths at St Thomas's Lane. As we paused for our mid walk break some welcome spring sunshine appeared and stayed until we had finished the walk.

Our return route was along the permissive path inside the field edge along Chalk Pit Road, giving some fairly good views across to the coast, down Sugar Lane and a return to the start point.

After some heavy showers late in the afternoon we were lucky for the first evening walk in our summer programme on April 11th. The evening was dry, cool and we did enjoy some sunshine as the sun was setting. Keith led this walk around the Sandringham Country Park; as usual he managed to find a few paths in this area that were not too familiar. There were 21 people on the walk.

Steve Martyn devised our first Sunday afternoon walk of the current programme, which took place on the 15th April and began at Lynnsport. Regrettably there were only 5 people on the walk. Following an April shower at the beginning, the rest of the walk was completed in the dry. The 5 mile walk took in the Fisher Fleet and dock area before a tour of the historical parts of King's Lynn with its many well-known buildings; the Custom House, Thoresby College, and some of the old Hanseatic Merchants houses around the Nelson Street area.

No walk through King's Lynn would be complete without taking in the riverside. From this point a stretch of the Nar Valley Way to the South Gates and a return to the start with a stroll through the much improved "Walks" with the magnificent trees and open spaces, and along the cycle tracks back to Lynnsport.

Details of our next walks :-

THURSDAY 7th JUNE Starting at **2-00pm** from the Old Hunstanton Church car park [Map ref: L132/688420]. A parking charge of £1 per car will apply. Steve & Lindsey Davis [01485 542268] will lead a 5 mile walk through Old Hunstanton Park.

WEDNESDAY 13th JUNE Start at **2-00pm**, meeting at the Village Car Park in Holkham. Turn inland off A149 at the Victoria Hotel. [Map ref: L132/891436]. Christine Taylor [01485 542807] will lead a 4½ mile walk around Holkham Park. **{Please note that the Map ref: for this walk was wrongly printed on the programme sheets. This one is correct.}**

WEDNESDAY 11th JULY Start at **6-30pm**. A circular walk of 4½ miles around Castle Rising, led by Valerie & Michael Smith. [01485 540728]. Meeting place is beyond the Alms houses on old A149 at Castle Rising. (Please avoid parking near entrances). [Map ref: L132/667249].

*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.*

Michael Smith, ☎ 01485 540728. e-mail. mival.smith2@tiscali.co.



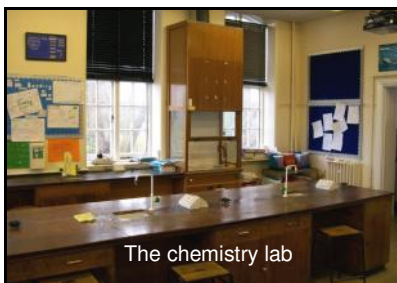
GOD BLESS HER MAJESTY!

by Steve Nowell

Hasn't she done well? Sixty years of looking after, and trying to guide along the straight and narrow, the commonwealth and its millions of citizens. And she cares about us all I bet. Right from those people who have knelt before her to have a sword laid on their shoulders; down to those hopeful folk like the Editor of Village Voice who want stories about events that haven't even happened yet. ("Steve" he said. "Better get your act together for this one. It's the Diamond Jubilee edition you know...") But he had made me think. Could I remember the Queen's coronation? Yes; I could. We saw it on the next door neighbour's 12 inch television. I remember that the Queen did everything perfectly calmly, and correctly, and she looked absolutely delightful. But there was a down side of course. Elizabeth became Queen through the death of her father, the loved and respected King George VI. On the day his body was taken from Sandringham to Westminster I was a boy scout with the 12th King's Lynn troop if I remember rightly. Along with other scouts, guides and various organisations we lined the drive from Sandringham church to the main road. One poor lad, who cast a shadow similar to a bean pole, fainted just as the coffin was passing by on its gun carriage. The reason I remember that is because he didn't fold in the middle, as I thought he should. One minute he was standing tall, thin, and erect; the next he was outstretched flat on the ground with his face in the mud. This reminded me of Cadet Parade Days at school. Having stood to attention for a while with one's back to the sun, there was a better than evens chance – especially if one was tall and thin – of burying one's nose in the mud, as previously described. Sorry; I digress...

The other reason I recall the gun carriage leaving Sandringham was that my dad had taken a sneaky hour off work to go and pay his respects. To maintain anonymity – outside broadcast cameras were everywhere – he pulled his rather tatty trilby hat down over his face and pulled up the collar on his macintosh to ear level. To show how effective the disguise was, a friend delighted in telling me the following day that he had seen my dad on TV the day before...

King Edward VI School was honoured with three visits from monarchy. The first was from King Edward VI in 1906 to commemorate the opening of the school and the second was from our Queen in 1956 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening. I have reason to remember that visit. My class was in the chemistry laboratory at the time, and we were divided up into groups of two or three to demonstrate different experiments to Her Majesty. Whose experiment didn't work but generated a small cloud of fumes instead? But every cloud has a silver lining. After the Queen had left the lab, our chemistry teacher broadcast to all and sundry that HM had taken an interest in what Nowell was doing. She had said "One has one's problems, doesn't one?" (Maybe not exactly word for word but apparently she did show some interest.) Moving hastily on, the third visit from a monarch was again from our Queen in 2007 when she opened an extension to the school to celebrate the centenary of KES.



The chemistry lab

When we moved to Dersingham, seeing royalty at Sandringham was a regular occurrence. Many people used - and still use I suggest - Sandringham church because they like to be seen in the vicinity of royalty. Quite honestly there's no need for that. Just go for a walk through the woods when 'the royals' are about and it's not unlikely that you'll get "It's a lovely day, isn't it?" from her Majesty. (To which the answer is "It certainly is, Mam" - note; not 'Ma'am'). Come to that, if luck is really on your side you might well get mown down by an elderly Duke with a smile from ear to ear, in a big hurry, in a four-in-hand...□

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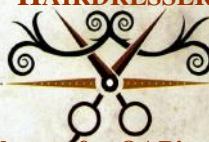
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Norfolk Open Studios / Dersingham Art and Crafts Trail 2012

By the time you read this article the Dersingham Art and Crafts Trail will be open and you'll have the chance to visit local artists in their studios, and chat to them about their work and how they create it. The Trail is part of the county-wide Norfolk Open Studios scheme, where hundreds of Norfolk artists open up their studios, homes, garden sheds and outhouses to create a unique and personal visual arts event.

From Saturday 26th May to Sunday 10th June there will be four locations round the village where you can see nine very different forms of art. At 14 Post Office Road you will find the photographic studio of Jo Halpin Jones, showing images from both Norfolk and from Jo's extensive travels around the world. At The Birches, 2 Alexandra Close (off Station Road) there is the garden studio of watercolour and oils artist Stephen Martyn who specialises in atmospheric views of the local coast and countryside. Just up the road at Ingoldisthorpe, Marty Griffin at The Drift has a studio converted from his garage, where you will find many of his highly detailed paintings on show.

There are 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, exhibiting at Potter & Dibble at 61 Manor Road. So, there's lots to see and there's bound to be something that will make a tour of the Trail well worthwhile.

The Art Trail provides a chance to meet the artists, take a look at the techniques and processes used to create their work and perhaps even buy or commission a piece. As well as original artwork, there will be prints and greetings cards available in most studios. If you would like to learn about creating artwork yourself there will be some workshops at Potter & Dibble, and Stephen Martyn can tell you about his art courses and tuition. Jo Halpin Jones offers help with photography and Photoshop.

This is an exciting opportunity to discover the diverse talent which is literally on our doorstep here in Dersingham and the immediate surrounding villages, so do please support the event, come along and take an interest.

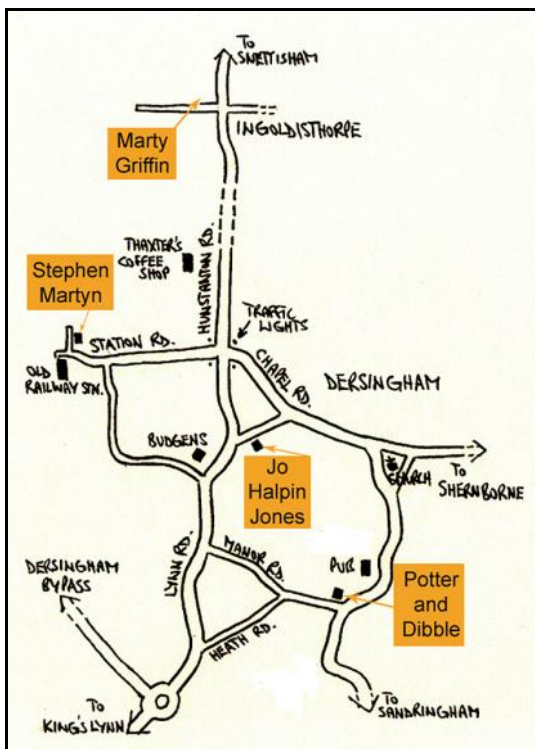
The studios are open from 10am to 5pm
on the following days:

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](https://twitter.com/DersArtTrail)**. All studios will be clearly signed and there are information posters complete with map at key locations round the area. You are also welcome to visit the studios outside the opening times above by contacting the relevant artist. See the website for their contact details or telephone 01485 541333. □



Dersingham Social Club

100 years as part of the community

Do you know where your Social Club is? Have you been there? Do you know how to join or what's on offer? No is usually the answer which, for a village this size, is a real shame! But it's a members club. What does that mean? Do I have to know someone to go there? No you don't have to know anyone it just means you register and pay a small membership fee each year to join which is required in law for use of the facilities but anyone 16+ can apply its very easy, just pop in and ask for a membership form at the bar then while you stay and have a drink as a guest, check out the facilities, fill in your form pay the required membership and that's it!



Less than 10 yrs ago the Social club had nearly 1000 members, today we struggle to get half that number, yet now the village is bigger than ever and we offer more facilities and live music than at any other time.

The social club was built in 1912; 100 yrs ago and maybe not as famous as the other event in 1912 we, although coming close at times, have not yet sunk!

The club is run by a voluntary committee of members who under take a lot of work to keep the club going and lay on facilities and events. This year alone we have 18 live music events which include top bands from around Norfolk and beyond! We hold charity fun days, next one being on the 30th June for Armed Forces Day, and our kids Christmas party hosted up to 97 children last year! They all had a great day, got fed, entertained and had a visit and present from Father Christmas

The Social Club was built on the King's estate land at Lynn Road in 1912 as a Working Men's club so that they might have a social club managed along the lines of the Sandringham estate clubs. The Dersingham Working Wen's Club Ltd was formed and registered and 5 shilling shares were soon taken up to the aggregate value of £200. His Majesty, George V, graciously gave his assistance to the scheme and granted a lease of 99 years to the company for the nominal rent of 10 shillings a year. He further promised to make a donation of £100 to the building fund if and when the share capital actually subscribed reached £300. That condition was fulfilled and His Majesty made his donation.

The club premises, which stand back from the road, were designed by Mr C E Prince, chief engineer at Sandringham, and was built by Messrs G Riches & Sons of Dersingham using Snettisham carrstone and Peterborough bricks. The building at the time consisted of the main 44ft long hall, with committee room, bar and storage; the imnitol lighting system was installed by Mr W R Suiter for £40. His Majesty also consented to be patron of the club.

Over the years the club fell into disrepair after becoming the British Legion hall and was renamed the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Hall. Then in 1977, on the idea of Inspector Terry Finbow, a working party of 10 villagers, Bernard Twite, Doug Shanks, John Grayson, Doug Daniels, Colin Bowley, John Daniels, Berris Davison, Malcom Bullock, Terry Finbow and Margaret Bullock (secretary), was formed to resurrect the derelict hall with the hope of forming a village social club. They approached the Parish Council to ask them to purchase the hall from the Sandringham Estate on their behalf (minuted at the time with the possible view at the time of returning the monies when funds allowed although that never happened and DSC still rents the club from the Parish

Council) after 4 years of voluntary hard work and time, a loan from Peatlings, the building was transformed. A new lounge bar was added and lots of repairs made and the club finally opened in 1981 under the name of Dersingham Village Social Club.

In 2001 a further extension of a full sized snooker room was added to the building enhancing the facilities for the village. Over the years the club has seen good financial times and, more recently, not so good with the possibility that the club may have closed its doors in 2010 but again with lots of time and hard work from volunteers the club is, hopefully, once again starting to thrive with lots of upgrades being added all the time.

Today's 2012 Dersingham Social Club, although not quite standing so on its own, with 'new' neighbours built around us over the years still has a lot of facilities within the club for the use of its members and guests.

We have two match standard pool tables and a full sized snooker table in the room that was built for that purpose; we still host teams in all popular bar sports such as darts, snooker, pool and have even large crib and dominoes teams! But as times change our main source of income is as one of the top venues in the area for live music.

These are so popular with our members that we are often 'sold out' as we host top bands from around Norfolk and beyond, in fact some bands that normally play at the best corporate venues around the country still love to come and play at DSC and often comment on what a great club we are. What makes it popular is that families can enjoy the evenings out together without having to think about babysitters or taxi's to town!

DSC members love to party and we often host theme and fancy dress nights, charity fun days, bingo and quiz nights. Dersingham Rovers FC holds its presentation nights with us and we host parties and christenings and an annual children's Christmas party plus our, always sold out, New Years Eve with live music.

We stock a massive range of drinks including 11 lines of lagers, beers, real ales, porters and Guinness. We often have special drinks promotions going on. We have lots of live music booked this year with a massive 80's party Jubilee night on the 2nd June planned plus a charity fun day and tea party for the official Armed forces day on the 30th June. Then the 11th August sees us host top 60's band the Austin Beats for our official 100 year celebration where there will be lots of 100 themed promotions going on, including 100 bottles for £1.00 and Adnams Southwold Jack (also 100yrs old this year) for £1.00 a pint! (see our Gig Guide)

So why don't you come along and check us out! We are a member of your community so come and be a member of ours. □



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Gig Guide 2012

Jun 2nd	WILDBOYS - 80s Night – Jubilee Weekend School Disco Themed Fancy Dress - Optional For Safety Limited tickets £2 members / Guests £4
8th Jun - 1st July Euro 2012 Football Championships live games will be shown on Big Screen Fixture Kick offs shown nearer time	
Mon Jun 11th	Live Football on Big Screen - England V France BBQ from 3pm – Kick off 5pm
Fri Jun 15th	Live Football on Big Screen - England V Sweden Kick off 7:45pm
Tue Jun 19th	Live Football on Big Screen - England V Ukraine Kick off 7:45pm
Fri Jun 29th	Live Music – The Moll Grips
Sat Jun 30th	Armed Forces Day - Charity Street Party Fun Day 1- 4pm Posters nearer time will have details
Aug 11th	Live Music from The AUSTIN BEATS Building 100yr Celebration Night - 60s fancy dress Limited tickets £2 members / Guests £4
Sept 1st	Live Music - Undercovered
Sept 15th	Live Music – Midnight Circus
Sept 29th	Live Music – On the Ceiling
Oct 13th	Live Music – The Yesterdays Charge on the door £2 Members /Guests £4
Oct 27th	Halloween VAMPIRE Ball with FIREWIRE Halloween Fancy Dress - Optional
Nov 10th	Live Music - ENVY
Nov 24th	Live Music – Luna Ghost
Dec 8th	Live Music – The Breeze
Dec 15th	Childrens Christmas Party 1-4pm
Dec 31st	NEW YEARS EVE – Live Music FIREWIRE Viva Las Vegas Theme night - Fancy Dress optional Limited Tickets £3 members / £5 Guests

All live music starts at 9pm - Under 16s must be accompanied by an Adult
Committee reserve the right to refuse entry - Gig Guide is Subject to Change

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The Dersingham Beat

by Sgt Karen Faulkner

Since our last entry into the Village Voice at Christmas there have been some changes with regard to policing on the area. We have seen the return of Response officers previously stationed at Kings Lynn back out to Hunstanton and Dersingham as of January. This has resulted in an increased capability for police response options as a whole across the Hunstanton and Dersingham policing area. In turn we have continued to see a reduction in the levels of anti-social behaviour.

In relation to the burglary other than a dwelling at Budgens Supermarket on the 19th April 2012, three persons involved have been arrested and subsequently charged to court with this offence.

At the last Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) meeting, three priorities were set by the panel, with one directly relating to Dersingham being the ongoing issue of dog fouling in the village, both on the thoroughfares and entrances to residents gardens. This issue was set as a result of the representations made at the meeting and has been taken up by the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk who are going to carry out further investigations into this priority.

The next SNAP meeting will be held on Thursday 12th July at 7pm at Dersingham Infant & Nursery school, Saxon Way; this is the ideal opportunity for you to come along and voice your concerns with representatives from the police and its partnership agencies, with a view to having an input on the forthcoming set of priorities to be adopted.

On a brighter note work is progressing well on the initiation of a youth group within the Dersingham area, with PC 9062 Maria Lambert having held several constructive meetings in order to secure funding and suitable location for it to be held; also establishing with the young people how best to allocate that funding in order to provide the best possible opportunities for engagement. Starting on Tuesday 19th June 2012, youths between 12-17 years old from Dersingham are welcome to attend the Dersingham Village Social club every Tuesday between 6-9pm. There is a small fee of £2 per evening with tea and coffee included. Soft drink and crisps will be available to buy. Pool, music and other activities will be available. If you need any information regarding the youth group or would be willing to get involved please contact PC 9062 Maria Lambert at Dersingham Police station, telephone on 101 or just turn up.

Lastly it is impossible to get away without mentioning both the Queen's Coronation Jubilee and also the Olympic Games. As an organisation we are busy planning for the events which are fast approaching; with the Olympic Torch due to pass through our area on the 4th July. □

The Companions of Park House at Sandringham will be holding a **Strawberry Tea with Bucks Fizz** at Park House on Wednesday 30th May, 3pm - 5pm. Prize £12.50. This will be in the grounds if the weather permits, or in the conservatory. Further details and tickets available from Phil Davies (01553-631179), Gloria Daniels (01485-578300) or Tom Morris (01485-541450).

The Companions raise funds to help disabled people afford a holiday at Park House.



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From the Parish Office

As I am writing this we are just about getting straight in the new office (we are now at 4 Post Office Road) apart from the phones and broadband but thanks to the wonders of modern technology and call centres, these are still not up and running. I apologise if you have been trying to contact us, hopefully when you read this all will be functioning again. Anita and I have noticed that

being in the new office has helped many of you in being able to come in and see us. Please do come in and tell us your problems & comments, we are unable to help if we do not know, do not rely on someone else doing it because they could be thinking the same! Anita and I wish to thank everyone at Geoffrey Collings for the time that we spent with them and for making our stay welcoming and enjoyable and for all the parcels that you have taken in for us! We will miss you all.

Recently we seem to have a problem with bottles being left at the back of Burma Close in the garden area. If anyone sees anyone dumping on this land, please inform the Parish Office, anonymously if you wish. We are also having problems with garden waste being dumped in all sorts of places, even behind bus shelters! Again if you know anything please let us know. Help us to keep this village clean and safe.

We currently have two vacancies for Councillors on the Council, if you care about your village and have a few hours on your hands we would love to hear from you.

Well I think that is all from me. Hope we get some sun soon. Hope everyone enjoys the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. Hope to see you in the new office soon.□

Sarah

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Tuesday June 5



Steve Davis

Walk on, walk off!



Late afternoon on Friday 20th April, ex-colleague and friend Patrick and I drove off toward the delightful English market town of Oakham in the county of Rutland for the start of our latest planned escapade: to walk the meandering 65 mile way-marked Rutland Round over the next five days. Although comparatively tame by other long-distance footpath standards it was devised by the award winning John Williams, a Rights-of-Way Officer for the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and officially recognised and opened 12 years ago, taking in much of the landscape of our smallest historic county including of course Rutland Water and many of its quaint villages. John's guidebook details the walk in five easy-to-follow 13-mile sections (hence our five days) with snippets of maps and things to look out for and can be purchased for under £6 from Amazon.co.uk or the Ramblers Association.

Checking in to the very friendly White Horse Hotel in Oakham (where Patrick had arranged to leave the car for the next five nights), we studied our routes and maps before tucking into a hearty meal and a stroll about town. With an equally hearty cooked breakfast the next morning, it was perhaps just as well we had a 13-mile walk ahead of us! I might have wished that the weather prospects were a little more favourable, particularly since I had developed a bit of a cough, but it was very pleasant to set off through the relatively peaceful town and we soon turned off along country footpaths through fields of sheep, from where we could admire distant views of Rutland Water whilst heading towards our first village of Eggleton. Taking the time to visit country churches I find always makes for a pleasant interlude to a walk and the steepled church of St Edmund's in Eggleton provided our first of such.



Pressing on from Eggleton alongside fields with a slight incline we gained a bit of height, making the views back across Rutland Water all the more impressive, before descending again through a woodland path into the village of Brooke. There the interesting church of St Peter we read had changed little since 1579. Of note was some 17th century graffiti carved into the chancel stalls – I wonder if they ever caught whoever I.E.M. was back in 1664? On again through the small village down past the site of Brooke Priory, alongside the River Gwash and into the village of Braunston where we stopped for lunch on a seat by the Village Green opposite All Saints Church with the strange oversized clock-face on its tower. Our welcome packed lunches



had been hastily cobbled together with scraps from our enormous breakfast – just as well since we had passed no shops or cafés at all on the way.



Our walk was punctuated with light showers, but the scenery and green fields full of sheep, and young gambolling lambs, including several quite large flocks of Jacob's sheep were a pleasure to see. On through the villages of Belton-in-Rutland and Wardley before a light uphill walk through bluebell woodland and open meadow until we reached the old A47 that would lead us into Uppingham, the end of our first 13-mile stretch. Uppingham

is another picturesque market town with its famous huge elegant boarding school founded in 1584, and the "Beans" café provided us with a well-earned tray of tea and





deliciously tempting cakes. Our B&B for the night was Meadowsweet Lodge, a charming 1990s but solidly built house on a slope with its entrance on the first floor giving it a kind of upside down aspect.

Now ordinarily I would have taken those “light uphill inclines” in my stride, but unfortunately my chest infection had taken its toll, so that after a rather disturbed night, we had to sadly conclude that abandoning the operation was our only real option.

With no buses running in the vicinity on a

Sunday, a kind offer from our landlady to drive us back to Oakham was readily accepted. Despite my predicament, I am pleased to say that my appetite had not suffered so I was able to appreciate the most delicious of cooked breakfasts before being whisked swiftly back to our starting point (which was actually only 7 miles by road!) Then apart from quick stops on the drive home to take photos across Rutland Water, Patrick delivered me back to Dersingham by late morning somewhat dazed and feeling rather flat after such an abrupt halt! As things transpired, I had actually developed pneumonia, albeit a comparatively mild bout, though I would not have much cared for a more severe one! Let that be a lesson, I hear you chorus!

Two years ago, the Dersingham Walking Group made a block booking on a locally organised coach trip to Southwold, from where we had a very successful 6½ mile circular walk around the back fields, river and coastland of Southwold and Walberswick. Earlier this year we had hoped to make a similar block booking on a coach trip to Skegness and from there walk down and around the Gibraltar Point nature reserve. I had printed out a promising looking walk from www.skegness-resort.co.uk/walk/walk2_1.htm, and Lindsey (my wife) and I had planned a couple of nights stay in Skegness beforehand so as to thoroughly investigate and pre-walk the route. Unfortunately the Skegness coach trip we were to have used for the group had to be cancelled, but nevertheless we thought we would go ahead with checking out the walk as a possibility for the future.



So in mid-March, Lindsey and I set out from our very reasonable Coasters holiday apartment right opposite the pier at Skegness (booked through laterooms.com) following our 7½ mile route south along the seafront seemingly within throwing distance of the vast expanse of wind turbines out in the Wash before cutting more

inland though scrubby woodland and dunes trying to keep as near to the sea as we could, whilst avoiding the muddy tidal creeks. Although quite pleasant, it was more difficult to follow than our downloaded instructions had suggested, and whereas for ourselves we might have taken a few more chances, we had to think of it in terms of suitability for leading a group. Eventually we reached the reserve of Gibraltar Point that does have a lot of bleak charm to it. The visitors centre there with car parking, extensive footpaths, viewing platforms, bird hides and of course birds make it well worth a visit in itself, but really as a walk from Skegness, you could perhaps take it or leave it. Walking back to Skegness by road as the route directed left us in no doubt that it would not really be one with which to trouble our Dersingham Walking Group!

Well, some you win, some you lose! Of course it is good to broaden our horizons, but



always on our return we consider how blessed we are to live here and question our need to travel much further afield. The old local adage “a day out of Norfolk is a day wasted” does have something in it! The attractive, and extensive woodland, heathlands, and meadows of



Sandringham, Dersingham Bog, Roydon Common and Ringstead to the marshland, dunes, cliffs and coastlines of the Wash and North Sea from Wolferton and Snettisham around to Old Hunstanton, Thornham and on along the North Coast leave us not really wanting for very much more scenerywise. So here at least, and with a bit of welcome sunshine perhaps, it is definitely a case of walk on!□

Email: [steve @davista.co.uk](mailto:steve@davista.co.uk) or visit www.davista.co.uk for links to docs, photos & videos.

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NEWS FROM ST CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

by Tricia Steele



Wednesday March 21st was the date of our first Mass for the Sick and Housebound at St Cecilia's. We were pleased to welcome around seventy visitors, over half of whom received the Sacrament of the Sick during a very moving service. After the service, tea was served and there was an opportunity to chat and catch up with old friends. We are very grateful to those who made this event possible, especially those who organised the teas and the transport, and of course to Fr Michael for officiating at the Mass.

It was standing room only in our churches on Easter Sunday, when our three services were attended by a total of 435 people. It was good to see many old friends, as well as welcoming new ones, and the churches looked beautiful thanks to the expertise and hard work of the flower arrangers and others. Although it is certainly a pleasure to see so many people on our major feasts, we are also delighted to welcome visitors to our services throughout the year. In particular at 10.15am on Wednesdays we have Mass followed by refreshments at St Cecilia's, and are very happy to meet visitors either from the local area or further afield.

Our Strawberry Fair will be on Saturday June 23rd, and we are hoping it will have stopped raining by then. There will be the usual stalls and sideshows and of course excellent strawberry teas. We are always happy to see visitors at this event and hope that many readers of Village Voice will join us on June 23rd.



If you are housebound and a Catholic, or caring for someone who is a Catholic, and would like a visit from the priest, do please contact us. You do not need to have attended either of our churches previously – we still count you as part of our parish family.

Telephone: 01485 543818

Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org



The Companions of Park House at Sandringham will be holding a
Silver Jubilee Black Tie Ball
on Saturday 30th June. Black tie or smart lounge suit. Tickets £50 to include a three-course dinner and dancing to the Eddie Seales Band. Further details and tickets are available from:
Ann Carter (01945 581962) or Susan Sapey (01945 880310).



The Companions raise funds to help disabled people afford a holiday at Park House.

How far can you go for a penny?

Here at the Post Office, it is that time of year again. Spring brings sunshine and showers, beautiful bulbs and a price increase for Royal Mail and Parcelforce.

We dutifully encouraged customers to buy stamps before the rise because, this year, the price increases for 1st and 2nd class stamps have been, to put it bluntly, huge. However, the other increases (apart from light packages just over 100g) seem to be very reasonable. Indeed, if you consider where the mail goes, a 1st class 60p stamp on a letter from Dersingham to Edinburgh works out at just 0.2p a mile. A 2nd class 50p stamp on a letter from Dersingham to Lincoln is roughly 1p a mile, still very good value for money. Could you do it for less?

As with everything, you may need to be careful with money but the joy of receiving a card or parcel through the post is priceless.

Fraser Lindsay



Fun and Games

Fun and games is the order of the day with Dersingham's two childrens clubs which are held at St Nicholas' Church Hall in Dersingham and it costs just £1 per person to cover expenses. Local youngsters, along with their friends, are welcome to attend either of the clubs and any enquiries should be made to Steve Lofts tel: 07425 145887 or Alan Crawshaw tel: 01485 543836.

"Identity", our newest club for local youngsters aged 10 – 14 years is now firmly established. We have

an amazing variety of games, discussions, and time to be yourself - and learn about God too !

The forthcoming dates for your diary are: Saturday, 16 June (10 am till 12 noon) Saturday, 21 July (10 am till 12 noon)

In addition, dates for the **regular Kidz Klub (aimed at 5 - 11 year olds)** are fixed for: Saturday, 9 June (10 am till 12 noon) Saturday, 14 July (10 am till 12 noon) .



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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

Scot
Chip
Barney
Gus

Snails

‘Hello, Scot.’

Scot turned round quickly. A girl’s voice came from behind him and surprised him as he was poking and prodding at a pine cone. He was seeing how many of the woody flakes of the cone he could break off to get at the seed beneath. The seed was good to eat – hard, nutty, tasty. Scot recognised the girl as Cassie. He had seen her playing and chasing around with his sisters, Ella and Eve. Cassie’s nest, where she had been born, was in one of the sycamore trees beyond the beech trees where Scot and his family lived.

‘Have you been trying to eat the seeds?’ asked Cassie.

‘Yes. I have been eating them,’ Scot said. ‘They’re quite good – not big, but hard and dry with a good nutty taste, so you feel you want to eat more of them.’

Scot knew why Cassie wanted to speak to him – for the same reason that she was often going around with Ella and Eve. Cassie only had one brother who was always running off without her. This was unusual. Scot knew that all the other squirrels who were born at around the same time that he was, had two or three others in the nest with them. Sometimes they were brothers and sometimes they were sisters. Sometimes there was one brother and one sister.

‘I find they make you thirsty, though,’ said Cassie. ‘The cones come from tall, dry trees that grow in sandy soil, so they are dry and powdery, too.’

‘I suppose so,’ said Scot, losing interest in the conversation and in Cassie and turning away from her. ‘I like them, though – plenty to bite and chew on.’

‘Hey, do you want to try some different food?’ asked Cassie in a perky, lively voice, trying to keep Scot listening to her.

‘Why?’

‘Ah!’ said Cassie, and she stopped, looked at Scot for a short time, smiling, and said: ‘Something completely different.’

‘What?’ Scot was curious, interested.

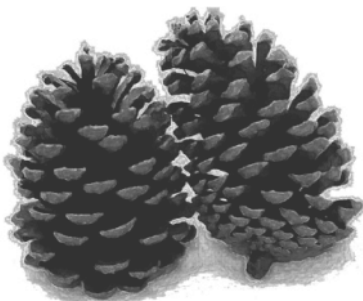
‘Snails,’ said Cassie, lingering on the word, and smiling.

‘Snails?’ Scot was not only interested. He was shocked. ‘What? Those horrible black things you see crawling out of the grass over by the orchard in wet weather?’

‘No. Not them,’ Cassie said slowly, enjoying the fact that she knew about snails and Scot obviously did not. ‘Don’t eat them,’ she went on. ‘They’re slugs. They’re black and tough and horrible. No. Snails are much softer and nicer. They’re those little things, a bit like slugs only grey and not black. They creep along on one foot and carry their house on their back, a little shell that they crawl into and live in.’

‘Where do we find them, then?’ asked Scot, really quite interested by now.

‘Oh, in much the same places as slugs,’ said Cassie quickly. ‘Down by the orchard, or anywhere where there are leaves. That is what they eat. They go over dry ground more than slugs, and leave a shiny trail behind them. Come on. Let’s go and find some.’



Scoot followed Cassie through the sycamore trees, past the hawthorn and brambles, and through the silver birches. Finally, they came to the grassy area before the gorse bushes. It had recently rained, and the smell of fresh soil hung in the air.

‘There,’ said Cassie. ‘There’s a little group of them.’

She was soon in among them, picked up one and tossed another one to Scoot. Scoot noticed that when you pulled on the shells, they clung to the ground a little, but they had no strength, and Cassie soon pulled them away. As she spoke to Scoot, and as she threw him his snail, the snails themselves disappeared inside their shells.

‘Just crush the shells,’ she called to Scoot. ‘They’re thinner than eggshells. Then just peel the bits of shell off with your claws and pop them in your mouth.’

‘Whole?’

‘Yes. Whole. You’ve got a big enough mouth, Scoot.’

Cassie put her snail in her mouth and chewed, and smiled.

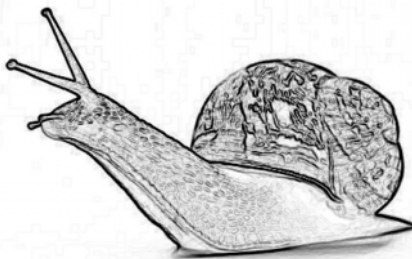
‘Lovely,’ she said. ‘Nice and moist. A bit oily, but plenty to chew on. Ooooooh!’

Scoot watched, peeled off his shell, and popped the still-wriggling snail into his mouth.

‘Errgh!’ He spat it out. ‘I don’t like it. It’s slimy and slides around in your mouth and it’s got no taste.’

He felt his stomach heave and knock against the back of his throat. Then it did it again and he was sick into the grass. He looked at Cassie as if he would kill her.

‘Oh, well. There’s just no pleasing some people, is there?’ she said, and scampered off. □



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Parish Council Report

Parishioners raised their concerns, at the meeting on the 30th of April, regarding the abandoned picnic site on the A149, worried that it may attract travellers. It was decided that an investigation into who originally owned the site would be sought from Norfolk County Council as its future was in question.

The organisation of the car boot sales to be held on the recreation ground has now been handed over to the Cricket Club who will notify parishioners of their start date.

It was decided that outstanding issues with the Highways department should be dealt with at a meeting attended by a Highways' representative. However, Cllr Smith proposed that the department should be given the opportunity to assess any questions and concerns prior to the meeting in order for them to be dealt with effectively. The council will be inviting residents' views on Highways issues at the next meeting and through The Voice.

There have been nine reported crimes from last month, including criminal damage to the community centre, an assault on two males at the social club, a theft from Budgens and four reports of anti-social behaviour.

Chair Gillian Sergeant asked that the matter of the Conservation Area be placed on the agenda for next month as few parishioners are voicing their opinions on the proposal. The Conservation Area, a way of stopping anything extreme being made to listed buildings, would be discussed at the next meeting and the residents already notified had been asked for their comments.

The issue of the amalgamation between the Infant School and St Georges will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting to be held at the Infant School on Monday 14 May at 7pm.

The next full council meeting will be held at the Infant School on Monday 28 May at 7pm. □

Emma Jackson

Exhibition showing what life was like in 1952

It was a time when the austerity of post-war rationing was giving way to a new world of technology, glamour, bold design and prosperity. 1952 - A celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, is a new exhibition allowing people to step back in time to see what life was really like in 1952, when Queen Elizabeth II became queen.

The exhibition, created by the Tourist Information Centre, is open from 9 May until 30 September and costs £1 for adults and 50p for children.

Themed information boards, covering topics such as transport and health, allow visitors to build up a comprehensive picture of what life was like for the average person in 1950s Britain. As well as being a fantastic learning resources for scholars, pieces such as the re-creation of a 1950s living room, complete with authentic wallpaper and furnishings, along with dresses and shoes from the era, really bring the period to life.

Children's activities have a distinctive '50s flavour inspired by 'Watch with mother' and 'Bill and Ben'. Youngsters will be able to find out about the sorts of toys their forbears would have had to keep them entertained and will be able to learn about sweet rationing.

There will also be a display of British postage stamps from the last 60 years.

The exhibition is housed within the Custom House, King's Lynn.

It is open from 10 am – 4.30 pm Mon – Sat and 12 noon – 4.30 pm Sunday.



Mayor Colin Sampson opened the exhibition

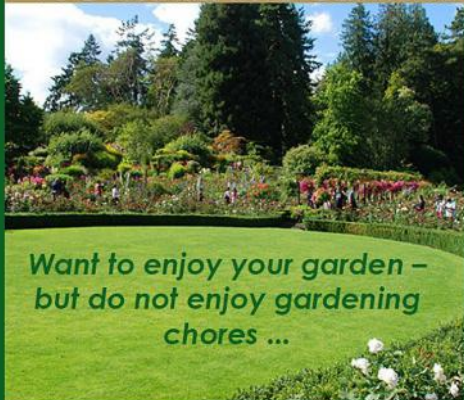
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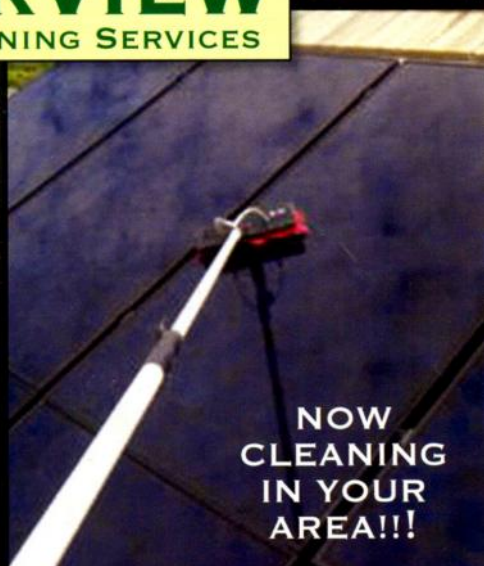
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Dersingham Scouts & Guides

Bag Packing at The Range - 17th/18th March

If you went into The Range in King's Lynn during Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th March you would have been met by members of the Dersingham Scouts & Guides who were fund-raising for their Diamond Jubilee Party in June by packing the bags of customers and handing them baskets as they arrived. Over 50 members of the groups (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Beavers, Cubs & Scouts) and their leaders took part, they were always busy and were frequently complimented by the many shoppers. They worked in pairs at the tills, with older members helping the younger ones or politely handing out baskets at the door. All the leaders were incredibly proud of them all and The Range had no complaints.



1st Dersingham Rainbows Celebrate 25 years of Rainbows

In 1987, The Guide Association (now Girl Guiding UK) launched its newest section - Rainbows, for girls aged 5-7 years. Fast-forward 25 years and this section has gone from strength to strength, in Dersingham, (although our unit only opened in September 1993) we have had about 500 members! To celebrate this 25th birthday the Dersingham Rainbows have been taking part in the national "Rainbows Big Birthday Challenge" badge. They have been completing activities from the four areas of their programme, Look, Learn, Laugh and Love, plus an extra Celebrate activity. We have made Birthday cards, edible jewellery from squidgy sweets and strawberry laces, learnt about the compass and where in the world animals come from, looked at and created our own cloud pictures and listened to the world around us and played some new silly games. We have also planted 25 brightly coloured pansies in front of our HQ to celebrate and to remind us of our birthday.

1st & 2nd Dersingham Brownies Pack Holiday in Cromer

The Easter holidays are a special time for the members of the two Dersingham Brownie groups as it is the time of year when we go away on Pack Holiday together. Going on pack holiday is not a compulsory part of being a Brownie, but it is a highly exciting and enjoyable part. It allows the girls to enjoy brownie activities for a longer period of time than they have at their weekly meetings. We take both Dersingham groups away together, enabling the Brownies to mix with the members of the other group, but also from other schools. This year we stayed at Cromer Junior School and we had 31 Brownies, 1 Guide helper and 7 adult leaders and went from 1st - 4th April. As this year is 2012 our theme was The Olympics, so the Sixes, leader names and activities were all based around this. While on Pack holiday the girls were split into four sixes, (Athletes, Gymnasts, Equestrians & Swimmers), with each six containing girls from both groups, ages and a mixture of pack holiday experience. Each six has their own classroom as a bedroom, which they have to keep tidy as they have inspection every morning. They also have duties to complete around the holiday home, which each six takes its turn at, these include helping in the kitchen, checking there are toilet rolls and laying the tables. At the end of each meal they wash up their dishes, with a different member of the six washing up at each meal. All through the holiday the girls have the chance to earn points and this year the winning six was the Athletes.

As we were staying in Cromer, we had to visit the beach, so on the first afternoon we all walked down to the beach with our buckets and spades. We had a lovely time on the beach, building sandcastles and playing games. It was also perfect weather - not too hot and not too cold either. We then returned to the School for our own Olympic games on the field. We had sack races, relay

egg and spoon, stilts and other silly races, which at the end of everyone received a medal. On the first evening of pack holiday we do two special activities, one of which is sewing. While in guiding, girls have the chance to earn many badges and when they then move on to the next section they can no longer wear them or they earn ones that are too big for their sashes, so on a Brownies' first Pack Holiday she is given a piece of blanket which will become her badge/campfire blanket. On the first evening everyone is given a "Nights Away" badge which she sews onto her blanket. The "Nights Away" badges are a scheme organised by Girl Guiding Anglia (the guiding region which we belong to) and is a cumulative record of the number of nights away a member completes and it is open to all members, girls & leaders.

The other special activity on the first evening is the Pyjama Parade with prizes awards for the "Nicest Nightwear", "Cosiest Slippers", "Cuddliest Teddy" and the "Best Dressing-gown", all judged by a guest judge.

The second day we spent at the school, working towards our badges in the morning and enjoying real archery and crafts in the afternoon. We had a scout leader, who is a qualified archery instructor come over to us, to teach everyone archery, which they all enjoyed very much. As well as all our outdoor activities, which we take home as wonderful memories and experiences, the Brownies also complete many crafts which they take home in their craft bag to show their families what they have done. This year's crafts were themed around the Olympics, taking inspiration from the sports, ancient Greece and the international element of the games. The girls decorated t-shirts, designed their own sports kits, decorated an ancient Greek urn, made a sporty bookmark, created a British Pom-pom bug, decorated a Faberge egg and created their own Rangoli sand pattern plus others.

On the second evening the 1st Brownies performed their play of Romeo & Juliet, which they had performed for their families before the holidays. They were very good.

On the Tuesday we went out to visit the Amazona Zoo, a short 10 minute walk down the road. It was a very enjoyable visit; we saw otters, pumas, jaguars, tapirs, parrots, macaws, snakes, monkeys and more. We visited the play park, had our picnic and visited the shop all just before the rain started, we therefore ate our ice-creams in the cafe. It was only a short shower, so we were able to walk back without the rain.

On our final evening we held an indoor campfire, the rain had returned, where we sang some very silly songs. Unfortunately we couldn't toast our marshmallows, so they will be out at our first meeting back after the holidays.

The next morning, before we started all the tidying and packing up, we went swimming at the pool next door. This was a very enjoyable final activity.

All too soon however, our kit was packed away and our bags were in the hall ready for collection and it was time for the presentations of badges and thank yous to the leaders for coming, plus, our oldest Brownie Lydia jumped over the toadstool to Guides. As well as a Nights Away badge everyone received an "On Your Marks" badge, awarded for participating in an Olympic-themed event. The interest badges achieved are dependent on how many Pack holidays a Brownie has attended, so Third and Fourth timers achieved their Craft and Designer badges, Second time's achieved their Pack Holiday Advanced, Craft and Agility and First timers achieved their Pack Holiday, Craft, Agility and Cooks. Congratulations to them all, they all worked hard to earn their badges. However, as well as badges the girls learn many new skills; sewing, helping around the home and how to live and get on with others, skills they will need as they grow up.

Pack Holiday is always an enjoyable event, it is something which the leaders look forward to as eagerly as the Brownies themselves do. It is very rewarding when you see the months of preparation and planning come together and a group of very happy Brownies smiling back at you. Pack holiday gives us as leaders a chance to get to know our girls better, and for them to get to know us and if they want to come back again next year and they encourage those who haven't come with tales of what we do, then it has definitely all been worth while. So here's to next year, what could we do to make it even better? □



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The Dersingham Weather Observed by John F. Murray

It is not completely unexpected that no sooner does Anglian Water declare a hosepipe ban than the long awaited rain begins! In fact it is completely in line with what we expect of our unpredictable weather. But that was April, which was in complete contrast to March which was a very sunny and warm month.

The average temperature this March was 7.8°C. The closest previous year was in 2009 when it was 6.9°C. The highest temperature was 21.4°C which is the warmest March so far recorded. The previous best was in 2010 when I recorded 20.2°C. In March 2008 it was a miserable 15.2°C.

Although we did get some rain in March, at 30.4mm it was below the monthly average of 48.9mm but much better than the previous March when I only recorded 7.6mm. In 2008 we had 102.4mm! Although I can't actually remember it, March 2008 must have been a chilly and miserable month.

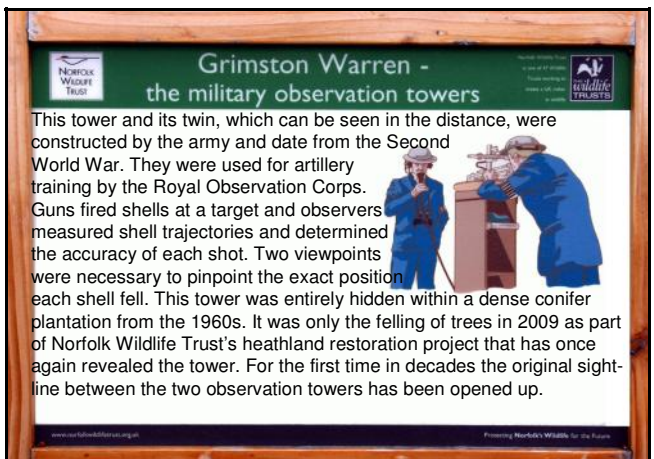
So, perhaps, we were lulled into thinking that the warm weather would continue. It came as a surprise in April to discover that I needed to light the fire and get out my wet weather gear to walk the dog, something I haven't done for a long time.

The Met. Office will agree with me when I say that this April was the wettest April that I have so far recorded. Countrywide it was the wettest for 100 years. Last April was the driest I have ever recorded with only 5.2mm but this year we had 108.6mm, which is over 4 inches. It makes it the second wettest month since I have been keeping records. It was a close second to August 2010 when I recorded 113.2mm. The average rainfall for April is 39.4mm.

As usual the amount of rainfall reflects on other aspects of the weather. The almost permanent overcast weather prevented the sun from penetrating and warming up the ground. The mean temperature was a poor 7.6°C, in comparison for example, to last year when it was 12.1°C. It was even lower than 2008 when it was only 8.4°C. The maximum temperature was also down. This year it reached only 19.3°C whereas last year, for example, it was 27.6°C. I can see a difference in the garden as my asparagus is about two weeks later than last year and the raspberry canes have hardly put on much greenery, though the wet weather gave them a good dousing when they most needed it, so I am hoping for a good crop.

As I am writing this article we have had more rain with a promise of more to come. I am wondering if we are going to have a wet summer. I don't want to spoil it but these things have a habit of catching up with themselves in the long run and we really couldn't complain having had several dry summers. Let's face it, we really do need the rain and in the long term it can only be for the good. Of course it would be typical of the British weather to cause problems for the Golden Jubilee celebrations and dampen the Olympic Games.

A pessimist you might say. I would call myself a realist. But let's not get ahead of ourselves; it's not a prediction, just a thought. □



What & Where answer →

Family based events on Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve			
Event	Date	Time	Event information
Cattle Safari	Sunday 3 rd June 2012	10.30 am	Learn more about our Galloway cattle. Only 10 spaces available.
Bat Walk	Wednesday 6 th June 2012,	8.00 pm	Come along and learn about the bats that visit the NNR and how to use a bat detector. Only 10 spaces available.
Nightjars & Glow worms	Friday 22 nd June 2012,	8.30 pm	Take a stroll through Dersingham Bog NNR at dusk and look out for nightjars and glowworms. Only 10 spaces available.
Moths on our NNR	Sunday 8 th of July 2012,	9.30 am	What surprises will our moth trap provide? Come along and find out then construct your own simple moth trap. Only 10 spaces available.
Bat Walk	Friday 27 th July 2012,	8.30 pm	Come along and learn about the bats that visit the NNR and how to use a bat detector. Only 10 spaces available.
Mad about minibeasts	Sunday 5 th August 2012,	10.30 am	Have some beastly fun and go minibeast hunting around Dersingham Bog NNR with help from expert Rob Coleman. Only 20 spaces available.
Buzzing bees	Friday 17 th August 2012,	10.30 am	Learn about our bumblebees. Then create your own bee home for your garden. Only 10 spaces available.
Cattle Safari	Friday 24 th August 2012,	10.30 am	Learn more about our Galloway cattle. Only 10 spaces available.

Bog News from Tom Bolderstone



The weather in April has been a pretty mixed bag with what seems like rain since the first April nearly every day. This weather has also made it difficult on the wildlife that nests and lives on the reserve.

Many of the ground nesting species such as Woodlark and Stonechat will have found this weather particularly difficult as their nests can be exposed to the weather and the cold as well as it being difficult to find food. This may mean that they haven't nested as early as they should or that nests they did have may not have been as successful. Hopefully in the next few weeks warmer weather will be on the horizon.

We are running some events on the reserve this summer with the help of Sonia who is our outreach adviser for the Wash NNR and Dersingham Bog NNR. These are family based events and cover a wide range of activities and are based on the reserve. For more details see left.



At the start of May, just as I am writing this article, the first heathland specialist migrants have returned to the site. Tree Pipits have arrived in good numbers with probably around nine territories. They are particularly noted for their almost parachuting display flight from the air to a tree. The other migrant is a single singing Grasshopper warbler which as the name suggests sings like a grasshopper and the technical term for this is known as reeling.



Nightjars are the final summer visitor to return to the heath at Dersingham Bog and the first one arrives normally in the last few weeks of April. Unusually this year they still haven't arrived on the first May. This is probably due to unfavourable wind conditions on the continent but by the middle of May there will be lots of Churring males.

As ever I look forward to meeting some of you out and about on the reserve.□

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Greetings from the manse

I never thought I would be mentioning the reality TV programme “Big Brother” in an article. I know a little bit about it but have never watched it myself. The format has been franchised around the world and for whatever reason has proved hugely popular. If you, like me, have been living on a different planet when it comes to any TV Reality show, you will need to know that Big Brother puts hungry fame seeking people into a sealed house in a secret location and hope that sparks will fly in front of the cameras. That’s about all there is to know except that the contestants hope to win a lot of money if they survive each “eviction” from the house, this is determined by public phone vote, and they all hope to be turned into instant celebrities. When the show played out in Israel this year there was a surprising twist. The TV producers engineered the guest list to include the almost obligatory off the wall and off beat characters that would fall out and fall in to order. This year they set up a potential confrontation between a former army officer and a pro-Palestinian Israeli, both selected for their extreme views. Amazingly two things happened that departed from what was hoped would boost ratings. The first was that the two men bonded and as the programme ran its course they developed a strong friendship that moderated their extreme views. The harshness of political and other views gave way to the people behind them. The second was that the Israeli public who were following the show took to the young man whose views they ordinarily wouldn’t have given house room to, no pun intended! The series has so far received some of the highest viewer ratings Israeli TV has ever had (an average of three in 10 Israelis a night). On public phone ins discussing what was happening comments such as “they just have the most amazing conversations, very calm, very un-Big Brother-like, were typical. Another commented, “I think that’s one of the only things I like about this reality show: the dialogues are very representative of the political discourse that goes on in this country. Percentage-wise, it’s probably the equivalent to what’s going on outside the house as well. It is very symbolic of what is going on in Israel.” And someone else said, “I don’t agree with everything he says. There are harsh things he has said about soldiers that were really hard to listen to. But he doesn’t stoop to bickering – he has a backbone and he never steps down from a well-mannered discussion. That is why most Israelis love him.”

This is I think amazing and extraordinary and gives hope to the world that differences can be settled peacefully, by talking, understanding forgiving, by seeing and accepting the humanity of the other; in a word by the surprising love that can grow in the unlikely places and break down barriers. As we celebrate the festival of Pentecost may the Spirit of God in Jesus be poured out again on all flesh as it was on that day which brought people together. May the Spirit of God help us dream our dreams for a world of peace, justice and love.

In the penultimate article in my series celebrating the 400th anniversary of the publishing of the King James Bible, I want to say that this work was one of revision rather than fresh translation. The title of the first edition of the “THE HOLY BIBLE, Conteyning the Old Testament, AND THE NEW: Newly Translated out of the Originall tongues: & with the former Translations diligently compared and revised, by His Majesties speciall Comandement.” King James’s instructions included several requirements that kept the new Bible familiar to its listeners and readers. The text of the *Bishops’ Bible* served as the primary guide. If the *Bishops’ Bible* was deemed problematic in any situation, the translators were permitted to consult other translations from a pre-approved list: the *Tyndale Bible*, the *Coverdale Bible*, *Matthew’s Bible*, the *Great Bible*, and the *Geneva Bible*. In addition, later scholars have detected an influence on the Authorized Version from the translations of *Taverner’s Bible*, and the New Testament of the *Douay-Rheims Bible*. It is for this reason that the flyleaf of most printings of the *Authorized Version* observes that the text had been “translated out of the original tongues, and with the former translations diligently compared and revised, by His Majesty’s special command.”

The task of translation was undertaken by 47 scholars, although 54 were originally approved. All were members of the Church of England and all except Sir Henry Savile were clergy. The scholars worked in six committees, two based in each of the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, and Westminster. The committees included scholars with Puritan sympathies, as well as High Churchman. Forty unbound copies of the 1602 edition of the *Bishops' Bible* were specially printed so that the agreed changes of each committee could be recorded in the margins. The committees worked on certain parts separately and the drafts produced by each committee were then compared and revised for harmony with each other. They all had completed their sections by 1608. From January 1609, a General Committee of Review met at Stationers' Hall, London, to review the completed marked texts from each of the six committees. A note of their deliberations (in Latin) has partly survived in two later transcripts.

Also surviving is a bound-together set of marked-up corrections to one of the forty *Bishops' Bibles* covering the Old Testament and Gospels, and also a manuscript translation of the text of the Epistles excepting those verses where no change was being recommended to the readings in the *Bishops' Bible*. Archbishop Richard Bancroft insisted on having a final say, making fourteen changes, of which one was the term "bishopricke" at Acts 1:20.



Archbishop Bancroft

The work of preparing a new translation of the Bible or a modern revision has not altered through the centuries. Essentially it is done by committee looking at and working with existing translations and the best ancient manuscripts available. Further to this, the end product is born in mind. Is the aim to present a literal word by word translation or a paraphrase? Should the ancient writers thoughts be transcribed as literally or as nearly as possible, i.e. what they were saying or trying to say in their culture and thought world, or should the text be presented to modern readers in the culture and thought world of the age?

This issue is very much to the fore when translations are made of Greek texts usually through English into a native language Bible for the first time. In all this we rely on both the faithfulness, prayerful commitment, the scholarship and the language skills of the men and women who do this great work.

When someone chooses a Bible today (hopefully to read it!) they often prefer a version that is easier to read or follow, one that gives the message in the language that is more or less spoken in that day. Indeed, some such consideration was behind the King James Bible. Paraphrases, like the Living Bible and a contemporary translation, which I quite like, like The Message are popular and we might say "get the job done" or "it does what it says on the tin!" Today we have entered into versions that are written in text speak or more humorously in regional dialect. Other folks prefer translations which seek to pay more attention to what the original authors were saying and try to faithfully express the power of their words and ideas, among these the NIV is an excellent work. Yet others go for the good old translations with an eye on their epic language, but also a sense that Bibles like the King James are closer to the original sources and therefore what God is wanting to say to people through the written word. However, as we have discovered, this isn't really the case. There are a number of Bible verses in the New Testament that are present in the King James Version but which are absent from most modern Bible translations based on post 1881 translations

using Alexandrian texts. These verses include, Matthew 17;21,18;11,23;14. Mark 7;16, 9;44,46, 11;26,15;28. Luke 17;36, 23;17. John 5;3-4, Acts 8;37, 15;34, 28;29. Romans 16;24. Most modern textual scholars consider these verses "interpolations." These scribal additions are often found in late medieval manuscripts of the New Testament, but not in the manuscripts of the earlier centuries. And because the King James Bible is based on later manuscripts, such verses became part of the Bible tradition in English-speaking lands." The 1979 edition of the King James Bible continues to have them; however, the NIV 2011 no longer has some of the verses that were included in footnotes in the 1984 and previous versions of the NIV. □

With every Pentecostal blessing Rev. Kim Nally.

DERSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Saturday coffee mornings continue to be well attended, the stalls of books, cards, cakes, jigsaws, Fair Trade products and general bric-a-brac are very popular with everyone. The queue at the hatch for coffee, cakes and sausage rolls seems to grow longer each month. The next coffee morning is on Saturday 30th June 10.00 a.m. when proceeds will be divided equally between East Anglia Children's Hospices and Church Funds. We look forward to seeing you.

Lunch at the Chapel is a good occasion to enjoy an excellent meal as well as meet friends, the next lunches are on 11th June, 9th July, 12.15 p.m. cost £4. Our jubilee activities have been around knitting. We asked people to knit red, white and blue bunting to decorate the hall for the flower festival and the June lunch. Little did we think so many would take up the challenge! Heather Titcombe has been sewing the knitted triangles together and must now have enough bunting to decorate not just the hall but the church and Post Office Road! At the flower festival there is a competition to guess the length of the bunting to raise funds for Methodist Homes for the Aged who issued the initial challenge. Many thanks to all knitters, can't wait to see how much the bunting will measure.

During the summer months we are privileged to have many visitors to the Church. Many are surprised by the inside of the building, how attractive and comfortable it is and as they join us in the Hall they are then surprised to see a list of all the activities that happen during the week. The comments are often followed by how friendly everyone is in making the visitors welcome. During the week many people come to the church, some come to many of the church run activities, some to hire the premises for their own activities and of course many come to the Sunday services. This church has been opening its doors and welcoming people in for 122 years, the welcome found inside may be due in part to the lovely building, but we think its because people have found that being a Christian and following Jesus gives more to life and in our own simple ways we want to show love and friendship to others. You are all invited to open the door, enter and find a welcome. □

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The World of Antiques

by John Vost

In this edition I am looking at silver and gold and the potential dangers incurred when private individuals are selling either.

At the time of writing the following prices were being paid for bulk precious metal scrap against a gold fix of £1,110.65 (source ATG)

Gold

22 carat	£952.99 per ounce
18 carat	£779.72 per ounce
15 carat	£649.76 per ounce
14 carat	£606.45 per ounce
9 carat	£389.86 per ounce

Hallmarked platinum

£28.05 per gram

Hallmarked 925 standard silver

£17.72 per gram

The private individual will rarely, if ever, achieve these sums when selling, these are the prices paid for trade bulk scrap and do not take into account any intrinsic value. The individual has two options when selling, use a dealer or sell at auction. In the case of the former the dealer will require a profit and the latter will require commission, both outcomes will erode the scrap value considerably. However, most articles made from precious metals do have an intrinsic value and often this will be in excess of the scrap value.

Some readers may recall the exploits of the American Bunker brothers in the 1970's when they set out to corner the world market in silver. At the peak of their operation silver in England was scrapping at the heady sum of £20 an ounce, unheard of before or since although prices today are getting close but for different reasons. I do recall a Queen Anne silver chandelier weighing some 200 ounces being sold for scrap at the time for £4,000; it later appeared at auction and sold for £250,000!



Silver dealers had a bonanza like some are today by paying what appeared to the unwary enormous prices and the victims rarely discovered that in many cases they were being duped into selling items that had an intrinsic value far above the scrap value.

With all precious metals the maker of an object can add vast amounts to a value depending on whom it was and that specialist knowledge is not normally in the domain of the seller.

This pair of candlesticks were made in England in 1719 by one Paul de Lamerie, they were just over 6 inches high and weighed 30 ounces giving a scrap value today of around £530, they sold for £12,000 a salutary example of what can happen if the right advice is not taken

before selling.

This comparatively modern silver napkin ring (below) was made in 1911 and weighed just one ounce giving a scrap value of around £17. It was however made by one Omar Ramsden a celebrated silversmith of the 20th century; it sold for £380 twenty-two times its scrap value.

The reasons for this extraordinary rise in the value of precious metals globally are the same as they always have been when war and financial crises occur, people put their cash into these easily portable commodities that are easy to convert anywhere in the world.

If any readers require advice or information about a particular item then please contact me, John Vost, with a photograph if at all possible at enquiries@vosts.co.uk. In the next issue we will look at ceramics. □



Dersingham Lace Makers Challenged

We were asked by the Village Voice editor if we could produce a picture of the village sign for the Parish Council in needlework and lace as a tribute for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was an interesting and challenging project to work on. We started with taking photographs of the sign but, how do we change these into a working chart? We found, by asking friends, someone who could do this for us with her computer and she produced a detailed chart. Each section was then enlarged onto graph paper to work from. If we were uncertain about anything we would go along with pens and notepaper to scrutinise the sign in situ, with wet feet and ankles from the long grass. Next, the lettering needed to be spaced and which style of letter would look best. This worked quite well with not too much trouble. The lace design we liked was the wrong way round. The straight edges were easy to reverse but the corners were more of a problem. However, one of our group, Barbara Merrick, was able to do this with the help of her computer.

After 18 months, we were ready to go to A.S.K. Frames on Manor Road and finally put the whole thing together. □

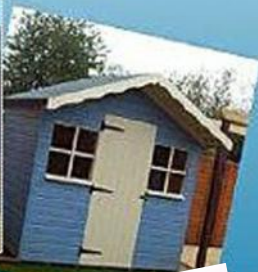


New borough Mayor Geoffrey Wareham, on his first official engagement, gets a baptism of fire at the Dersingham Lace Day held at St Georges School. Here he, and the Mayoress, admire our village sign.

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That's My Business

Jo Halpin Jones - photographer



I have been taking photographs ever since I was first given a Brownie 127 camera at about eight years old. I still have those early blurry photos of family and friends, the dog, trips to Cornwall and an expedition to Ireland back in the days when the car was lifted onto the ferry in a net.

My photographic endeavours continued throughout my life, and my friends became used to me forever trying to sneak photographs of them. I documented holidays, emigration to Canada and back, parties and family gatherings. I have a cupboard overflowing with albums and packets of prints.

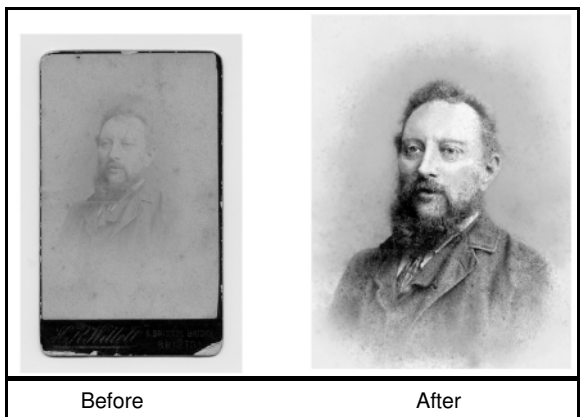
After careers in publishing and Norfolk Social Services, I finally went on a two-year course at the College of West Anglia and started to do photography "properly". I learned dark room techniques, how to compose and creatively crop images, framing, and spent hours in the library looking at the work of many photographers. This was the beginning of the digital era and I bought myself a secondhand digital camera. The world was never the same again. I learned to see things differently. And I no longer had to wait for Boots to develop the photos to see the results. That freed me up to experiment with capturing everything around me.

My husband Dick and I bought a campervan and made many trips all over Europe and even went to Morocco. Another favourite place was Iceland, catching the ferry from northern Scotland. These trips provided wonderful material for photography. I am always trying to focus on something a bit different: an odd angle, unusual shapes and colours, patterns and textures and to capture special moments in time, whether it be magical light, an expression on someone's face, or a one-off situation.

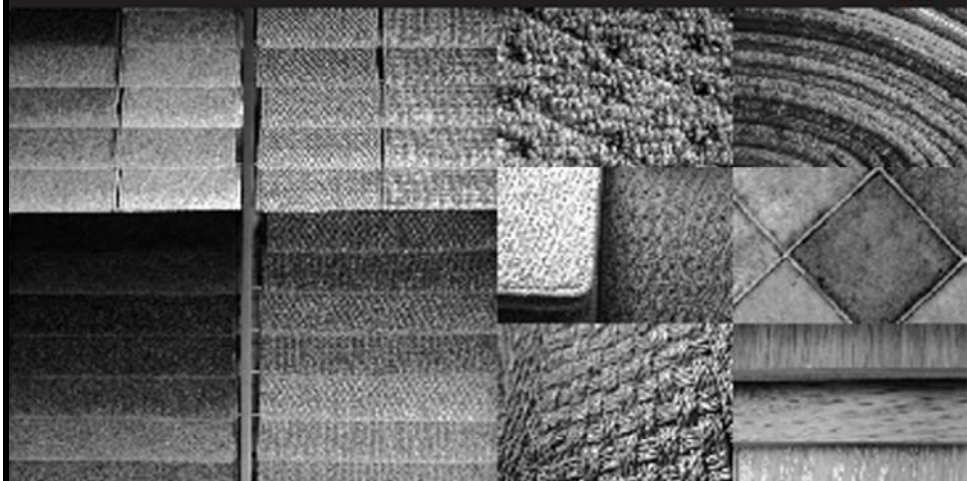
I now put on exhibitions of my work. The next one is at Brancaster Staithe Village Hall on Friday to Sunday, June 29th to July 1st, 10am to 5pm each day. But before that I am a participant in the **Dersingham Art Trail**, which is part of Norfolk Open Studios from May 26th to June 10th. I am joining with Stephen Martyn, Marty Griffin and six artists at Potter & Dibble to form a local trail for people to come and visit. For full details of opening times go to : www.dersinghamarttrail.org or pick up a brochure from Potter & Dibble.

A further strand of my work is restoring faded or damaged photographs. I scan the original and then work in Photoshop to gradually repair the cracks, recreate damaged areas, rejuvenate faded images, and generally bring old photographs to life again. It can work equally well with old sepia prints, or with colour images that have become faded in too sunny a position. The images can also be enlarged, so that those precious pieces of family history can be seen more clearly.

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The Old Biddie and her Cottage Garden

Valerie Anckorn

What a joy it was to notice the first daffs in full bloom on a grey morning prior to official Spring. Very soon thereafter lots of flowers opened, and as I write, I can see a pink cherry tree I planted about five years ago absolutely *fat* with blossom. In its infancy some of the local youth had torn off the top branches, but it's doing fine now. Talking of the local youth, I notice that they have been successful in destroying part of my fedge again – it's such a shame they have nothing better to do with their time isn't it. I have yet to harvest their crop of beer cans, vodka bottles, black tights (I get at least one pair a year – the mind boggles) et al thrown over into the flowerbeds during the winter. Unfortunately my dodgy legs make it difficult to walk across uneven surfaces – thus discovering my lawn is not flat – hence this rubbish has not yet been collected.

The NHS has declined to offer me new knees and hips while there is still a bit of life in them. Apparently, you have to be completely wracked in agony, stranded on the floor and drugged to the eyeballs before it is considered. I am told that whilst my condition is severe, it is not critical. That includes my spine as well. Ah well, I shall 'soldier on' as the consultant told me to do. I can still bend over for a while to weed, clip and dig a little, and that is the important thing for me – to be able to tend the garden, however feeble I might be feeling and I must be thankful I am not worse.

The early hosepipe ban is a bit of a nuisance, isn't it? Luckily most of my plants, trees and bushes seem to be established now, but it probably isn't a good time to plant anything new, unless you have a good supply of rainwater – I asked my builder to link up the guttering to rain butts, but unfortunately this didn't get done. Must save my pennies up to collect the rain. It's common sense isn't it?

Rain butts remind me of a lovely old lady from Snettisham who used to teach my son to play the piano. I wondered why she seemed particularly pleased when I gave her some candles as a gift, and then found out that she had no mod cons whatsoever. She relied on oil lamps, as she had no electricity and used rainwater to wash her hair – she said it made it lovely and soft and she tossed lavender and rosemary sprigs in it to smell nice. She used to give me so many tips – old wives remedies – being a complete fount of useful information. How I wish I had written down all that she told me. We waste so much money buying products for this, that, and the other, when there are methods that involve no money whatsoever.

My mother is now one hundred years old. Thank you so much, those of you who sent her a card, especially the beautiful hand-made one. She had a nice quiet day here with just the family, and her Care Home did a special party for her the next day, which I have to say she did *not* enjoy – though everyone else did – she just hates a fuss and was outraged when the photographer from the Lynn News had the temerity to take her photo! She glowered in the corner with special balloons tied to her chair, looking just like the old Giles granny, but did like the lovely cake made for her with purple decorations to match her outfits.

I've just been outside to see how the garden is doing. Something has been eating my tulips and bluebells leaves – deer, I think, as I've noticed a few tell-tale hoof marks and calling cards to alert me to their visits – as they don't overdo their plunder, I don't mind.

Over the past months, I've been keen to tell you about the good things a cottage garden holds but maybe I should also mention the bad – the poisonous plants, of which there are many. When I was very little my mother showed me plants and berries that could kill me and hopefully that is what all mothers do. I think we all know these days, that small quantities extracted from, say digitalis (foxgloves) helps the heart, but can be fatal when eaten by small children, or indeed grownups. The seedpods from Laburnum are poisonous, though the positive uses are for whooping cough, asthma and lice. Monkshood is poisonous – a handsome navy-blue flowered plant similar to delphinium (also dodgy) – the root is the most poisonous, but handling the plant can cause allergic reactions and rashes. There is no antidote to poisoning from this plant if consumed. This is the witches' plant, of course, that they used when up to no good. I have to say

I didn't know it was poisonous and have handled the plant plenty of times, splitting the roots to propagate and used it in flower arrangements, with no ill effects. I have not been successful in growing any in Dersingham so guess the soil is not right for it. However, on the positive side, this plant when used correctly is good for sciatica, arthritis, gout, rheumatism, pneumonia, measles and loads more. The milky sap from euphorbias can be an irritant, as can that from bluebells. Mother always told me when picking bluebells from the woods to pull out the whole stem of the bluebell to avoid the goo that otherwise ran out. In olden days the sticky juice from crushed bulbs - that contain toxic substance - was used for bookbinding and the resultant glue discouraged silverfish. Alas, I've not found any bluebell woods around here, other than a few straggles at Wolferton, and a splash at Ringstead. In Kent, my childhood home, the haze of blue seemed to go on for ever in the woods there, and children struggled back home with armfuls of blooms for their mums.



I think everyone knows about the deadly nightshade plant – its berries are extremely poisonous and it is known to have been used throughout history for various unsavoury purposes. As it is a hallucinogenic, mediaeval witches are purported to have used it in their brews to experience the feeling of flying. There is always a positive use, though, to all things, and in the right proportions nightshade can be used to treat gout, rheumatism and angina, helpful as childbirth anaesthesia, inflammatory tumours and some cancers as well as the treatment of Parkinson's disease. Its juice is also a component in

many purple dyes. I've recently found out that there are vegetables of the deadly nightshade group that include potatoes, peppers and tomatoes that aggravate arthritis, so if you are a sufferer, then cut out those vegetables, as well as strawberries and the pain will minimise – or go altogether.

These are just a few of garden plants that can be dangerous – I believe there are over one hundred that can cause us harm – but I think the rule of the thumb is that if a plant looks a bit 'wicked' then best to avoid touching or eating it! Parents should always keep a keen look out for what their small children are putting in their mouths – though no doubt they would spit out anything that tasted nasty. The human race has reached a high level of population despite all dangerous plants! I have to say I've never had a reaction to any sap, leaves or anything in nature – but maybe I built up immunisation from an early age, as I have always been keen on flowers and plants and always came home with armfuls of wild flowers from my childhood wanderings. I feel so sorry that these days it is not safe for children to go out a-wandering. As long as children were back by tea-time they were encouraged to stay out all day and came back dirty, tired out and happy. There was seldom a fat child to be seen.

I think my mother probably got wise to the fact that not all was well in the garden and that care should be taken, when in her early marriage days she made some soup from onions hanging up in the garage to dry. Alas, they weren't onions but daffodil bulbs so what she actually made was daffodil soup. The young couple suffered agonising sickness and gut ache for days – a cautionary tale! I Googled daffodils and discovered that boiled daffodil bulbs were used to induce vomiting – well my mother didn't need Google to find that out! Apparently daffodils can also help burns, joint pain, respiratory congestion and wounds, so as usual there are the two sides of the coin as in all things.

Let's end on a more *flavourable* note – that of nasturtiums. This colourful trailing plant can be eaten, leaves, flowers and seeds. The leaves and flowers taste like cress so can be added to salads and are delicious mixed with cream cheese. You can pickle the seeds in hot vinegar with a sprig of

thyme, a few cloves and two bay leaves. They taste like capers. Toss a few flowers onto your salad or desserts to make them colourful.

The medicinal uses of nasturtiums are many. For instance, you can make a poultice of crushed seeds placed on a bandage and then wrung out in hot water – apply twice a day to sores, boils, abscesses and sties. The juice of the flowers and the buds stimulate hair growth – by massaging a nasturtium, nettle and rosemary hair rinse into the scalp and rinsing the hair afterward, you stimulate the hair follicles in the scalp to grow hair. If you grow these colourful plants near your vegetables, the insects will gravitate towards them and leave your veg alone. Check and wash the nasturtiums before using them for culinary purposes!



Well, there we are, a mine of information this month. We all look forward to summer, after a wet and chilly Easter and hope for plenty of sunshine and enough rain to keep the flowers and vegetables comfortable. I've thankfully noted that both the huge conker trees at Mere House opposite me are in leaf again. The struggling one is always a tad behind the healthy one and my heart sunk when it seemed it was not sprouting – but hurrah, it's leafing after all, though at the moment it looks a bit sparse. Have fun in your garden and enjoy. □

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Dersingham Library

Just to remind you our opening hours are:

Mon 1.30-7.30pm, Wed 10-1, 2-5, Thurs 10-1, 2-7.30 and Sat 10-1



Coming events

Dersingham Jubilee Coffee Morning 2 June 2012 10:30 - 12:00 Celebrate the Queen's Jubilee with Dersingham Library and view our collection of royal photographs and our archive of newspaper memorabilia

DS Tryout session: 2nd June 12-1 Try out a game before you borrow!

Royal Fancy Dress story and activity session: 6 June 2012 10:30 - 11:30 Come dressed as royalty and help us celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. Listen to a story and then join in with the activities.

Knit and natter group: 7 June 2012 10:30 - 12:00 A weekly drop in morning for those who knit or crochet (or those who are interested in learning how to do both). If you are a knitter and are interested in helping others learn or if you would like to learn a new skill then please give us a call. Coffee and tea provided.

Scrabble Club: 11 June 2012 14:00 - 15:00

Come along and make new friends at this weekly club. Refreshments provided.

Dersingham Library Crime Book Club 11 June 2012 18:00 - 19:00

Dersingham Library Knit and natter group: 14 June 2012 10:30 - 12:00 As above.

Scrabble Club: 18 June 2012 14:00 - 15:00 As above

Dersingham Library Book Club: 18 June 2012 18:00 - 19:00 Monthly book club which meets on the 3rd Monday of the month. Details of the books being read are available in the library or by calling 01485 540181

Dersingham Library Knit and natter group: 21 June 2012 10:30 - 12:00 As above.

Scrabble Club: 25 June 2012 14:00 - 15:00 As above.

Dersingham Library Knit and natter group: 28 June 2012 10:30 - 12:00 As above

New books coming our way in June

James Patterson - I, Michael Bennett

Jeffery Deaver - XO

Linda Castillo - Gone Missing

Terry Pratchett - Snuff

Robert Harris - The fear index

Peter James - Perfect People

Linwood Barclay - The accident

Victoria Hislop - The thread

Gervase Phinn - Little village school

Happy Reading,

Alison.

Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

Tuesday 29th May 2012, 7.30pm at the Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham. Access & parking from Sporle Road.

Come along to this illustrated talk by local birder, David Pelling, entitled:

The Birds and Beasts of the Kruger National Park

See the fantastic Kruger National Park in South Africa through the eyes and lenses of David Pelling. David is a Dereham based birdwatcher who is a member of NarVOS and an RSPB volunteer at Titchwell Reserve. David revels in the rich wildlife on offer at Kruger, Africa's second largest wildlife reserve.

Visitors most welcome. Admission £2 on the night if you are not a NarVOS member. For more information about this meeting or NarVOS call Ian Black on 01760 724092



Dersingham Infant and Nursery School

IN-SPRING-ATONAL

Here are some of the things that have inspired us this Spring so far:-



Making things work – Yr.2



**A visit from the Fire Service
- Yr. 1**



Fingerprints! - Reception



**Our emergency Vehicles
- Nursery**



Acting out a story - Reception/Yr.1

**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!



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Dersingham Evening WI April 2012

The main occasion for this report is the birthday celebration of 50 years of Dersingham Evening WI. The half century of activities and friendship for Dersingham ladies was marked with an evening dinner at St Cecilia's Church provided by members. The event was organised by President Olive McCrea and the committee. BBC radio Norfolk presenter Graham Barnard spoke to the gathering about the running and organisation of the station which all found most interesting. A delicious celebration cake was made by Dianne Southgate and cut by founder member Dot Goff and the present youngest member Antje Franke. Honorary President Joan Scora gave a vote of thanks and also spoke to the group. She has been a member for 49 years. Members took to the meeting, photographs of themselves taken 50 years ago.



The Sunday lunch, dining, craft and walking groups have continued with well supported enthusiasm and have excellent plans for future trips. The 'Activity Lunch Group' organised by Wendy Snell enjoyed a visit to Fakenham Garden Centre and notably, a trip to 'Paint Your Own Ceramics' at Hunstanton which provided participants with their own decorated ornaments and plates before relaxing over lunch at The Waterside. A group of sixteen members went to The College in King's Lynn where the catering students provided an excellent lunch and Beauty and



Hair Treatments were given by students of those topics. All was done at a most reasonable price and provided an enjoyable outing.

A talk by Martin Woods about Sandringham Gardens followed a visit to the Sandringham Gardens (with lunch at Sandringham of course!) was most informative and of interest to all who were able to take part.

The group look forward to their Garden Party at The Feathers on Wednesday 27th June, 3-5pm - all welcome. The Art and Craft Exhibition in September along with other social and informative activities.□

Maggie Guest

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Dersingham Library, Orchard Close, Dersingham

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Wednesday 30 May 2012

Wednesday 25 July 2012

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The Macmillan Care and Treatment Centre, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gay King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 4ET

OLYMPIC FLOWER DAYS, 23 & 24 JUNE
ST MARY'S CHURCH, WHISSONSETT

Church Fete 2.00pm Saturday 23 June,
Traditional games, stalls, barrel organ music

Children's sports 2.00pm Sunday 24 June, Playing Field
Sports and activities for toddlers – teenagers
Flypast by The Red Arrows Display Team

Songs of Praise on Sunday 24 June at 6.00pm in church

All very welcome

All Weekend – 21 Olympic themed flower arrangements in the church
Refreshments and raffle in the village hall

Walk round village quiz

Tours around the village on an open-topped bus

This event is being held to raise funds for St Mary's church and to celebrate London 2012. We hope it will be a truly village event involving all ages from the bean bag competition to helping with refreshments or acting as a steward explaining the history of our lovely church.

Flight Into My Future - part 2

by William Pemberton

I think it was round about then (the time of a currency devaluation) that the entrepreneur latent in my brother Peter sprouted. One day he took some war relic to school and sold it to an American boy. This opened up a market that Peter was only too pleased to satisfy, they would buy anything. He even sold a rusty old chamber pot as a German helmet. With his profits he bought himself a new bike and a 12 bore double barrelled shotgun. The Americans were suckers for war souvenirs, my dad told me that while he was in Burma the film star Jackie Coogan landed in his fighter plane and asked for any Jap souvenirs

One summer my dad had to go up to a remote war cemetery, from the first world war, to supervise the sinking of a well to irrigate the war graves. It was in about 1953 or 4 in a small mountain village called Gravia, about 100 or so miles north west of Athens. It was eerie to see one of the headstones just inside carried our family name which is not that common. As it was going to be a lengthy job dad took the whole family with him. He rented a small house, no mod cons, from the local mayor. The whole village was deficient in electricity, running water and sanitary services. The lighting and cooking was with paraffin or wood and the water had to be carried from the village tap where the livestock also drank. The taste of the fresh baked bread out of the wood fired oven was exquisite. The toilet was a small room with a hole in the bottom of a wall that opened out onto a dry river bed that cleared away the accumulated waste when it rained. The one petrol pump was operated with a handle which was pumped to fill up a gallon jar that was then tipped out through a hose into the vehicle's fuel tank

We learned a lot of things that summer, my dad let us drive the old van to and from the cemetery, I learned how to make bird traps and how to use a local weed to flummox the fish in the local streams. One smashed the weed between two stones and the juice from the weed was allowed to mix with the water, the fish then turned belly up and came to the surface. I also learned that for some reason the horses and donkeys wouldn't drink from the trough after the sheep until the trough was emptied and refilled.

Entertainment was what one made for oneself, a special treat I remember was family visits to the local taverna in the village square under an enormous plane tree where there was occasionally Greek music and dancing. My dad was very partial to the local resinated wine and the meze. I very much liked a local speciality (Cocoretsi) of offal on a spit wrapped with intestine. It sounds revolting but it is very tasty. One day the village was visited by a travelling theatre group and I remember the excitement and anticipation this caused. The plot of the play was the trials and tribulation that befell a young village girl alone in the big city of Athens. It could have been an entertaining show had the cast remained sober. When we got bored, which was very rarely, we stood and watched the man digging the well.

One morning the well digger looked up and called out to my dad, "Gaffer," he said, "will you give me a bonus when we hit water?" Of course I had to translate because dad didn't speak much Greek, especially not the heavily accented local dialectic. Now the job had overrun a little so dad said "tell him yes", a big smile creased the man's face when I translated my dad's reply. With that the man moved his shovel to show the water.

While we were there I fell in love with a young donkey and I prevailed on my dad to buy him for me. After much pleading dad relented and bought him, it cost the equivalent of about 10 US dollars maybe £4.10 shillings. We brought him back to Athens in the back of our van on a subsequent visit to Gravia, in fact I named him Gravia. We stabled him in one of the downstairs rooms of the old mansion on the hill.

Mister Thanasi the foreman of the war cemetery gardeners trained him for me and showed me how to look after him. As well as being the foreman Thanasi was also a family friend, he and my dad spent many evenings drinking the local wine Retsina. Dad bought a big barrel and made his own wine with Thanasi's assistance. Every October we would go up to a village North of Athens

called Coropi where dad would fill up the barrel with grape juice and buy the necessary powders to get the thing started. He stored it in the basement of our bungalow. There it would ferment and when the fermentation was complete the barrel would be sealed with a cork and plaster of paris.

Thanasi was also a trained shoemaker and he would make us “made to measure” shoes. I spent hours watching him at his last. Given the tools, I think I could turn out a pair of shoes. Thanasi was multi talented. He could kill and butcher small livestock. Together with my dad they kept some sheep and goats so we always had fresh goats milk, eggs and chickens. Along with the goats, sheep, chickens, the donkey, dogs, cats, rabbits and the Christmas turkeys, dad once got a piglet that Rudi Grohmann's man threw on a rubbish pile because it was the only survivor of a litter. It became a family pet and it would follow my sister Vicky around like a puppy. She called it Lucy and it would come into the house like a dog,. It was extremely clean.

Unfortunately Lucy grew too big and Thanassi had to go to work on her. We all ate her, only my sister was upset. I once watched him skin a fox that had drowned in our water reservoir, the same reservoir I nearly drowned in when I was four years old. I forget how many chickens I killed when my mother told me which one was the next day's dinner. Now I find it hard to kill a fly. I was told that when the Germans retreated in 1944 there were very few cats or dogs left in Greece.

Every September, early in the month, a man would come around the streets with a flock of turkeys that he would sell to be fattened for Christmas. One year dad bought four, two for us and the other two for friends. One night, some time later in the year, there was a terrible commotion. I got out of bed and ran outside to find my dad jumping up and down on our gravel drive barefoot and in his underpants, the sharp gravel on his tender feet had the effect of hot coals. However he had at least rescued our turkeys from a Greek soldier that had tried to steal them.

Sometime in the following March the barrel would be tapped and everyone would have a taste and say how great it was, which was true. A person who was very partial to the wine was my uncle Panayioti, my mother's brother. He used to sleep in the basement sometimes and help himself to a drink. One night he overdid it and left the tap running. Dad was not very pleased to find him in the morning laying in a pool of his precious Retsina. Needless to say he didn't sleep there again.



I used to ride Gravia bare back and with just a rope halter. One day something must have annoyed him because his head came around and he grabbed my right leg in his teeth just above my ankle. He fell on top of me and I am sure he would have done me some serious damage had Thanasi not heard my shouts and come to my aid. I still have the scars from his bite. It was decided that Gravia would have to be gelded to curb his aggression. I don't know who did it but a ring was placed tight around his testes to cut off the blood supply and thereby deprive him of his assets.

Unfortunately infection set in and dad had to shoot him to put him out of his misery, I cried for weeks afterwards. Another donkey was purchased from the donkey sales. A brown jenny with a nice placid nature, I called her Gypsy. She

was not only a pet she also worked in the cemetery pulling a cart with the grass cuttings. The cart would be loaded and with a pat on her bottom she would pull the cart up to the compost heap. When it was emptied she would return for another load. Tragically when we went to look for her one morning she was gone. The police said she had been stolen and that she was now probably salami.

The Greeks love to tell stories, especially funny ones. Mr. Stefanos, one of the gardeners, used to trim the margins along the rows of headstones. His job was akin to painting the Forth bridge because as soon as he got to the end he had to start all over again. Over two thousand were buried in the Kalamaki war cemetery. I spent hours following and listening to him telling me how to catch fish and octopus. He had two rowing boats which he hired out, one he named Elli after his

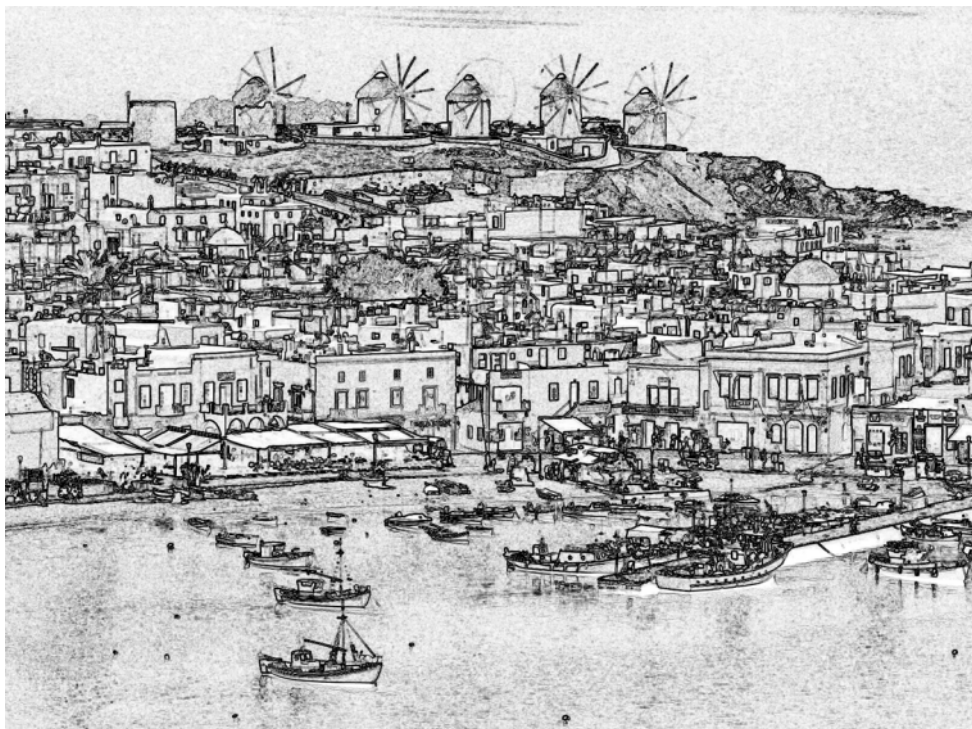
wife the other he named Akomi which in English translates to Not Yet. I asked him why? He said, "every time I went to the boatbuilder and ask if my boat was ready, he would answer "Akomi" - Not Yet.

In about 1954 my dad employed a man to dig some holes to plant some pine trees. Mitso, which was his name, was fantastically strong. The ground was nearly solid rock and he had to dig every hole with a sledge hammer and a spike. He would swing the sledge hammer with one hand and hold the spike with the other, all the time he would tell me stories about his army service or what he did to avoid it. Those trees are now nearly sixty years old and the last time I saw them they were quite impressive.

About this time in the second half of the 1950's, politics reared its ugly head with the Cyprus problem and the war cemetery was targeted by graffiti artists who daubed some of the headstones with anti British slogans. In their ignorance however they had picked Australian graves and set off a diplomatic row with the Australians who demanded immediate recompense and stopped Greek immigration into Australia until it was sorted out. I have my suspicions about who was responsible because the paint was the same as the paint one of the local lads used to paint his dad's outhouse.

One day I was biking home from school when someone stepped out and punched me in the face at the same time shouting anti-British slogans. He picked the wrong time and the wrong place because one of the cemetery workers came out of a Taverna and gave him a good beating.

Relationships at school became difficult with the Greek-Americans and some of the American pupils. It was at about this time I started to consider my future. First I had to decide would it be in Greece or England, as my education was in English I chose England. Reading the airmail delivered Overseas Daily Telegraph in the toilet, the paper was printed on tissue thin lightweight paper so it was dual purpose, I saw an advert for the RAF boy entrants. I had found my future. The application was sent off and that was how I eventually found myself on that coach heading into London. From then on is another story. □



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 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 £17.20 for an eighth of a page black and white or £26.00 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, 4 Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP **by Wednesday 11th July 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, 4 Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP or e-mail; villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 11th July 2012 for publication on Monday 30th July 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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6.00pm

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RAF MARHAM



Past
and
Present



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