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Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



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Editor's Notes

There's a slightly cheesy saying that goes: "*The past is history, the future is a mystery, but today is a gift, that's why it's called the present!*" Now of course, Village Voice thrives on its articles related to past history and very therapeutic it can be too, to read and see pictures of how things were; to remember those times when life somehow seemed easier going. As I read with interest the articles from Dick Melton and Bernie Twite and study Tony's Old Photo Corner, I try to relate what I see now with what was then. Even as a newcomer to the area with less than seven years to my credit, I find I recognise at least four of the names of people shown in the wonderful photo line-up that Dick has included with his latest offering! This issue also sees plenty of new contributions of historical interest including a few wartime recollections, all of which will no doubt trigger and generate further memories and responses for future issues. I wonder whether our future generations will look back on life around and about Dersingham with as much relish? If you have any interesting life memories or experiences to share, not necessarily to do with Dersingham or even Norfolk, do get in touch; it would be good to include them in a future issue under the heading: "It's my Life", the first of which you will find within.

What I am also so pleased to be able to include in this issue are some of the many good things that are happening here in the *present*, or more correctly the immediate past and immediate future. Open Gardens, Art Studios Trails and The Big Lunch running consecutive weekends led many I heard to comment on how good it was to see such happy, positive signs of life in the village in the wake of some otherwise rather sad and negative press reporting. Our churches and village organisations again have plenty of positive events to report on and our Parish Council has more events planned for August, details of which you'll find as you read on.

Whilst on the subject of village organisations, Tony Bubb, who remains editor of our twice yearly *Dersingham Data* directory, would be pleased to receive any amendments to entry details for the Autumn edition as soon as possible now. (Preferably by email to data@dersingham.org.uk, otherwise taken in to the Parish Office).

Many have talked of the odd visiting peacock or peahen seen strutting the neighbourhoods of Dersingham and even entering their gardens where they can inflict considerable damage as they forage amongst the beds. I suppose peacocks could be in a sense the flying equivalent of Muntjacs! Nice to watch, provided they keep off your patch! Sometimes they seem content just to roost on our roof tops as the one on our front cover snapped and sent in by Margaret Mann (a member of our Village Voice delivery team). Unfortunately Margaret then had to endure a sleepless night as "Percy", as she had christened him, noisily competed with a neighbouring cockerel! I think perhaps the local feral peafowl population must be on the increase. I noticed one a couple of weeks back along the old beach track with peachick in tow! By all means *email* me with details of your pea-sightings, but I think this time, unlike the avalanche follow up to my predecessor's similar request regarding the muntjacs, we should not trouble Sarah in the Parish Office concerning them!

I mentioned Margaret was one of our Village Voice deliverers. There are 18 rounds, covering the 2,500 households and businesses in Dersingham and I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer to take on a delivery round. Rounds currently vary from 65 to 250 copies, though of course they could be shared. We deliver six issues of Village Voice per year and two of Dersingham Data, but you could volunteer on a one-off, temporary or regular basis. It's great exercise and you do get to know your way around our lovely village just that bit better!

Well, we've covered the past, present and immediate future. What of the distant mystery future of Dersingham? The late Steve Nowell, gave us one or two more bizarre short story contributions along those lines. However, should anyone else feels inspired in that direction, do let me know.

In the meantime whilst appreciating all our local heritage, let's not forget the *gift* of our *present*. And with this glorious summer weather here at last, that could be quite a pleasure to unwrap!

Steve Davis – editor@dersingham.org.uk

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Dear Village Voice

Please email (editor@dersingham.org.uk) or write to us (Village Voice, Dersingham Parish Council, 4A Post Office Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6HP) with your thoughts or memories of village life, comments concerning items read or ideas for the future. Ed.



Two items in your June edition caught my eye and felt I should respond. Firstly, the article entitled "To all kids who survived the 1930s, 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s".

How very true. I would like to add. In those days if a youngster got a little out of order in public and the local 'bobby' was about he would not drag you off to the 'cop shop' and call your parents, he would give you a clip round the ear and say "Right my boy now go home and tell your father what I have done and he will give you another one." Likewise if misbehaving at school the dread of being told by your form master to go and wait outside the Head's Study. One knew one was going to be told to bend over and receive 6 of the best with his cane.

What would happen today if such punishments were to be given? A pity they are not: if they were we would not have screeching children chasing round supermarket aisles without a care should they injure someone.

I would however like to correct the writer's heading. KIDS are the progeny of goats. Children are the progeny of humans!

Secondly, I do like to read Valerie Ankhorn's items. I was sorry to read of her problems at the "dump". I have always found the staff very, very helpful, always willing to take heavy items with a smile and ask if they can be of further assistance.

Ted Overall

A recent TV programme to celebrate the 70th anniversary of that very daring raid on the Ruhr dams by Wing Commander Guy Gibson (aged 24!) and his crew (the Dambusters), has brought back a few memories for me in the same year. I was serving in the WAAF at Biggin Hill, No 1 Fighter Station, as a clerk to the Signals Officer and based in an office adjacent to the Ops Room. This was located a few miles away from the airfield in a large house called The Rookery, formerly belonging to the Chief Cashier of the Bank of England (Montague Norman). It was bombed previously but was quickly relocated in the emergency Ops Room a couple of miles away, subsequently reinstated at The Rookery.

During 1943 the toll of enemy aircraft shot down from Biggin Hill and its 5 satellite stations was approaching 1000 and most of the fighter aces were assembled, each one eager to be the pilot actually to shoot down the one-thousandth. Later, on reflection this seemed somewhat bloodthirsty, but at the time we really did have our backs to the wall and it was either "them" or "us". In the event 2 pilots shared the honour (S/Ldr Charles and Commandant Rene of the French Alsace Squadron). There were huge celebrations, both at Biggin Hill and (for the "big-wigs") at Grosvenor House in London. Here is my own ticket to the party at The Rookery. There was also a large sweepstake. Adrenalin levels were very high for us all and it was a memorable period in my life.

Doreen Linford

Just to say a thank you to all who supported our cream tea at Hanover Court in aid of "Scotty's Little Soldiers", a charity dedicated to supporting the children of men and women killed whilst serving in the British Armed Forces. Some of us here served in the army via National Service, and in fact some of our older residents served in WW2 and many like myself have memories of being evacuated to escape the bombing in London and other cities. In all we raised £128.

Terence Woods

I felt I must write to you to say what a wonderful read your Village Voice is. I am an ex-resident of Dersingham and it is still my favourite place in all the world! I refer to the April 2013 edition and the article on Mr Joe Painter by Dick Melton.

Joe was my father-in-law until my marriage to his daughter Angela broke up in 1962. Everything that was written about Joe is perfectly true. He was a genuine, very nice and good person who would help anyone and all the family were the same. In 1956/57, Joe and I, in our spare time, built a lovely house in Pansey Drive for his daughter and I, and I can honestly say he was the hardest working man I have ever known. Even now when I sow my pansy seed, I think always of dear Joe. I now live in Norwich and visit Dersingham 2 or 3 times a year on my way to Hunstanton to play bowls. I always visit the churchyard to pay my respects to the Painter family who have all sadly passed away.

My thanks to all the people who help to produce this superb magazine. Keep up the good work.
Alan Perry

Dick Melton, writing about Joe Painter and his collection of chamber pots, a collection that was several hundred in all, says he thinks they were sold to America. Joe told me they were bought by a museum in Munich, Southern Germany.

David Harris

I thought you might like an update on the article in February 2013 issue of Village Voice which detailed the running challenge that our assistant manager at Budgens, Pauline Drewery, set for herself and friend. This was to complete the London Marathon and raise funds for the East Anglian Children's Hospice (EACH) in memory of baby Callum Eldridge and his parents Steve and Odette.

Early in the morning of 21st April, a group of runners and supporters set off in two minibuses for London. Pauline and her friend headed for the *green start* – the good-for-age category. The week had been difficult for many – it was the time of the bombing at the Boston Marathon and immediately prior to the race there was a 30 second silence which was humbling to be a part of.

The weather was glorious and all had their running plans, having trained hard over the previous months. Pauline said how they were able to relax a little as they ran past the wonderful sights and were encouraged to spot supporters in the crowd. Her message would be – if you fancy running a marathon – go for it!! Here are some statistics: weeks training: 16—miles run: 474—time spent running: 70 hours—average runs per week 4.4—calories burnt 57,043—toe nails lost – at least 3!!

They completed the Marathon and were delighted with the funds raised for EACH – a total of £4088.13. We would all like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who supported, encouraged and donated to make this happen.

Caroline Bosworth

I would like to congratulate the people who made the "Big Lunch" such a success; namely the people of Dersingham by turning up to support your village;. You made a positive statement that counteracts the negative way we were portrayed lately in the press. I would also like to express my admiration for "Genuine Fake" who are obviously going places, and through hard work and a lot of talent should be held up as role models. So hopefully next time you will all make it happen again. And the weather helped!!

Barry Beales

I am appealing for help from readers of the Dersingham Village Voice. I am constructing a model of the engine shown on the right.

After its arrival on the Sandringham estate, it acquired the name of "Limelight". Has anybody a photograph showing the nameplate?

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NOTICE TO DERSINGHAM PARISHIONERS

PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING THE WAR MEMORIAL AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO THE WATER SUPPLY

Many of you may have read in the National and Local Press the article about the Dersingham Parish Council, the War Memorial and the Criminal Damage to the Recreation Area water supply.

In the Press, the Council and the Parish Clerk were portrayed as “small-minded job-worths” who had “victimised” the long-serving volunteers maintaining the War Memorial. At the same time, the Council were criticised by some Dersingham Parishioners for “shameless behaviour”.

At the time of the Press reports, the Criminal Damage was under investigation by the Police, so the Council was advised not to comment on the on-going investigation. However, now that the investigation has been concluded it is appropriate for the Council to comment.

For many years, the Parish Council has accepted the responsibility for the maintenance of the War Memorial. The Council has allocated an adequate budget for its maintenance from Dersingham Parish funds. However, volunteers elected to maintain the War Memorial and the Council recognises that the volunteers have maintained the War Memorial to a high standard.

In mid February, it was reported by a member of the public that he had witnessed digging in the Recreation Area between the Recreation Area water tap and the War Memorial. Subsequently, it was found that someone had illegally broken into the Recreation Area water supply and piped the water to a new tap in the area of the War Memorial. There had been no application to the Parish Council for this action, even though the Council would have been sympathetic to such a request. As there was a possibility that the water supply was unsafe due to poor workmanship, the Council asked the Police to investigate and, subsequently, two of the Memorial volunteers were arrested for Criminal Damage.

In April, the Press were notified about the “plight” of the Memorial volunteers, who were being “victimised” by the Parish Council. Unfortunately, all statements given to the Press only portrayed one side of the story. That was the side that was likely to sell the most newspapers.

The Parish Council considered all options and its likely impact on the Council and the accused. The Council agreed to a course of action called “Community Resolution”. This avoided the possibility of a Criminal Record for the accused, while setting out conditions for remedial action. The conditions set out by the Council allowed the modifications to the water pipe to remain in place, subject to the modifications meeting current regulations.

We think you will agree that your Council has behaved in a fair and reasonable manner throughout this unfortunate incident despite the considerable adverse Press coverage.

Dersingham Parish Council



Parish Council Report by Cllr Suzy Daniels

Firstly I would like to thank the Parishioners who showed their support for the council during recent trying times. Things seem to have been resolved and all is quiet on the Dersingham front!!!

New Parish Councillors.....Welcome and Welcome back! Since our AGM in May we have had a change of Chair and Vice Chair. Cllr David Tudor (chair) and Cllr Brian Anderson (vice chair) now reside in the posts and are doing a grand job in creating a more positive, harmonious and forward

moving council. Over the last few months we have lost several great Councillors: Dick Murrell, Tony Bubb, Chris Berry, Steve Davis, Julian Freeman, Edward Phillips, Andrea Smith, Ivan Steel and a valued member of staff Mrs Anita Moore. All of whom will be sorely missed. We have yet to replace Anita in the office, so Sarah is busy juggling both workloads! Several new Councillors have been co-opted and they assist with our newly adopted 'moving forward' ethos.

Cllr Tudor, as well as Chair of the Council (no small task) continues to keep busy with the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP). Cllr Anderson and Cllr Kate Hathaway joined a very busy Environment Committee. Cllr Anderson has accepted Chairmanship of this committee and is undertaking the mammoth task of keeping our village environmentally brilliant, whilst also joining the Staffing Committee. Cllr Hathaway is being very pro-active in agreeing terms and conditions for certain procedures within the Environment jurisdiction!

Cllr Fiona Hinds has joined the Recreation, Staffing and F&GP committees. Cllr John Hunter has joined Recreation with the consideration of joining Staffing and F&GP. Cllr Sue Payne has re-joined the Council and has joined the Recreation, Staffing Committees and the Dersingham Centre Working Party. This still doesn't take us up to a full Council of 18. Several vacancies exist, so if you might be interested in joining please contact the Parish Council Office. 01485 541465.

What's planned?..... Following on from the huge success of THE BIG LUNCH held in June as part of a nationwide event, we have been inspired to organise future events. Over the forthcoming months under the guidance of the Recreation Committee:

Put this date in your diary.....Sunday August 11th. 10am-4pm at the Recreation Ground we are hosting a Carboot/Funday! This is to fundraise so Dersingham can be lit up at Christmas.....please come along and BUY A BULB!!! For more details see the posters!

Summer activities have been organised for a two week period during **12th August-23rd August**. These will include Drama, various sports, aerobics/Zumba, beauty sessions, (Hair and Nails courtesy of *THE BARN Hair and Beauty Salon*), cake decorating and more!!! Children will receive details from school or The Coffee Club...also see our notice boards. For a small charge of £3.50 per session or £6 for the whole day (depending on activity).

A Christmas Market will be held **Sunday December 8th** at St. Nicholas Court...details to follow.

Parish Council Meetings.....to get you up to date with the goings on!!!

Parishioner attendance at Council meetings has maintained a steady level throughout the last few months but it is hoped that now the lighter evenings are here, more may feel the need to take a stroll and attend the meetings and have their say.

Crime!! The police reported 15 crimes during May and June. These comprised of 2 thefts, 7 criminal damage and 1 of burglary other than dwelling and 5 anti-social behaviour.

*Proposal by Parishioner.....*A parishioner explained how he would like to undertake the ownership of the Picnic Site. He stated he was aware of the original compulsory purchase order and understood that Norfolk Property Services may not put the site up for sale, but if the opportunity arose, having offered the original owner first refusal, his intention was for the site to be used for around 7-8 months of the year as a touring caravan site employing 5 full time staff and 10 part time. His proposal was very detailed and included visual plans for the site. He agreed to consider any relevant comments received by Councillors, Parishioners and the Police especially regarding the rights of parishioners to access the Drift.

County Council.... Congratulations to Cllr John Dobson who was re-elected as our County Councillor in the recent ballot. Cllr Dobson explained that the incinerator public enquiry has now finished. He had submitted a motion that the incinerator was not necessary in its present form due to the change of circumstances, especially with the Borough Council's new waste scheme. One of the issues was that the old County Council had signed the contract prior to obtaining planning permission. The new Council are seeking independent advice regarding penalties that might be involved if they discontinued with the project. A figure of £90 million had been quoted. Cllr Dobson stated that the outcome of the enquiry was likely to be early next year. Local MP's had asked for the removal of Lisa Christensten, Head of Children's services, to leave her post mainly due to low educational standards and the care of children in the system. She has since resigned. The Director of Finance also wishes to retire, so all is not well at County Hall. Cllr Dobson wishes it to return full time youth officers to Dersingham and Snettisham to help reduce crime figures.

Borough Council.... The Gelham Court brambles have been successfully removed, but it remains to be seen whether any root treatment was applied. The potholed entrance to the library has been resurfaced. This was helped by property services manager Mathew Henry establishing the liability for this. It is shared between the Borough and County Councils. The proposals for Lynn's Tuesday Market Place will include provision of a removable covered event area and also wider parking spaces, reflecting the greater width of modern cars. Free parking will not be possible in King's Lynn as overall they make a £2.5 million net profit each year. Borough Cllr Judy Collingham also discussed the merging of the two Schools within Dersingham, but as a newly elected governor, she could only give brief details. Councillors felt ill informed during the merging process, but have since been in communication with the School and feel better equipped to answer parishioner questions. Comments were made that the loss of the St George's name was a shame. Throughout changes from a High School, Middle School and Junior School the name had been maintained and was a central part of Dersingham's educational history. *(I am sure that for many it will remain known as St George's...3 generations of my family attended there under that title)*. The Council wishes the best of luck for the future of Dersingham VA Primary & Nursery School. A number of issues have been successfully dealt with regarding neighbour disputes over fencing and allocation of housing. Waste ground in West Hall Road is subject to a letter sent by the officer to the land owner. The poor service of emptying public bins especially over bank holidays had been reported and hopefully this service will improve. Borough Cllr Tony Bubb advised of his representation against the advertising signs at the Dersingham roundabout. The old allotments on Dodds Hill Road have been earmarked for 30 houses. A meeting had been arranged with Mr O'Lone from Sandringham estate to discuss the possibility of a Bus stop being situated at the Tithe Barn...it was suggested that a discussion may take place regarding the Community Centre at the same time!!!

Planning Applications:

8 Park Hill: Proposed garden room extension...*Recommended approval*

15 Shernborne Road.: Construction of single, detached dwelling within existing gardens. Creation of a new vehicular access...*Recommended approval, subject to Conservation Area.*

12 Dodds Hill Road: Return from commercial back into residential use...*Recommended approval*

25 Hunstanton Road.: Demolition of existing structures and the construction of new chalet bungalow with detached garage...*Recommended approval*

31 Manor Road: Include the conversion of 3 cottages into a new single dwelling and the retention of 1 cottage as an annexe...*Recommended approval, subject to Conservation Area*

Determinations:

17 Centre Crescent: Retention of porch extension...*Granted*

4 Pakenham Drive: Extension to property...*Granted*

15 Woodside Avenue.: Retention of erected fence (revised design)...*Refused (taken to appeal)*

6 St Nicholas Court: Change of use from class B2 (offices) to D1 (veterinary clinic)...*Granted*

13 Shouldam Close: Two storey side extension with alterations to existing conservatory...*Granted*

25 Station Road...Erection of dwelling...*Granted*

Well the sun is shining and summer seems to of arrived... (fingers crossed it lasts longer than a fortnight). I wish you all a happy and healthy Summer holiday!!



It's My Life by Jackie Sisson (née Mills)

I am a Norfolk girl. My parents and their families were all born and bred in Norwich, and I spent most of my childhood in Ranworth, by the well-known Broad. One of the thatched houses by what was known as Mills Staithe was built after the War by my father. Both he and my mother are buried with other family members in the Ranworth churchyard. But local connections eventually faded; careers took me and my husband Nigel away to London and overseas, including two testing years in India and Pakistan.

Then when the time came to settle and retire there was nowhere to consider but Norfolk. Nigel grew up on a hill farm in Derbyshire and loved it, but with my Norfolk background and love of the County we came to Dersingham in July 1991 and have been blissfully settled here ever since. And there was an impressive choice of golf courses for him too!

My childhood in Ranworth was dramatically affected by the Second World War, when my father joined the Royal Navy (and among other things battled through several years on the infamous 'Arctic Convoys'). Our house 'The Maltings' by what is now the Malthouse Broad was requisitioned by the Army and we – my mother, older sister and I – went to live at what was then called Ranworth Hall with friends who lived there. I spent a lot of my spare time playing on my own down the hill by what is now the Old House on the private part of the Broad. I have some vivid wartime memories still from that time. I remember once seeing the night sky over Norwich brightly alight like a firework show during one of the worst air raids;

and on another occasion I came across a badly wounded American airman who had baled out and landed in a nearby field, and was weeping desperately because he had lost his pocket St. Christopher; and I will never forget being lifted bodily out of bed by one of the first huge 'V.2' missiles which crashed into the potato field next to our home.

But the abiding memory from those days was more personal. One day as I sat by the pigsty at the Old House I saw a very low-flying plane coming towards me across the Broad. I can still see the pilot and his leather helmet. I gave him a friendly wave and he waved back. As he turned away I saw to my horror the large black cross on the fuselage, and a big swastika on the tail. It was a Messerschmitt 109! I was so frightened that if I told anyone I would be arrested, so I kept the story to myself until after the war. I would have been seven or eight at the time; I have heard many different stories of enemy aircraft machine-gunning civilians but I like to think that this friendly pilot must have had a little girl of his own back in Germany, and was probably not a 'Nasty Nazi' as we called them. □



Anyone else with any life episodes to tell? Ed.

Gardening with Disabilities – Norfolk

We are a support group encouraging and enabling people to manage their own garden, regardless of age and infirmity. At our May meeting at Park House, Sandringham we had a talk by Marianne Charles on Container Gardening. She discussed the relative merits of various types of containers, composts and the growing of many flowers, fruit and vegetables.

In June we had a very enjoyable coach trip to Barnsdale Gardens in Rutland. This was the original home of BBC Gardeners World presenter Geoff Hamilton who sadly died in 1996. There are now 39 small gardens, many constructed during the filming of the TV programmes.

Future Events:

Friday 16th August is a visit to a member's garden

Friday 20th September is at Park House again 2:00 – 4:00pm when we will have a talk on "Preparing the garden for winter".

For further details, please contact Joan or Ray Thomas on 01485 550712 □





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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club by Bob Tipling



Posts for the rear garden fence have been purchased and work on erecting the fence is complete. Thanks to Alan and Kath Powis and Terry Burrell for the fantastic job they have done on transforming the garden. Amazingly two sides of the green have already been rabbit netted and the Chairman thanked the team of volunteers for all their hard work; once again by undertaking the work ourselves the Club has saved hundreds of pounds.



League results are pretty good and despite another cold month the green has been playing well and the Saturday roll ups have been well supported. The Eadies Cup was a great success and congratulations are extended to Ruth Ince for winning the trophy!

The Chairman has been given a lovely picture of a bowls scene by Cliff Rose, a former member of the Club. Cliff's wife had requested that we raffle it in aid of Club funds and this would be done by members purchasing squares on a numbered grid. Richard said that he would add a canvas print of his own as a further prize and if all the squares are sold the Club should make a healthy profit.

The brown shed is too small to accommodate all the bowling equipment and the design of the trolley store is not ideal for its purpose. Ideally the Committee would like to purchase a shed large enough to enable the trolleys to be wheeled in together with other equipment including the scoreboards. It has been agreed to get some prices for a large shed and in the meantime the Chairman said he would investigate the possibility of getting a grant to help with the cost.



The Club was opened to the public during the Village Open Gardens between 1pm and 6pm on Sunday 26 May and was found to be popular with the visitors who attended and 'tried their hand.'

The Fish and Chip Supper following the Saturday Roll-ups on 15 June was another major success and thanks are offered to 'The Village Fryer' for once more doing us proud. 42 bowlers, 21 men, 21 ladies and blocks of triples, the score was men -142, ladies - 110. Yet another wonderful afternoon of bowling and buffet at D.I.B.C. □



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Bernie's Bits

Dick Melton wrote of the path along the railway line to Wolferton. There was another path across the high part of the fen. Going onto the fen at the entrance to the sand pit, (where the gate is, near the roundabout), walk to the left of the pit and pick up a path going up the hillside, this went across the high ground and came out near Wolferton Station. Most of the people living in the village worked on the railway, farm or estate and there were not many cars. Some villagers would walk to Dersingham to the shops or visit family and friends. In winter if there had been snow that high ground was a good place to take a sledge.

At one time, boys from Dersingham would bike by way of the Drift to Wolferton Pumping Station and spend the day fishing. The local gamekeeper would turn up sometimes to check on them. As he knew their names and families, if any were misbehaving word would get back to their families. You could drive from Wolferton to the pumping station, park up and walk across the sea bank to the bottom end of the shingle pits or onto the creeks and marsh, and if in season get a feed of samphire. Now of course, the road is closed and a sign advises the nearest car park is at Snettisham.

Another long gone short cut was across the Emblems to Dodds Hill. Going onto the Emblems under the school wall on the corner opposite the Feathers, walk across the Emblems, then past the Fire Station going up the slope onto a grass field and across the field coming out in front of the first cottages up Dodds Hill. The pasture was used by Stantons to graze sheep and cattle, the bit in front of the houses was a play area for the Dodds Hill children. Us boys from the village would go up there sometimes for a game of football or cricket or join in with whatever was going on. When it became known that houses were to be built on the field, some Parish Councillors walked the route in attempt to prove it as a path, but permission was given to build, and one by one houses appeared. Also the Emblems was offered to the Parish as an amenity area but the then Council decided not to go ahead.

Bernie Twite

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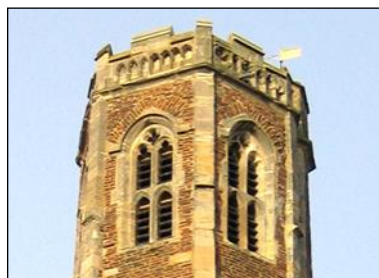
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Where is it? What is it?
(answer on page 73)



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Summer Activities



Dersingham Parish Council are pleased to offer the following two-week programme of summer activities that will take place at various venues around the village, namely The Recreation Ground, The Barn (Hair and Beauty), The Methodist Hall, Post Office Road, St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, St Cecilia's RC Church and the Sports Ground and Pavillion near The Feathers.

Date	Time	Event		Ages	Venue	Cost
Week 1						
Mon 12 Aug	10:00-12:00	Basketball	£6 for both events	5-14	Rec Grd	£3.50
	13:00-15:00	Cricket		5-14	Rec Grd	£3.50
	10:00-12:00	Nails		10-16	The Barn	£5.00
Tue 13 Aug	13:30-15:00	Street Dance		5-11	Methodist	£3.50
Wed 14 Aug	10:00-12:00	Lazer Gaming		5-14	Rec Grd	£5.00
	13:00-15:00	Tag Rugby		5-14	Rec Grd	£3.50
Thu 15 Aug	10:00-12:00	Cake Decorating/Sugarcraft		5-11	St Cecilia	£3.50
	13:00-15:00	Cake Decorating/Sugarcraft		12-16	St Cecilia	£3.50
Fri 16 Aug	10:00-12:00	Photography*	£6 for both events	All	Sprts Pav	£3.50
	13:00-15:00	Photography*		All	Sprts Pav	£3.50
Week 2						
Mon 19 Aug	13:30-15:00	Street Dance		12-16	Methodist	£3.50
	14:00-16:00	Makeup		10-16	The Barn	£5.00
Tue 20 Aug	10:00-12:00	Tennis	£6 for both events	5-14	Sprts Grd	£3.50
	13:00-15:00	Hockey		5-14	Sprts Grd	£3.50
Wed 21 Aug	10:00-15:00	Drama Workshop**		All	ChrchHall	£6.00
Thu 22 Aug	10:00-12:00	Football	£6 for both events	5-14	Rec Grd	£3.50
	13:00-15:00	Rounders		5-14	Rec Grd	£3.50
Fri 23 Aug	10:00-12:00	Photography*	£6 for both events	All	Sprts Pav	£3.50
	13:00-15:00	Photography*		All	Sprts Pav	£3.50

* For the Photography sessions, you must take your own camera.

** For the "all-day" Drama Workshop, please take a packed lunch.

You may also want to take a packed lunch if you intend staying over for the morning and afternoon sessions when you can take advantage of the combined cost of £6 as shown above.

See Parish notice board or Facebook page [facebook.com/dersingham.parishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/dersingham.parishcouncil) for details□



The Dersingham Weather recorded by John F. Murray

I said in my last report that I was hoping to report on some nice summer weather. As you are all no doubt aware, I am unable to report that. We have so far had a pretty poor spring and early summer. The meteorological office have called it unseasonal, but, to be honest, it would appear that 'unseasonal' weather is becoming the norm. I am not talking about climate change, for there is a difference between climate and weather. Climate looks at the bigger picture and defines what the weather should be more or less like on a regular basis. That's where expressions like 'tropical', 'sub tropical' and 'temperate' come in. I am talking about weather changes where what could be expected to normally happen, in fact do not. The reason for these changes is often known. In the case of this spring it would appear that the jet stream remained in a more southerly position making us more prone to weather from farther north. However the next question is why it remained further south than it should be. The Met. Office are convening a think tank to work that one out.

This May was the coldest I have recorded. The mean temperature was 11.1°C. This is not a huge difference from May 2010 which was 11.4°C, but previous May mean temperatures were in the 12 and 13°C area. The high for this May was 22.5°C. The closest to this was in 2009 when it was 23.7°C. Other years have been between 26 and 29°C. This is a big difference.

June I'm afraid was a very similar story. The mean temperature was 14.3°C which is marginally less than last June at 14.4°C but in previous years it was between 15 and 16°C. The highest temperature this June was 25.6°C, which was on the very last day of the month and it is also the highest temperature of the year so far. Previous years have been between 26 and 32°C. A big difference again.

There were long periods of cloudy weather which was caused by numerous low pressure areas caught up with the more southerly jetstream. This prevented the sun breaking through but did not produce much in the way of rainfall. In May we had 38.4mm which is a little more than the average of 36.3mm and in June we had 21.2mm which is well below the average of 55.2mm and way lower than the very wet June last year when we had 108mm. With half of the year gone we have had a total rainfall of 187.4mm. If you compare this to the first half of last year, which was a wet year, we had 340.6mm. The first half of 2011, the driest year I have recorded, produced 196.8mm. You can see that if the trend continues we are due to have another dry year.

Sudoku No 31

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

I am still uploading current weather information which you can access via the Parish Council website although I have recently had a few problems as the old computer I use to do this is well past its best and sometimes decides, all on its own, to drop the internet link. Poor old thing.

I will continue to keep my fingers crossed hoping that it is still not too late to have some good summer weather and once again finish by saying that I hope to report on that in my next article. □

**Solution to Sudoku
No 30 (in Issue 82)**

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

Old Picture Corner

Two more offerings from the late Gordon Anckorn:



The first picture is clearly of The Feathers but taken before there was a car park. It's hard to tell what was there, possibly a garden. Also what were the buildings on the left of the picture? With doors opening onto the road this view probably dates to the 1920's.



This atmospheric view of the road past Cats Bottom reminds us of a less busy time. This was obviously not taken on a Sunday afternoon. Why is it called Cats Bottom? It in no way resembles a tea towel holder!

Tony Bubb



PONDERINGS

by Ion Trewin

Past midsummer and our pond daily consumes our attention, not least, as I briefly mentioned in the previous issue of Village Voice, because of a pernicious aquatic pest called blanket weed. A dictionary defines it thus: *'Blanket weed (Spirogyra adnate) is one of the most prolific aquatic weeds known to amateur and professional pond-keepers in the U.K. In America it is called Long String Algae. This description is pretty accurate because in effect Spirogyra is not a plant but a filamentous algae.'*

It was still winter when we first spied greenish-yellow splotches on the pond surface. Within days these splotches had connected and within a couple of weeks three-quarters of the pond surface was covered. The 'filamentous' nature of the weed was quickly evident when we dragged out a quantity. It reminded me a little of felt.

While on our crash learning course we quickly discovered that we were not alone in west Norfolk to be affected. If you are passing through Ingoldisthorpe look at the pond on the east side of the B1440. Another bad case can be seen at Bircham Newton. And these are just two that can be seen from roadsides

We called in Clearwater which had dredged our pond the year before. They confirmed our diagnosis. Blanket weed feeds off nitrates. Perhaps the dredging had disturbed nitrates long present in the pond substrata? Perhaps nitrates were draining into the pond off surrounding fields. One only has to recall last winter's exceptionally heavy winter rainfall which saturated the land. So what to do?

With chemical treatments banned Clearwater turned to a cobalt coloured vegetable dye. Sprayed onto the surface it blocks light getting to the bottom of the pond, thereby preventing the algae in blanket weed from growing. And so it proved. But it isn't a permanent solution, so periodically the pond requires further treatments. There is also a freeze-dried bacteria that comes in water-dissolvable packets that one simply chucks into the pond. This is meant to consume nitrates.

We wait to see if there is a permanent solution. A further report – and an update on ducks and moorhens – in a future issue.



Strictly Ann

What, you might ask, has Ann Widdecombe – politician, author and star of Strictly Come Dancing – got to do with west Norfolk? There are two answers: the first that on 16th November she is speaking at a literary dinner in the King's Lynn Town Hall in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. The second is that her bestselling memoirs, appropriately titled *Strictly Ann*, were edited in the Snettisham home of Sue and Ion Trewin. Sue suggested the title, Ion concentrated on the text. Applications for tickets for this event, when Ann

Widdecombe will also sign copies of *Strictly Ann*, which will be sold for the benefit of Macmillan Cancer Care, should be made to Pat Worby on 01362 693245 or 07712579671 after August 31, 2013. Tickets are £75 each which include the champagne and canape reception as well as dinner. We anticipate a high demand! □

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St Nicholas Church News



The Flower Festival at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham draws people in from near and far and is always a great success. This year the theme was **“Britain in all its Glory”** as we celebrate our heritage and acknowledge the many strengths of our society. In the days leading up to the Festival there was the most extraordinary atmosphere in the church building, one of concentration and creativity that was strangely quiet. It is this creative process that fascinates me. So many of the flower arrangers told me about their experiences of creating the displays; that they come with a plan, having ordered their flowers and when they set eyes on the actual blooms that have arrived, their plan has to be adapted as the work takes shape and follows a course all of its own that far outstrips their initial hopes and expectations so thereby delighting and surprising them. Through this creative process, that must bend and yield to the qualities of the natural resources that are the flowers themselves, we then had an artistic expression of what we were celebrating, our heritage, **“Britain in all its Glory”**.

Within the life of our Church we have much to give thanks for and many ways in which we express our delight in all that we have inherited. Many couples come to St Nicholas Church to make a life-long commitment to one another and a declaration of their love. This year we have gathered together to celebrate many Baptisms as well as my Ordination as Priest and in August a Confirmation Service. At each one of these occasions people are making their commitment to God and at the same time, accepting the love that God extends to all his people. These people are making plans and then, in so doing, find that they are caught up in God’s creative process and discovering far more that delights and surprises.

We have a lot to celebrate at St Nicholas Church and within this community. Naturally, we find ourselves wanting to give thanks and it is in this spirit of thanksgiving that we are planning this autumn to consider our response to our God who provides. Details of our Stewardship Campaign will be coming out very soon. As we give thanks for all that God gives, once again, we discover that we are caught up in God’s creative purpose which always delights and surprises.

Coming Up

Saturday 10th September 7.30pm – “Last Night of the Proms” – Tickets £10
Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th September 10am to 5pm – Arts & Crafts Festival
 Paintings by local artists in the Church and craft stalls in the Church Hall

Reverend Julie Boyd, Curate



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From the Parish Office

I hope you enjoyed The Big Lunch. More activities are to come with our Funday/Carboot, two weeks of Summer Activities for Children and young people and the launch of our Christmas Lights Campaign. Details of these can be found in this magazine and around the Village.

We now have a supply of food waste CADDY LINERS in stock; they are £1.30 for 50. I hope to maintain a constant supply, having sold over half of the original stock within seven office days.

The Council now finds itself with seven vacancies. If you wish to have a say in what is happening in your village, please apply to join us. Your village NEEDS you.

Well I think that is all from me. If there is something happening in the village that you wish to know more about, or not happy about, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office, and I will do my best to help. You can also let us know your thoughts on our *Face Book* page at www.facebook.com/dersingham.parishcouncil

Sarah



Saving all nature

One of the objectives of the RSPB that is not appreciated by many people (even perhaps some members) is their commitment to the protection of all forms of wildlife and not just birds. They, the birds, live in an environment surrounded by and themselves surround all forms of wildlife, the natural world, so by protecting them and in the process the places where they live and the food they eat, you look after the many and varied parts of nature.

As most of us are aware many birds do not spend the whole of their lives in the UK, many travelling vast distances to live out part of their year in a different environment to stay, breed and rear their young. There they need as much protection, sometimes much more than they receive in the UK and of these issues the RSPB is very aware. In many other countries there are similar conservation organisations such as the RSPB, international organisations that carry out co-ordinated surveys and protection schemes. The RSPB supports and assists in many of these schemes hence some appeals are directed not only to birds in foreign lands but to such things as rainforests, coral reefs and exotic species like the tigers and dolphins.

Closer to home of course there are 'our birds' and habitat protection and conservation for them is of prime importance as are equally other forms of wildlife: bats, water voles, rodents and many other mammals, moths, butterflies, dragonflies and countless varieties of plants and fungi.

Much of this can be readily seen at Titchwell Marsh where we encourage visitors, especially children, to write and record in our sightings book, anything they see from the natural world. We are looking after nature, all nature. □

Mike Barrett, Volunteer at RSPB Titchwell Marsh since 1985



The Norfolk Churches Trust SPONSORED BIKE RIDE AND WALK Saturday 14th September 2013, 9.00a.m. - 5.00p.m.

This annual event has now been running for a number of years. As well as proving to be a great success in raising funds for the valuable work of the Trust, it gives a boost to the necessary income for local churches. Imagine the distinctive and lovely Norfolk landscape without the familiar sight of its old church towers. This heritage belongs to everyone – not just the people who attend worship in these wonderful old buildings.

This event gives everyone the opportunity to raise funds – and have fun at the same time. Why not consider getting involved by cycling, walking, or sitting in church as a recorder (signing the sponsorship forms of visiting riders or walkers). Please contact Neil Adams on 01485 540857 for further details. (*Also see www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/sponsored-bike-ride Ed.*) □



The Sandringham Newsletter

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

After a very busy Easter, visitor numbers to Sandringham House and Gardens settled down to their usual springtime level. Although the weather wasn't exactly glorious, people didn't seem to have been put off and the gardens certainly caught up from the very late start to spring to give a magnificent display of magnolias and other spring-flowering trees and shrubs.

The Visitor Centre was busy, too, with various events taking place as well as our normal customers. During April and May, Scouts held their St George's Day Parade at Sandringham Church, Guides held a charity walk and King's Lynn Samaritans had their annual fancy-dress cycle ride – just some of the various ways that the Country Park is used throughout the year by local groups of all kinds, as well as by families and dog-walkers. One event we are particularly look forward to this summer is a visit by the yellow helicopter of the East Anglian Air Ambulance Trust, which will be arriving near the Visitor Centre on Saturday 20th July to give people a chance to have a close-up look at the work of the Air Ambulance and find out more about what they do.

The first sowings were made in May in the vegetable garden which supplies some of the vegetables for the Visitor Centre Restaurant. The vegetable patch is inside the Walled Garden and has benefited from that little bit of extra shelter from the weather through this cold winter; rhubarb is growing well there and has been appearing on the dessert menu in all sorts of delicious guises, and chives and parsley plants have also done well through the winter.

The organic crops on the Farm all established well after a late spring, but unfortunately so did the thistles. The organic fields were cultivated several times throughout the autumn and early spring to try to kill the thistle roots, but to no apparent effect, so Farm staff are now investigating a new piece of equipment; it fits to the front of a tractor with knife-like fingers that allow the cereal to flow through, but cut any thicker-stemmed plants like thistles. This may not kill the thistle plants but by cutting them before they flower, seeding is reduced and the root system has a large amount of its energy removed.

Swallows returned in June to a number of buildings across the Estate, and woodpeckers could be heard drumming in the Gardens. However, although we know there are cuckoos in the Park, their distinctive call has not been heard so far this year.

Gardeners have been staking herbaceous perennials in the North Garden and the Walled Garden, and on the West Terrace, with birch twigs to give them some support as they start to put on growth. Plants like delphinium, echinops (globe thistle), peonies and phlox all need a little support, particularly in the windy conditions that have prevailed so far this season, and as they grow bigger and bulkier their foliage gradually hides the twigs from view. □



East Anglian Air Ambulance—Have you time to Spare?

The East Anglian Air Ambulance is a 365-day helicopter emergency medical service which covers Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. With a medical crew highly trained in critical care, we bring the emergency room to the patient within 25 minutes, we can then transport them to the most appropriate hospital if needed. Since our launch in 2000, we have attended over 12,500 life-saving missions and we rely on volunteers throughout the region to help us continue this vital work. Volunteer Programme Development Manager, Victoria Pank explains: "Volunteers are a valuable resource for our charity. We receive no Government funding and, quite simply, without the dedication and support of our volunteer team, we couldn't work as we do."

So if you have time to spare, either regularly or occasionally, come and join our team and help the EAAA continue to save lives in your area. There are many opportunities available, working behind the scenes in one of our offices or as a public speaker or event supporter, the choice is yours! We will make sure that you are offered a position that best suits your skills, interests and availability. It's great fun and very rewarding. To find out more, ring Victoria on 01603 489406 (victoria.pank@eaaa.org.uk) or visit our website at www.eaaa.org.uk/support-us/volunteer. □

Martine Silkstone—EAAA Volunteer

Dersingham Open Gardens, Studios and Everything Else! by Judy Collingham

Would it rain or not? I must have checked the forecast every day for the whole fortnight preceding Open Gardens, but when Sunday 26th May dawned it was fine, sunny and warm an oasis of fine weather during the coolest spring for 50 years. What a relief!

Even more of a relief was the steady stream of visitors who breathlessly hiked up our drive to stroll round our garden and the similar tide of visitors who washed the shores of our fellow gardeners.

The Artists of Dersingham joined with us to not only open their studios but also their gardens which gave the event a real Open Village feel.

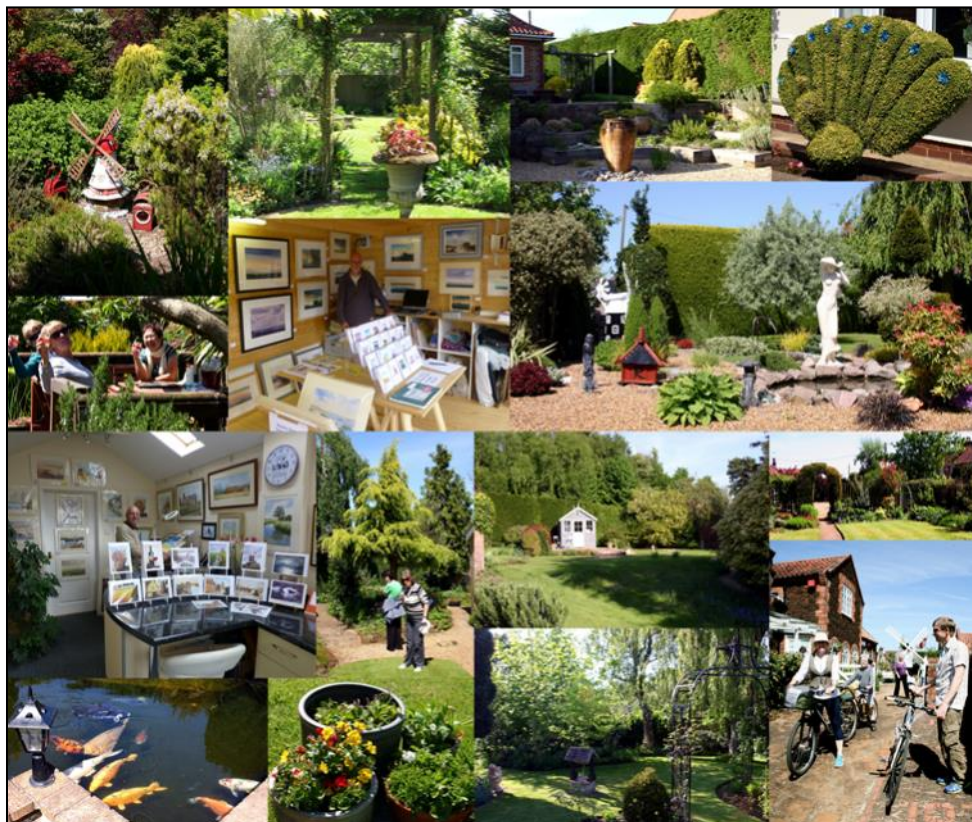
Meanwhile cream teas were being sold as fast as they could be served; by the end of the day the catering team were exhausted only to have to face another afternoon of the same the following day.

The Bowls Club graciously opened their greens on the first day which was very brave of them; they coached a small but eager band of would-be bowlers during the course of the afternoon. I thought I would have a go, how difficult could this game be? Very difficult I found out as my bowl, cast off with all my strength, trundled half way up the green to give up yards before the jack.

Day Two was thankfully more of the same – a sunny day, lots of visitors eager to explore our lovely village gardens, and the same level of consumption of cream teas.

Total numbers? 386 tickets sold. Some £1600 made for the church. However we must not rest on our laurels – time to start planning next year's Open Gardens!

My personal thanks to all who supported the event including the gardeners, the catering team, tickets sellers and the Bowls Club. □



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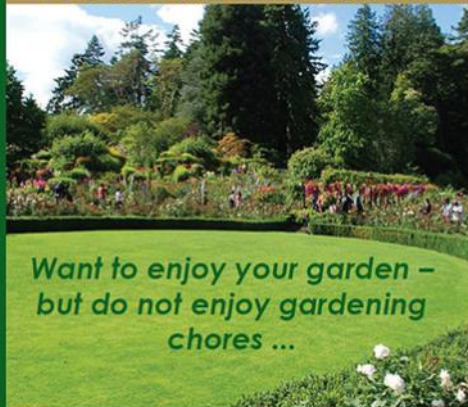
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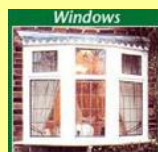
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CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE (CBHC) PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) NEWS

From: Tom Morris, PPG Committee

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The PPG's AGM was held at the CBHC on 4th July and was well attended by patients and health professionals. The main speaker was Dr Ian Mack (pictured below) a King's Lynn GP and the Chairman of the Governing Body of the West Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). He gave a most interesting and informative talk about the role of the CCG and outlined future plans for improving health and care provision in West Norfolk. The role of the CCG is outlined below:

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

Primary care trusts (PCTs) used to commission (purchase) most NHS services and controlled 80% of the NHS budget. On April 1 2013, PCTs were abolished and replaced with clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). CCGs have taken on many of the functions of PCTs and in addition some functions previously undertaken by the Department of Health.

All GP practices belong now to a CCG and the groups also include other health professionals, such as nurses. CCGs commission most services, including:

- Planned hospital care
- Rehabilitative care
- Urgent and emergency care (including out-of-hours)
- Most community health services
- Mental health and learning disability services

CCGs can commission any service provider that meets NHS standards and costs. These can be NHS hospitals, social enterprises, charities, or private sector providers. However, they must be assured of the quality of services they commission, taking into account both National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines and the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) data about service providers. Both NHS England and CCGs have a duty to involve their patients, carers and the public in decisions about the services they commission. Readers can find further information about the West Norfolk CCG at the internet website <http://www.westnorfolkccg.nhs.uk/>



PPG Officers

The Chairman advised those attending that, at the end of this financial year (30 June 2014), officers of the PPG Committee would be relinquishing their posts and that volunteers were urgently needed if the PPG was to continue. The current officers have been in post for up to 16 years and a change is well overdue! The task of liaising between patients and the practice as well as helping to enhance patient services can be most rewarding.

Telephone Numbers

Patients are advised that in the new year the telephone number for appointments etc. will change to a local (01485) number. This will reduce the charge to patients to local call rates. ►

Sad news

It was revealed by the Managing Partner (Graham Dickerson) that the practice would in the near future lose the services of a most popular doctor, Dr Uni. She and her family will be returning to India to re-join members of her family. She will be sadly missed but we wish her well as she continues with her compassionate and effective work in new surroundings.

Did Not Attend (DNA)

It was disappointing to hear that the number of patients who fail to attend for their appointments is on the increase. Patients who fail to turn up for an appointment, which after all they have made or agreed to, are denying that appointment slot to other patients. It was staggering to learn that the DNA figure now stands at 125 per month! This represents:

- 25 hours of clinician time
- 30 doctors' appointments, 60 nursing appointments and 35 healthcare assistance appointments.

It is appreciated that some of the failures to attend are due to reasons beyond the control of patients but when an appointment cannot be attended, please ring to cancel, even if at the last minute. Clinicians can then use that slot for other patients or to deal with other matters.

Fundraising

The chairman expressed the PPG's thanks to Mr & Mrs Harrod who are working so hard to raise funds to enhance patient services at the CBHC. Their first venture is on 26th July on which date they will be holding a Coffee Morning, Craft and Table-top sale at the St Nicholas Church Hall between 9.00am and 2.00pm.

Appointments

Patients are reminded that the practice will always honour its agreement to provide "on the day" appointments to anyone who feels that they must have a doctor consultation on the day of their call. Please indicate this need when seeking an appointment so that, if necessary, arrangements can be made for you to be given a telephone appointment initially. The doctor making the call can make an assessment of your condition and suitable arrangements can be made.

The practice's Managing Partner emphasised again the variety of ways of making an appointment. These are: **on line** using the internet, dialling **01553 696888** any time of day or night or by dialling **08444 77 33 77** during working hours. If making a routine appointment for a date ahead, you are advised to avoid calling between 8.00am and 10.00 am. However, if you call and are told that you are a certain number in a queue, please stay on-line because your wait should be relatively short and certainly shorter – and cheaper - than having to call again.

Finally!

If you can think of any equipment that the PPG could acquire to enhance the patient services at our surgery, please contact the PPG on 01485 541450. □

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Rotary Matters

From Phil Newell and Rene Rooth

We have several centres in our District that cater for the older generation – Day Centres in Hunstanton, Heacham and Dersingham. Also, older people with some form of disablement may go to Phobbies in Dersingham. As this year's Rotary Club President I was recently invited to the Hunstanton Day Centre which meets at the Community Centre in Hunstanton. I was given a very warm welcome by the older residents who come weekly to meet together. I spoke to several residents, some of whom had fought in the Second World War. One had been in the RAF and the Army and had fought in Palestine. Another had been in the Royal Navy and his ship was involved in escorting US troops to the Normandy beaches on the day after D-Day. A third man had been a tank commander.

Back in 1994 I was inducted into Rotary by a man who became an Army Major during the war. Aged 93, he now lives in a Care Home. He never spoke of his war exploits until some years later when I learnt that he had won the Military Cross and had been attached to the 8th Army under Field Marshall Montgomery, fighting in the North African Desert. Tobruk had fallen and south of it, in the battle code-named 'Knightsbridge', the Allies defended against General Rommel and the attack of the German Africa Korps and Italian Armoured and Motorised Units. Our Allied officer was in charge of 4 anti-tank guns. As the only surviving officer he took command of the remaining 10 guns of the Company, several tanks being destroyed. He was immediately awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

Why do I recount these stories? Because it is very easy for younger people to think of older ones as barely to be tolerated, not realising that so many of the older ones have had lives for which we should be proud. Those in the war showed fantastic self-sacrifice from which we have all benefitted; many others have achievements about which they keep quiet but they deserve great respect from us all.

Hunstanton Day Centre meets on Tuesdays, weekly, from 9:30am to 3:00pm. The Centre is ably run by its President (and Rotarian) Brian Devlin, with much valuable assistance from Peter Atterbury (also a Rotarian) his wife Val, Pam Reynolds and several other helpers. Two of our Rotarians, Margaret Ponder and Maureen Hoverd, assist at Phobbies in Dersingham. The Hunstanton Centre has been running for 34 years and is a very important organisation as are all centres catering for the older generation. We must keep these. Any help that can be given is much appreciated. At the Hunstanton Day Centre if you are able to give up some time for this, please telephone Brian Devlin at 01485 532410.

Rotarian Rene Rooth writes the following account of the recent talk given to the Rotary Club by the Reverend James Monro, Curate of the Saxon Shore Churches.

James gave us a very detailed account of life in Dodoma in Tanzania, showing us pictures of the local churches and farm houses as well as the wild life typical of Africa: Elephants, Giraffes and Zebras. He showed us the Cathedral built by the Wills family and in contrast the bare countryside in the dry season. The churches in that area are well supported with services lasting several hours and various choirs enjoying singing and music. On baptismal days as many as 250 children are baptised as Christians, although there is a Muslim community.



The greatest need in Dodoma and a nearby village is for water. Sometimes the locals sink the basic well which is not hygienic and with rain, it disintegrates. So what is needed is an Artesian well which produces pure water and would supply water for making bricks as well as being for general use. The Diocese of Tanzania owns land in the area and churches are looked after by the Church Elders. A new well would also be looked after by this body. Most days are windy so a tower with a wind-driven pump is necessary for water storage. Of course, an exploratory drill must first take place and a fund for about £6000 to £7000 is needed to purchase items such as rotors, cylinders and rods, not forgetting fencing to keep out jackals and other animals.

Unfortunately the Government is not in a position to help with these projects so that charity donations are all important. All members were impressed with the presentation and will be giving some thought to whether the Club can assist in any way. □

Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly by Alice Worth

DDC

On Wednesday, 5th June, we all went to the Ffolkes Arms for lunch. It was a nice social event and everyone enjoyed the outing. The transport is always a challenge as it involves David, our driver, making two trips between the village and the hotel. However, he always manages to get everyone there in time for a 12.30pm lunch.



We were saddened to learn of the death of our Vice-President, Bert Haslam, on the 26th May. Bert was a valued member of our Committee and had been associated with the Day Centre from its earliest days. When he retired as our Treasurer in 2002 he continued to take an active interest in our activities and would come in most Wednesday mornings to have a chat with everyone. In March 2004 the Committee was pleased to ask Bert to become our Vice-President for life, in recognition of all he had done for the Day Centre. He duly accepted and continued to be part of our organization until his illness. He was a very respected and much loved part of our team and we will miss him greatly. Bert was truly one of nature's gentlemen.

Despite the awful weather through Spring into early Summer the strawberry season didn't disappoint. Betty Edey, one of our members, treated us all to a strawberry feast on the 26th June. You can't beat local strawberries for texture and flavour. Thank you Betty. On the 10th July we will be having another fish and chip lunch provided by the Village Fryer, something we all look forward to. Our last meeting before our summer break will be on Wednesday 17th July, and on that day we are looking forward to a visit from the Bishop of King's Lynn and I will report on this in the September edition of Village Voice.

Sadly, we will also be saying goodbye to Ruth Mountain who has cooked our lunches for many years and --will be cooking her last lunch for us on that day. Her lunches have been a very important part of what the Day Centre provides for its Members and what they look forward to each Wednesday. As well as our weekly lunches Ruth has also catered for all our Easter and Christmas parties and also organized a garden party at her house each August for the members and volunteers. Ruth now wishes to retire to spend more time with her family. Thank you Ruth for all you have done for the Dersingham Day Centre, it has been very much appreciated, and we hope you will find time to drop in to see us – you will always be welcome. We have been fortunate in being able to appoint another cook, Carol Kenny, and she will be taking over in September and, hopefully, will enjoy being part of the Day Centre Team.

Several of our Members have been indisposed during the last two months and we have missed them all. We wish them well and hope that by the time we start up again in September they will be well again and able to join us. We will be back in business on the 4th September and wish everyone a very happy summer holiday. □



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Sandringham Squirrels

written by Alan Coleby, illustrated by Jeanne Ockenden

Girl squirrels

Ella
Eve
Cassie
Thora

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

Boy squirrels

Scoot
Chip
Barney
Gus



A New Game

At a little distance from the path along the side of the wood, several of the younger squirrels had met and were talking. There was a small clearing beneath a row of sweet chestnut trees and two oak trees, and they often met there. It was a meeting place they often used because they found nearly all their food on the ground. Fruit and mushrooms, snails and insects were always on the ground, but nuts and acorns were usually gathered after they had fallen. The squirrels slept and rested in the trees, and always climbed trees to escape if they were being threatened or chased, but a lot of the day was spent on the ground.

‘I know just the game to warm us up,’ said Gus, really keen to get everyone moving. ‘Hide and seek.’

The others did not seem keen.

‘We need to be in the gorse, where there’s plenty of cover and bushes to hide in,’ said Scoot, ‘and I don’t really want to go over there.’

‘No,’ said Chip, but he was keen to play the game. ‘Down the path and along to the end of the wood, there are a lot of ash and oak trees, and they’re covered in ivy.’

‘Ivy’s horrible stuff,’ said Ella. ‘Mum told me not to climb in it if I can help it. She said it slows you down, and that could be dangerous if you’re escaping from something that’s after you.’

‘I know that’s true,’ said Gus. He really was not going to be put off. ‘But if you’re playing, it gives you plenty of cover, and the ivy on those oak trees is ever so thick. It has grown a lot more since last summer. All sorts of little animals live in it, and birds roost in it at night. It’s like a little world of its own.’

‘OK, then,’ agreed Scoot, and the others were more likely to agree if he wanted to play the game. So, Gus, Scoot, Chip, Ella, Eve and Cassie all went quickly to the end of the wood that Chip had told them about.

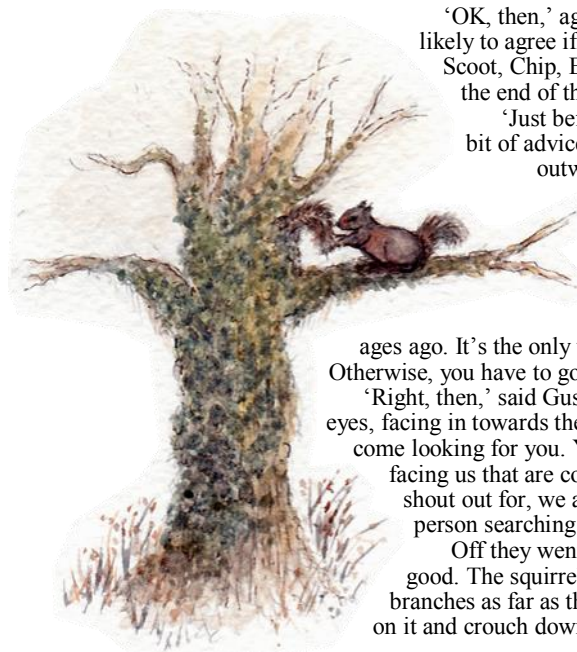
‘Just before we start,’ said Chip, ‘I’ll give you a bit of advice. If you turn your front and back toes outwards and nearly right round so they are facing backwards, you can climb downwards head first as well as upwards. You’ll need to do that in the ivy if we are playing this game.’

‘We know that,’ said Eve, loudly and quite scornfully. ‘Mum told us that,

ages ago. It’s the only way you can go downwards fast. Otherwise, you have to go down backwards.’

‘Right, then,’ said Gus, ‘I’ll stand by that ash tree and shut my eyes, facing in towards the trunk. I’ll count to a hundred and then come looking for you. You must stay on one of these four trees facing us that are covered in ivy, and the first one I see and shout out for, we all come down and start again with that person searching for everyone else.’

Off they went. Climbing in the ivy turned out to be good. The squirrels went up and down and out on the branches as far as the ivy reached. They could claw it, swing on it and crouch down in it so that no-one could see them.



Gus had soon counted to a hundred and shouted out that he was coming for them. He really hoped he would see Eve first. In fact, he thought that if he saw someone else first, he would pretend that he hadn't, so that when he saw Eve he could creep up behind her and put his arms round her.

It was Eve that he saw first. Although she had crouched well down into the ivy near a fork in one of the oak trees, she had got so excited by the game that she had forgotten to hide her tail and it had flicked upwards and along her back. All squirrels' tails do that when they are alarmed or excited. Eve's tail was like that, and it even swished a little from side to side so that Gus couldn't fail to see her.

He went along the ground and slowly up the oak tree, taking care not to rustle the leaves of the ivy. When he got to a point well below Eve, he paused, leapt upwards past Eve, and grabbed her tail as he went by. He kept hold of the end of her tail and as he landed he shrieked with laughter. Eve shrieked in alarm and they fell into each other's arms in the fork of the tree.

They all came to the ground again before Eve started her count. When she had finished, she knew immediately where Gus was.

She could hear someone eating halfway up the tree next to the ash, and knew it would be Gus chomping on a last year's chestnut he had been carrying round. He could not keep still or quiet for long. Eve didn't really want to find him. She thought she would look for her sister, Ella, and she wondered whether she would be hiding with Chip.

She searched a long time and all was still. Eventually, she saw a reflection of something near the bottom of the furthest tree.

Suddenly, the sun came out and the reflection was brighter. She could just see the dark cheeks of a face around a gleaming eye, so that would be Chip. She decided to try a trick. 'I can see you, Ella,' she called, when she could not see anyone, but, sure enough, from just beyond Chip, Ella put her head out and said it was her.

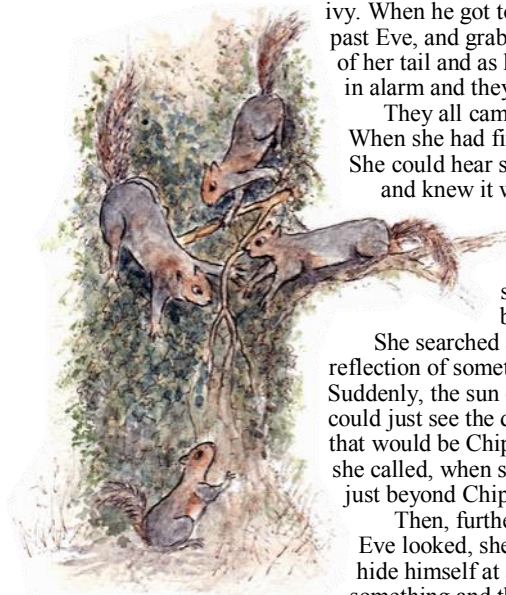
Then, further up the same tree, there came a squeal and when Eve looked, she could see Scoot standing up and not trying to hide himself at all. He seemed to be leaning down and pulling at something and there was another squeal.

Eve climbed to the spot, and so did Chip when he saw that something was wrong. Cassie had got her foot trapped beneath a thick, tough root of ivy. She was really upset.

'Look, Chip, can you pull it up a bit while I bite through it?' asked Scoot.

Chip did this, and while he heaved on the root, Scoot bit down hard and broke it. Cassie clung to Scoot and sobbed. She had been really frightened.

'Oooh! My ankle hurts.' She looked down. 'It would have been a long way to fall,' she said, and held on to Scoot even tighter. Now she felt really safe. □



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Dersingham's 7th Lace Day

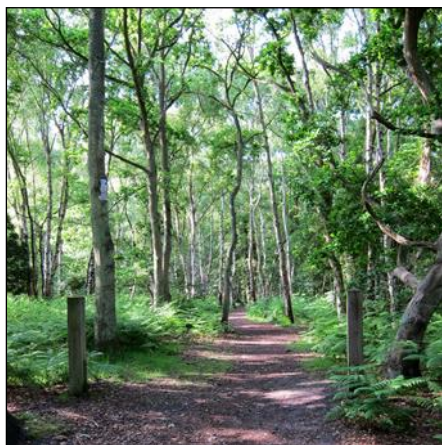
On May 18th at least 60 lace makers from around Norfolk met at St. Georges School, (now the Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School). By 10.00 am the hall was buzzing with friends greeting and comparing work in progress. As quite a few people had an hour or more journey, tea and coffee were in great demand, so the kitchen was very busy. Our fund raising this year was for the Young Carers whose representatives spent the day with us to talk about their work.



In the afternoon the new Lady Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Elizabeth Watson visited and had an enjoyable time looking at all the lace being worked. At 2.30 pm we drew the raffle and tea and cake was served. After adding everything up the Mayor presented the Young Carers with a cheque for £460, which they were delighted with.

By 4.00 pm all that was left was to clear up and put our feet up after a very busy and enjoyable day. Many thanks to all our helpers who we could not do without.

Barbara Merrick and Barbara Lake, Dersingham Lace Makers



Life Wood Footpath

**'For signs may come and signs may go
But RoWs go on for ever.'**

Shortly after the successful ten-year battle to get the public Right of Way (RoW) re-opened through Life Wood, Norfolk County Council erected signs showing the route of the RoW. These disappeared before most people knew they were there. We have waited a further three years for the signs to be replaced and were grateful when, as part of a wider programme, Norfolk County Council erected a finger-post at the entrance to Life Wood from Woodside Close and two other directional signs further along the path. These lasted for some three weeks before they, in turn, disappeared! Perhaps, by

the time you read this, there will have been further developments.

The important thing to remember is that none of this activity affects the status of the path in any way. It remains a Right of Way whether it has signage or not and everyone has a RIGHT to walk its length at any time they want. Indeed, it could be argued that we should be making as much use of it as possible just to make the point. It is pleasant to walk through there to Ingoldisthorpe Common and take the route of the old railway line either back to Dersingham station and, then, on to the Warren and Dersingham Common or, in the other direction, to Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham. Happy walking!

Keith Starks

Sun Dried Tomato Soup

a recipe from Caroline Bosworth

This is one of my favourite recipes of all time – guests always seem to love it and think that I have spent hours making it – although the truth is quite the reverse!! Whilst it may seem unusual to make soup in the summer – even with the strange British weather – I find that this is so light and refreshing that it works well at any time of the year.

Whilst the soup uses most successfully canned tomatoes, in the summer time I use fresh tomatoes as I always seem to have a glut of them – or am fortunate enough to be given them. With slightly squishy tomatoes, simply pour boiled water onto them in a jug, wait a couple of minutes, peel the skin off and roughly chop. This recipe is very forgiving, so don't worry too much about the exact proportions too much. I find the best cooking involves a degree of flexibility and innovation. This soup also freezes really well – just pop it in tubs before adding the soured cream and pesto.



Ingredients:

A little olive oil

2 garlic cloves

A small tub of sundried or sunblush tomatoes in oil – roughly chopped.
(Don't try to make this soup without these)

3 x 400g plum tomatoes (or equivalent amount of fresh tomatoes, peeled and chopped)

500ml stock – vegetable or chicken

1 tsp sugar (to taste)

142ml pot soured cream

125g pot FRESH basil pesto

(fresh pesto makes all the difference to this recipe – do make the effort to find or make it yourself).

Method:

1. Heat the oil and soften the garlic over a low heat. Add the sunblush tomatoes, tinned tomatoes (or peeled fresh ones if using), stock, sugar and seasoning. Simmer for about 10 minutes until the tomatoes have softened a little.
2. Remove from the heat, whizz with a stick blender. If you are freezing some soup – this is the time to decant into suitable tubs. Otherwise, stir in half the tub of soured cream and adjust the seasoning to taste.
3. Pour into bowls swirl some pesto and soured cream on the top of the soup. Enjoy!! □



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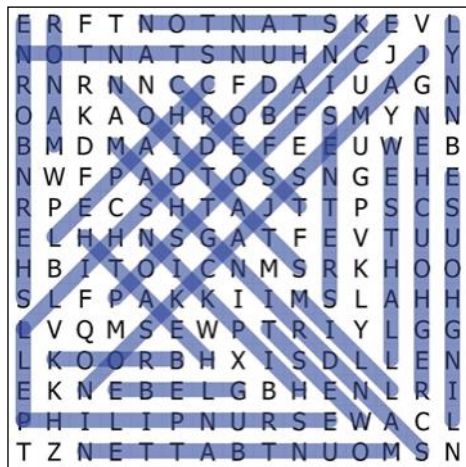
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Dersingham Roads and Closes Wordsearch

How did you get on with the Dersingham Roads Wordsearch in the last issue? The names of no less than 26 road names were hidden. Here's the solution:



BANK
BROOK
CHAPEL
CREST
DODDSHILL
GLEBE
HEATH
HIPKIN
HUNSTANTON
JAMES JACKSON
LINGHOUSE
LYNN
MANOR

MILL
MOUNTBATTEN
PELL
PHILIPNURSE
POSTOFFICE
REGHOUGHEN
SANDRINGHAM
SENTERS
SHERNBORNE
STANTON
STATION
WEST
WESTHALL

For this issue, you now need to find all the *Closes* in Dersingham, ie all “roads names” ending with the word *Close*, although again the actual word “Close” is not included and any

Close names with more than one word are run together. Perhaps surprisingly, there are as many *Closes* as there are *Roads*. Solution in the next issue.



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Dersingham's Big-Lunch

The Big-Lunch held in venues across the country on Sunday 2nd June was an opportunity to celebrate the families and various groups, around 400 people in all, turned out on the Recreation Ground to enjoy the obli refreshments were available to purchase as we were entertained by the by the very capable singer, guitar and activities were available for the children and those young at heart to play with, whilst clown “Crazy Bar “King’s and Queen’s” fancy dress competition. Our sincere thanks to the Parish Council Recreation Commi



—Sunday 2nd July 2013

60th Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.. Dersingham's Big Lunch proved a great success as couples, a wonderfully warm spell of weather. For those who hadn't brought their own, plenty of good food and a drum trio "Genuine Fake" and the remarkable young singer/acoustic guitarist William. Various apparatus "bananas" was a big hit giving out all manner of twisted balloon creations before going on to judge the committee for organising such a memorable event. □





David Bingham The Cromer Forest Bed

The chocolate brown band at the base of the West Runton cliffs shown in the photographs on this page is an outcrop of the Cromer Forest Bed. It was formed during the Cromerian Interglacial between 780,000 and 480,000 years ago - when enormous elephants, lions, hyenas and hippos roamed the land. The Cromer Forest

Bed is not very old in geological terms and you don't need anything more than a dessert spoon to dig into it. The cliff face is a protected Site of Special Scientific Interest but there are usually some pieces broken off that are fair game for attacking with a spoon. The samples can be sieved under a tap to reveal the shells, bones, beetle wing cases and plant remains from the interglacial ecosystem. The last time I did this I found snail shells that were much thinner than the periwinkles I'd seen on the beach at the foot of the cliffs. They looked like ordinary pond snails and included some ramshorn snails. Molluscs evolve very slowly and it's likely that the shells I was looking at were from the same species as the ones in my garden pond. Mammals evolve much faster and the water vole is often used as an evolutionary clock to date interglacial deposits. Humans were hunting across this ancient landscape and their hand axes sometimes get washed out of the Cromerian deposits - they were not the same species as modern people. In the 1990s a local amateur palaeontologist found a bone from an elephant sticking out of the cliff face at West Runton and this was just the start because careful excavation uncovered the complete skeleton of an elephant that would have stood at over four metres at the shoulder - much bigger than modern elephants.

On a warm day in October last year I went to listen to a talk on The Cromer Forest Bed being delivered by staff from the Natural History Museum in the Cliftonville Hotel in Cromer. I arrived early and the sun was shining through the Edwardian coloured glass into the room where more than a hundred chairs had been arranged in theatre style. On the street outside the window families were making their way to the beach to enjoy the late autumn warmth. The organisers probably thought that interest would be low and they would struggle to fill the seats. They were wrong. All the seats were soon filled, the space at the back of the room was crammed with a standing audience and there were more sitting in the aisle down the middle of the room. I listened in on the conversations around me and there was talk about a big 'fall' at Happisburgh and someone was handing around a finely crafted flint spear point - apparently this is his hobby and he spends his evenings chipping away at pieces of flint to recreate Palaeolithic hunting tools (perhaps he knows something we don't!). The chap sitting next to me took notes throughout the presentations, like a student listening to a lecture. If I'd done the same I could have written more but, interesting though the talks were, they were complex and only a few things have stuck in my memory. When one of the speakers was talking about the West Runton Elephant he described how the bones had been moved and that the only creatures capable of doing this would have been other elephants. African Elephants often show an interest in the bones of their relatives and move them around with their feet and trunks. He also described the local landscape during the Cromerian Interglacial as being similar to the Norfolk Broads of today - the idea of visiting the Broads and seeing a herd of giant elephants emerging from a reed swamp was an arresting mental image.

The lighter coloured deposits higher up the cliffs shown in the photographs come from the great Anglian Ice Age when a massive ice sheet came down from the north and pushed the Thames from its meandering course through what would become Norfolk



down to its current position. Ice ages have come and gone since then and my interest in them began during a visit to a cave in Rouffignac, France. We went in on a little electric train and when it stopped the tour guide shone a spotlight onto a piece of rock art above our heads depicting woolly rhinos that was drawn during the last Ice Age. His talk was in very fast French, which was probably a good thing because I could just look at what was in front of me without being distracted by facts. In my mind I was transported back to a time when ice and snow would have covered the land outside the cave and it felt very strange to emerge back out into the hot sun with cicadas calling all around – the closest I've ever come to time travel. The recent Ice Age Art exhibition at the British Museum was fantastic and every item on display had something of interest to uncover. One exhibit was a piece of mammoth tusk that had been engraved with the image of a woolly mammoth being followed by three people, two men and a woman – they looked very small in comparison to the mammoth. Another etching showed a ptarmigan – a bird familiar to anyone who has climbed up onto the high Cairngorm plateau - where the Ice Age hasn't quite released its grip. We are currently living in a very benign interglacial that has allowed our species to flourish. Ice Ages will come and go again because they are caused by the way the earth orbits, spins and tilts. In the meantime, we need to be careful not to disturb the favourable climate system we are living in. It's a bit like prodding a sleeping lion with a stick and believing those who tell us it's dead - when we can see its tail twitching and smell its hot breath. □

Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

invite you to the Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham.
(Access and parking from Sporle Road)

on: **Tuesday 30th July 2013 at 7.30pm** for an illustrated talk by Chris Mills, entitled:

Wader Wanderlust

Chris Mills lives in Norfolk and has over 30 years' experience in birding and wildlife photography. Chris runs Norfolk Birding and organises birdwatching tours of Spain, India and especially Norfolk. This talk from Chris, his first to NarVOS, should be a welcome treat for those of you who enjoy looking at wading birds.

Also on: **Tuesday 27th August 2013 at 7.30pm** for an illustrated talk by Neil Coe, entitled:

Arizona

Neil Coe is a NarVOS member who lives locally. Neil loves his overseas birding trips, and he always takes his camera. So, Neil should give us a fascinating insight into the birds of Arizona and he will have, very probably, a surprise or two in store for us.

Visitors are 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

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Volunteering at the Norfolk Hospice Tapping House

We are your local Hospice. We care for your patients and support your families. One of the many strengths

of this Hospice is that it is supported by volunteers who live in your area. We have over 308 active volunteers drawn from all areas of North and West Norfolk and the Fens. Their roles are varied but include: fundraising in many ways, helping in the 11 charity shops, driving and escorting the patients, gardening, reception and administrative tasks in the Hospice and, in particular, helping those of your families who seek our help.

It is in this last area that we are particularly looking for more volunteers and your help. These roles all involve support for terminally ill patients, their families and carers. This support may be practical, emotional or spiritual. It may include sitting with them, listening to them or helping in practical ways in their homes and gardens. Companionship is as important as clinical support in accompanying our patients and their families along this last stage of life's journey. We are looking in particular for volunteers in the following roles:

Bereavement Support. We support the families and carers of patients both before and after bereavement and help them through this part of their lives. This is an opportunity for your personal development as you expand your knowledge and skills in supporting people in bereavement, whilst making a worthwhile commitment and contribution to the work of the Hospice.

Chaplaincy Support. This is required not only at the Hospice, but in patients' homes and for dying patients in the Specialised End of Life Beds Unit at Amberley Hall Care Home, King's Lynn. The need for this specialist service will be that much greater when the new Hospice opens at Hillington in Spring 2014.

Drivers & Escorts. We need volunteers to help drive or escort patients and their families to and from the Hospice. Our Volunteer drivers can use their own cars or the Hospice vehicles that are adapted to carry wheelchairs. We always need more drivers.

Home Befriending Service. The Hospice recognises that alongside the clinical and pastoral support provided, help is also needed with everyday tasks to allow the family member to have a few hours off; or simply some companionship. When you are living with a terminal condition the world doesn't stop and household tasks still need doing. The Hospice Home Befriending Team will work alongside the clinical teams at the Hospice, visiting patients not well enough to attend Day Therapy at the Hospice; providing respite to Carers, and helping with practical tasks in the home. They offer practical support in response to that need. If you prefer it we will seek to ensure that you will only be asked to offer help to someone in your own community. The only skill needed is the ability to get along with people and the time to attend the Hospice training sessions.

Support for Families & Carers. The Family Support Team requires caring, committed volunteers to work as part of our team that provides emotional support to the carers and families of people who have been diagnosed as having a palliative illness, and support for people who have been bereaved. The work will include both telephone and personal contact. We will support the carers of dying patients in many ways; both in their homes and with other carers in the Hospice in group and individual meetings.

In all these roles comprehensive training and on-going support will be provided.

You may have seen in the press that a contract has been awarded to RG Carters to build a brand new Hospice at Hillington. Work starts this month and the new Hospice will open in Spring 2014. The new Hospice will not only replicate the services we currently provide from our present site in Snettisham but, crucially, also provide beds for those at the very end of their lives and the facilities for their families to be near them at this time. The need for volunteers has never been greater and we need your help to allow us to support your families.

If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer please ring the Hospice (01485 543163), email us at volunteers@norfolkhospice.org.uk or visit our website at www.norfolkhospice.org.uk

Thank you.

Tom Fitzalan Howard, Director of Support Services

Dersingham Bog News from Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden

The reserve over the last few days has been bathed in sunshine and warm temperatures which for this year at least seems to be quite a rare occurrence.

The summer has had a very slow start and this has been particularly noticeable on the reserve. Flying insects such as butterflies and dragonflies seem to be having a tough time with seemingly reduced numbers. With the warm days there has been a noticeable change though there seems to be more numbers of butterflies and dragonflies.

The reserve has many species of butterflies from the large ones to the small ones. One of my personal favourites is the brimstone. The Brimstone is a large butterfly with a wingspan of 60-74mm. Brimstones can be seen early in the season from as early as January with the peak flying season being in April and May and again in August to as late as October. The brimstone male is particularly noticeable with the sulphur yellow colour a striking contrast with the colours of the heather and mire vegetation.



Another butterfly which can be seen on the reserve is the Small Copper. This butterfly is a lot smaller than the brimstone with a wingspan of only 26 -40mm. This butterfly is particularly associated with heathland and the plant Sheep Sorrell. The flight period of the Small Copper begins with a peak in May and then a second peak in July, August and September with the end of the flight season normally in October.

Dragonflies are also another key part of life at Dersingham Bog NNR. The first dragonfly I saw this year was the Broad Bodied Chaser. This dragonfly is quite large and unsurprisingly with the name Broad Bodied chaser it has quite a broad body! The male has a bright light blue coloured body with yellow markings on the edge and stands out against the duller colours of the surrounding area. Its wingspan is 39-48mm and is normally found in ponds. It can be one of the first to colonise new ponds and the Broad Bodied Chaser that I saw was in a newly cleared ditch.

In October Nigel Downer will be holding two Fungi walks on the reserve. Visitors will be able to join Nigel as he takes a closer look at the fascinating and colourful world of Fungi. He will be searching for species such as Foxy Spot, The Deceiver and Ear Pick Fungus. The walks will last for approximately two hours. The dates for the walks are Saturday 5th October and Saturday 26th October. For bookings and further information contact: Nigel Downer on 01553 673161 or downer@nyjan.net. This event is free of charge but please note availability is limited and therefore booking is essential. This is an excellent opportunity to spend some time looking at the more micro species that are present on Dersingham Bog NNR.

I look forward to perhaps seeing some of you out on the reserve over the coming weeks enjoying the summer sunshine! □

Email: thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk



Dersingham Methodist Church News

Dersingham Methodist Church survived its 123rd birthday and so did all the members!! Our Flower Festival was very successful, we welcomed visitors from Dersingham, all around the area, the country and even from the U.S.A. We did wonder if the weather would put people off but it didn't and during the lunchtimes we ran out of space for people to sit. The theme '**One Body – many parts**' based on lines from hymns was intriguing, and we were often asked 'what about', or 'this line would make a lovely arrangement'. The children from Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School entertained us on Thursday and

Friday morning; they were fantastic and so full of energy. On Sunday morning the Rev Alison Davies of Heacham gave a thought provoking message when she managed to combine the Flower Festival, the Church's anniversary and Trinity Sunday into her address. Several visitors joined us in the evening for a rousing Songs of Praise. After expenses we raised £2,709.65; of this £500 has been sent to WaterAid and the rest is for Church funds to help us keep going for another 123 years. Thank you for all your support, generosity and friendship.

The last coffee morning was on 29th June and raised £276 which will be divided equally between East Anglian Air Ambulance and Church funds. We look forward to seeing you again at our Harvest Coffee morning on 28th September. Our usual weekly activities, community lunches, bowls club, jigsaw club continue during the summer and you will be made most welcome at them. □

Elizabeth Batstone



Dersingham Horticultural Society Our 25th Anniversary Celebration

To mark this special event the society held an afternoon Garden Party on Thursday 13th June in the garden of the Coach and Horses. Over 90 people attended this event, including invited guests who had formed and nurtured the society in its infancy.

Although somewhat breezy, the sun shone on an inviting scene with the pub's brightly painted garden furniture, balloons and beautiful floral displays. There was jolly music played by 'Gentle Jazz.' The society's many trophies were on display as well as a pictorial history of the society to view on a computer. Peter Williams, our life President, had produced a colourful and interesting leaflet with further details of the society's history. Ian Jenkins, the society's Chairman, welcomed everyone.

The Coach and Horses really did us proud with their pleasant and efficient staff serving a delicious full afternoon tea, with lashings of pots of tea! There was an amazing cake decorated with sugar craft flowers, miniature vegetables, garden tools and a wheel barrow. Peter Williams proposed a toast to accompany the cake, at which the heavens opened! Our spirits were not dampened as the music continued and the cake and wine consumed. In all this was a splendid celebration of one of our village's most successful societies. Here's to the next 25 years!

New members are always welcome. We meet at St Cecilia's Church, 7.30pm on the 2nd Thursday of every month. □

John Spencer (Hon Treasurer)



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Dick Melton

A good friend of mine, Barry Griggs, brought me in an old photo of a gang of us old village boys who were all in the cubs together at Dersingham in the Fifties. I reckon that the photo was taken around about 1951-52; it was taken up against the wall of the old barn in the Old Hall yard. We shared a hut with the Scouts and this hut was also in the yard. A youth club used the old barn and dances were held there. My old memory is not what it used to be but I think the cub leader

(Brown Owl) was Rosemary Bird, the coal man's daughter. We would go camping some weekends, usually on Wolferton Plain or some times on the Fen just past the sandpits. Mr Fisher, who had the fish and chip shop and the crisp factory, was the scout leader. When we went camping we always had a visit from Superintendent Mitchell, who was in charge of the Sandringham division of the police at Dersingham. I did not join the Scouts as I got a part time job with Ken Martins, so therefore I did not have time, but they were good old days with some very good mates and we all had a good time. Just one more thing I remember: when the Scout Hut became redundant, a chap who lived in the Old Hall used it for breeding rabbits.



Back Row: Dick Melton, Bernie Twite, John Melton, Ian Hudson, David Cavey
Middle Row: Barry Griggs, Terry Riches, Mick Hall, Ray Riches, John Wyer
Front Row: Sandy Morrison, Brian Symonds, Mr Fisher, Ray Athrow, Melvern Green

The Albert Victor

Now then, that picture of the Albert Victor public house in Manor Road was taken around about 1920. The **landlord** at the time was a Mr Hartley. In the picture he is standing near the doorway with his wife Eleanor the other side; in the doorway is his son Jack. I do not know the other men, though the man with his hand on the van looks like my great uncle, Tom Drew, who at the time was landlord of the Union Jack at Roydon. In 1924 Mr Hartley moved out of the Albert Victor and Tom Drew moved in. Tom Drew stayed at the Albert Victor till about 1935 when Mr and Mrs Southgate and their daughter Dolly took over. Mr and Mrs Southgate had a son who, after

the second world war, was chauffeur to Queen Mary. The Southgates stayed in the Albert Victor till 1961 when it was taken on by Peter Rogers and his wife, who stayed there until around 1970 when Arthur Daw and his wife Barbara took it over. They were there until it closed down in the Eighties. In the nineteen-thirties Jack Hartley and his wife Florence took over the Union Jack at Roydon. They had only been in there for a year when Jack died but the brewery let Florence keep in the pub and, with the help of her daughter Peggy, stayed there for nearly fifty years. I am pleased to say that the Union Jack is still going strong today.

The duck decoy

Now onto another photo that was in the June issue of v.v. - the duck decoy on the fen. I have a copy of this and I am pretty sure that the gamekeeper is Mr Clarke, who lived down the wood near Steer Road, Wolferton. He is facing west as you can see the sea in the distance. In those days (1955) there were no trees around the decoy, not like today. This decoy has a long and interesting history; it was made out of a bomb crater; the bomb was dropped from a Zeppelin (airship) in 1916. The decoy was used a lot by royalty over the years, but not now. I did ask a few years back for a notice board to be put up near it, explaining how it came to be there.

Pubs in 1925

A chap I was talking to asked me if I knew who the landlord of the old Dun Cow was before the new one was built in 1938. Well, I am not that old but here is a list of the people who kept the public houses in Dersingham in 1925: the landlord of the Alexandra Inn next to the station was Isaac David Bird; William Thomas Owen kept the Coach and Horses; Thomas Turner Drew, who was also a builder, was landlord of the Albert Victor in Manor Road; the White Horse landlord was Fred Houchen, who also farmed the land around it which is now Gelham Manor estate; Thomas Augustus Magnass had the Dun Cow and he was also a little higgler (smallholder); the Feathers Hotel at the time (1925) belonged to the People's Refreshment House Association and was run by a manager whose name I have not been able to find; Dersingham Working Men's Club and Bowls Club in Lynn Road was managed by Frank Orvis.

Well that's about all I have to say this month. Oh yes, just one other thing. Last Saturday, the 18th of May, my son Paul took his three children over the fen for a walk; they saw four shell duck. At this time of year fifty years ago you would have seen four hundred of them, but they were lucky enough to hear and see a cuckoo. All the best to you all. □



Epic Cycle Rides from the 1950s Cambridge to Bath and Back by John Lambert

A lot of these big rides were agreed on a sudden impulse. My mate would come round to mine after work and say "Where shall we go on our bikes?" and I would come out with the first name that came into my head.

We started this ride at 11:20pm on the Friday night, rode through the night and when it got light would look for a café that was open. Transport cafés

were open all night; we would eat an enormous breakfast, then ride on. We arrived at Bath about midday; we stayed there for 45 minutes, then set off for home again.

As the afternoon passed and we got to Oxford, we discussed whether to get B&B for the night. You could get B&B for only 25 pence. Oxford came and went, so we pressed on nearer to home. In the end we said "Now we've come this far, we might as well keep going the rest of the way and get home", so that's what we did!

I arrived home at 4:20am on Sunday morning!

□



Guides, Brownies and Rainbows by Lynn Wheeler



On Sunday 19th May 50 members of 1st Rainbows, 2nd Brownies, 1st Dersingham Guides and their leaders descended upon Sandringham with other members of Girl Guiding Norfolk for Fun in the Forest. We spent the morning following a photo treasure trail through the woods before returning to the main picnic area for lunch. The rest of the day was taken up playing games in the woods and in the clearings, enjoying the playground and visiting the gift shop. Everyone enjoyed a refreshing ice-cream; it was perfect ice cream weather. Two members of the Guides, Daisy and Ellie, made their promise and we finished off the day with a singsong (minus campfire).

On Saturday 8th June, 14 Rainbows, 4 Guides and their leaders boarded a coach at their HQ for a Summer Outing to the Rare Breeds Centre at Church Farm, Stow Bardolph. The morning involved meeting and greeting many different animals, including goats, sheep, rabbits, guinea pigs, pigs and piglets. They also enjoyed playing on the tractors, the indoor and outdoor adventure play areas, sandpits and trampolines. Following our picnic lunch, we met the two Suffolk Punch horses before going on the Tractor Trailer ride around the estate, during which we fed carrots to some pigs. The Rainbows had a chance to visit the little shop before having an ice-cream.

Both days were very enjoyable with all returning home tired, but happy. □



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A Good Read with Maggie Gray

As I write this in June, the sun is shining, the birds are singing and we are being led to believe that Summer is finally on its way. Probably not much time for reading for some of you, whilst others may find this the ideal time, sitting in the garden, having some time for yourself and enjoying the sun whilst it shines. For you, a couple of novels. There may be those of you who do not feel like spending much time in the kitchen, though for many this is the time of year when friends and family come to stay or visit for the day, and for those who just love to cook, there are a couple of cookery books too. And just for a bit of escapism, and for those who love the fact that we live on an island and who are fascinated by islands in general, a book all about some of those around Britain.



‘Gone Girl’ by Gillian Flynn has had much publicity as it was chosen by Richard and Judy as one of their ‘summer reads’. It has been well-received but personally speaking I was glad when it ended. It’s a great idea for a story, but the characters weren’t ones I felt any empathy with, to me they weren’t attractive or memorable. Basically, it’s the story of Amy, a young girl who changes her character to be the type of girl that Nick, the man she wants to attract, would be attracted to, if you follow me? Once married to him, she reverts back to her original character and surprise, surprise (or not) her husband doesn’t like the real her and she knows she is losing him. Her solution? To disappear, leaving clues that make it look like he killed her, all cleverly contrived and worked out months ahead of the event. But when her plans begin to backfire and she needs help, she turns to an old admirer, who’d do anything for her. She sees television coverage of Nick begging her to come home and she falls for the lies, believes that if she goes back now, everything will be all right. Her old admirer has to be dealt with first though, so time for Amy to once again contrive and plan, this time with deadly consequences. To be honest, she and Nick deserve one another.

‘The Fault In Our Stars’ by John Green was one of the best reads this year so far. Amongst my many book-reading friends, all of whom have now read this, all of them agreed that it wasn’t a book they would normally have read, but were so glad they had. It may not seem your type of book, but you might be surprised too. Hazel is an American teenage girl with a terminal illness. She has accepted her fate, and expects to carry on as normal; dragging her oxygen tank everywhere with her means that she sees herself as someone boys just wouldn’t be interested in. No matter how pretty she may be, having tubes up your nose doesn’t do much for your image. But at Cancer Kid Support group in walks Augustus Waters, in remission and ‘hot’. And guess what? The nasal tubes, the tank...none of this fazes him. And so the final chapter of both their lives as it happens, it going to read quite differently to how they both expected. At times this book is, perhaps not surprisingly, very sad, but it is brilliantly written and for me, a real page turner.

‘The Bowler’s Meatball Book’ by Jez Felwick. Balls....lots of them....meat, fish, veggie – all tastes covered! Dips and sauces and sides to go with them too. ‘Great Balls of Fire’, ‘The Popeye’, ‘Lamb, rosemary and garlic’.... tempted yet? For lovers of these little morsels of loveliness (phraseology thanks to Hairy Biker Si King), this book is a must.

‘From Season to Season – A Year in Recipes’ by Sophie Dahl. As you might expect this book is full of great photography and little stories and wonderful recipes for breakfasts, lunches and suppers for each season of the year. For summer, amongst the breakfast dishes is a fresh fruit salad with orange flower syrup and mint or savoury pancakes; lunch might be ceviche with shrimp and avocado; supper could be ricotta tarts with creamy pecorino sauce, or chicken summer stew. Some of the recipes use ingredients you might not use as a rule, such as octopus, what might be considered ‘exotic’ and ‘expensive’, but for a change, for a treat when someone special comes to supper.....why not?

‘Tiny Islands – 60 Remarkable Little Worlds Around Britain’ by Dixe Wells is a great book full of photos and information about just 60 of the many ‘little worlds’ around our island, some of which are inhabited, some private, some unreachable, others reachable at certain times only. Some great names too.... ‘Worm’s Head’ off the Gower Peninsula, ‘Eel Pie Island’ and ‘Monkey Island’ both on the Thames. The book is written with humour and obvious affection for these islands and makes for a great read, especially with all the information given about access and exact locations, grid references and so on. Worth a read, one of those lovely ‘coffee table books’ for dipping into. □

News from St Cecilia’s Church

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Alan Hopes, currently Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, to become the fourth Bishop of East Anglia. Bishop Hopes was ordained priest in the Church of England in 1968 and served until he was received into the Catholic Church in 1994. He was ordained priest in the Catholic Church in December 1995.



We held our annual Strawberry fair, which, despite the weather being cloudy and blowy, was very well supported. Thanks go to all who helped to make it a success. Proceeds which were in excess of £669 will go towards the Church funds. Two of our parishioners, Hilary and Michael Rhodes from Heacham, received a Certificate from Father Michael to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The winners of the St George themed quiz night recently enjoyed their prize of a delicious two course lunch, thanks to the generosity of the management at the Lifeboat, Thornham.

The Parish is organising a mystery coach trip on 20th August. We have had some very interesting days out in the past. Look out for more details in the bulletins or web site. The Sponsored Walk, which is our last main fundraiser for the year, will be after Mass at Hunstanton on Sunday 15th September.

Our daily Masses are usually held at 9am at St Theresa’s Convent, 27 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and at 10.15am at St Cecilia’s, Dersingham on Wednesday. These are subject to change, so please check Church notice boards, website or phone. Sunday Masses are 9am at Dersingham and 11am at Hunstanton. Everyone, whether Catholic or not, is welcome to all of our services and social occasions. We have refreshments after the 11am Mass every Sunday and after 10.15 Mass every Wednesday. There are also refreshments after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the month at Dersingham. Please come along, you will be most welcome.

Resident Priest: Father Michael Ryan,
81 Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, PE31 6YE

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org □



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A Murder, a Lighthouse and a Merry Fellow A Snapshot of Ingoldisthorpe by Elizabeth Fiddick

“Finely clothed with wood and watered by a small rivulet which flows westward across the salt marshes to the Wash forming a beautiful cascade at the new bridge near Snettisham.” In such a way was our close neighbour Ingoldisthorpe described in 1845. There are differing accounts of how the name was acquired. It could have taken its name from *Ingulph* who was Lord of the Manor in Saxon times. Another suggestion is that the rivulet now known as the Ingol was formerly *Eulves* with *Thorpe* added for the town by the *Eulves*. As it was lying by meadows and marshes the *Ing* was included, much like in our own village name, to make the complete name Ingeulves Thorpe. That people have settled there since the earliest times is easily apparent as many pre-historic objects such as Mesolithic flints and blades, Neolithic axe heads and a Bronze Age Aul have been uncovered. There is ample evidence of extensive late Iron Age and Roman settlements in the Ingol valley. An unusual animal or fish-head strainer spout has been unearthed and is only the third example ever found. They were apparently only made and used here in East Anglia. Roman coins, pottery and brooches have been uncovered and we know that there is the site of a Roman Villa in Snettisham, the occupants of which would now gaze down on the main road and the Factory Shop.

The Domesday Book tells us that Torvert, a freemen held 3 carucates in demean. A carucate was a measure of land, as much as could be ploughed by one plough and eight oxen in a year. He also had 10 villeins, the highest class of dependant peasants, 15 bordars, smallholding cottagers of lesser standing than villains, 2 servi, slaves, and 50 acres of meadow. There were two mills, a salt pit, 5 fisheries, 8 horses, 14 mares, and 340 sheep. Three other freemen worked a carucate and 37 acres of land.

When William the Conqueror took control after the Battle of Hastings many Saxon Lords like Torvert were expelled from their land and it was handed over to William's family, friends and supporters. In Ingoldisthorpe, just as in Dersingham, most of the land was given to William's nephew Peter de Valois and he leased the Manor Estate to a Ralph Fucatus. This Manor passed through many hands but in 1349 the Walkfare family acquired it. This same family, namely Sir Richard Walkfare, held Gelham Manor here in Dersingham. Sir Richard's brother Thomas, a soldier, gained great distinction at the Battle of Poitiers when Edward, the Black Prince, although heavily outnumbered defeated a large French force and captured the King of France. It was an outstanding victory during which Sir Thomas Walkfare captured one Sir Tristram de Mugalies and brought him to England. He obtained a safe conduct from Edward 111 to escort his captive and three esquires of Sir Tristram back to France to secure his ransom.

During the reign of King John (1199 – 1216) a violent episode occurred involving a local man when one John Chamberlain sued Henry de Patesle and Thomas de Ingoldesthorpe for the murder of his brother Drugo. Both men were convicted and Henry was banished to Jerusalem for 7 years to pray for the soul of Drugo. If he were to return before the seven years had elapsed he would be treated as a common criminal. Thomas de Ingoldesthorpe was ordered to find a priest to pray for the murdered man and pay Drugo's parents 40 marks, a very substantial amount. It was a John Chamberlain who was recorded in our village as one of the heroes of the hour during the great flood of 1671. He it was who requested that the 29th psalm be sung in the church each September to remember that traumatic event. A practice still continued today. Perhaps he was a descendant of the murdered man's family.

There were several other families who owned land in both Ingoldisthorpe and Dersingham. In the 17th century John Cremer owned property in both villages and Francis Cremer married Margaret the daughter of John Pell of Dersingham Hall. Later Robert Cremer sold his estate in Ingoldisthorpe to Theodore Hoste, brother of Colonel Hoste of Sandringham. So there have always been strong family ties between our two villages.

On Bryant's 1826 map of Norfolk just outside our village where Brickley lane turns off to the right to wind its way up to Ingoldisthorpe the word *Lights* is written. This puzzled me for some time but apparently it is probably the site of a medieval lighthouse situated on top of the high ground. In those days with the waters of the Wash lapping so much closer it would have been a very clear guide to sailors and fishermen.

At the crossroads in Ingoldisthorpe if you turn left down the road now called The Drift towards the end it becomes a private drive. A little further on screened by an attractive belt of mature trees and behind a fine carrstone wall is The Old Hall. This was an Elizabethan Manor House which may at one time have been surrounded by a moat and was the home of the Lords of the Manor. It was much altered during the 18th – 20th centuries and in 1932 an unusual perhaps 17th century force pump system for a water fountain was recorded as well as a possible ice-house. The site and house is still recorded on maps.

If you turn right at the crossroads, walk to the top of the hill and as you join St. Thomas's Lane directly opposite is Manor Close, the one time site of Ingoldisthorpe Manor. This was described as Victorian Jacobethan, a substantial house of red brick and white stone dating from the early 18th century. In 1836 it was owned by a John Bellamy of Wisbech but unoccupied. At one time the Rev. Edward Bellamy, vicar of Dersingham, lived there as there was no vicarage here at the time. In 1883 the Rev. James Bellamy of Ingoldisthorpe enlarged it. In the early 20th Century the Tyldens owned the Manor and its estate. Mrs. Tylden was well known in our village as she made



the building of our Church Institute possible with a large donation and she erected a church room, library and reading room in Ingoldisthorpe. She died aged 104 years at the Manor. Unfortunately the Manor house was damaged by fire in 1974 and completely gutted again in 1982 when being used as a hotel. Modern housing now occupies the site. The other very substantial house near the church is the Old Rectory built 1856 -58 for the cost of £2000, When I first moved here it was a private school for boys but is now divided into separate houses.

Ingoldisthorpe Hall is the large house that stands in parkland not far from the church overlooking the main Hunstanton Road. It has fine views over to the Wash and the original house, built around 1745, was enlarged and extended later. The stable block of 1745 was remodelled into a mock medieval folly. This was the home of Captain John Davy R.N. and his family until he died in 1776. After his death the house became the home of the most interesting character, Richard Gardiner, a.k.a ***Dick Merry Fellow*** who became a prominent 18th century pamphleteer involved in electioneering as well as writing many songs, satires, lampoons, handbills and humorous sketches. Richard was born in Swaffham in 1723. There was a military tradition in his family and his Grandfather, a Captain in Lord Cutts Regiment of foot, died at Minorca in 1708 when that island was taken by British Troops. Richard's father, born in 1702, went into the church and was rector of Great Massingham for 40 years being buried in that church next to his wife. Richard was educated at Eton College and Cambridge which he left about 1743. After travelling in Europe he continued the family tradition and entered the army. His brother John died when in command of the *Bedford*, a Man of War of 70 guns, and was buried at sea near Lisbon in 1747. His other brother William was a Lieutenant in the army and he too died at sea on his passage home and was buried off St. Kitts in 1761. The two sons of his sister also entered military service but Richard's military career did not start very auspiciously. In 1748 he was taken prisoner at sea by a privateer, stripped of all his clothes, carried to Dunkirk and put in Jail. It is not surprising that when he finally returned to England he seriously considered leaving the army and entering the church. But although he did preach some sermons in Norwich he did not proceed with the idea. It's a shame that I have found no picture of him but I found these comments about him from his biographer. *He was tall and thin and while his friends never thought him a fool, he was seldom heard to say anything clever, but when he did it was attended by a laugh from himself first. He had black hair and eyes but his legs while long and slender were often the subject of ridicule being but two poor sticks. He had a fair complexion and wanted not to be told of it being very fond of his own pretty face. He was often laughed at by his friends for running up to a glass as soon as he entered a room. He usually dressed in the same colour and with the help of a good quantity of powder and not wearing a shirt above three days he was generally smarter than the rest.* In 1752 he fell ill with smallpox and

carried the marks of it to his grave, quite mortifying for a man who thought himself very handsome. It was at this time that Britain was involved in a major European Conflict which became known as the Seven Years War. It was rooted in the rivalry between Austria and Prussia and the colonial struggle between Britain and France in the New World and the East. Richard was promoted to command a company of marines on board a man of war of 60 guns "The Rippon". He was involved in many engagements throughout the hostilities and when the Treaty of Paris ended the conflict Richard returned to England on half pay. He wrote a detailed account of the war which was published both here and in France. On his return he married Ann Bromhead and his first son was born in 1762 and another son and a daughter were soon to follow. He lived first in Swaffham where he became a mason. Throughout this period he was writing and publishing amusing plays and many satirical verses and songs. He chose the pen name *Dick Merry Fellow* himself and the title of one of his songs, "*Sir Dilberry Diddle Captain of Militia*," gives a flavour of some of the items that flowed from his pen. It was in 1767 after he had moved to King's Lynn that Parliament was dissolved and a general election was called. Richard immediately immersed himself in the business, throwing the might of his pen behind Thomas Walpole. He produced a stream of pamphlets, and songs praising Walpole in some and lampooning the opposition in others. One of his efforts was a song set to the music of Hearts of Oak and it finished "*Steady boys steady, And a Walpole a Walpole shall ever be in.*"

In another election that followed shortly he supported Mr. Wenman Coke of Holkham and Sir Edward Astley in the same way. This was the start of a friendship with the Cokes of Holkham Hall. It was shortly after 1776 that he purchased Ingoldisthorpe Hall renaming it Mount Amelia in honour of a Princess of that name. So with his wife, two sons and a daughter he became well known in the village and surrounding area. A great variety of his writings were printed in Lynn and sold throughout the area. It was announced in the local press in 1781 that Mr. Herbert, a popular local artiste, would perform the song, *The Strong Beer of Old England or The Jolly Tars of Lynn*, written by Mr. Gardiner, at the Theatre in Lynn on April 16th. The Theatre was in St. George's Hall in King Street which is now the Arts Centre. An old handbill of 1774 for a performance there of Othello still exists. At the bottom the following unusual warning is printed. "*Particular care will be taken to prevent any person from getting on top of the house.*"

As he needed to provide for his family Richard offered his services as Auditor General to Coke of Holkham Hall who agreed to employ him. However, apparently he became more of a Dictator General as the reforms he introduced threatened the tenants with raised rents and he gave Coke's friends and relatives strict rules concerning their visits. He also insisted that Coke himself, in the interest of economy, should only have a joint and one dumpling each day. And moreover he could have just one bottle of port to treat the vicar on Sundays. If Richard had been slightly more diplomatic he might have survived but Coke found him too incorrigible and dismissed him with just £200 in 1777. This caused a huge rift in their friendship and

there was a flurry of bitter correspondence between them. Richard published a letter 93 pages long in which he outlined his grievances. It was sold to the general public for 1s. 6d a copy. Coke was undoubtedly furious so refused to receive Richard any more at the Hall. Their relationship never recovered. In 1779 Richard suffered a violent attack of gout and was confined to his bed for 12 months. Afterwards he could only move with the help of crutches and so lived at Mount Amelia retired and almost forgotten. He must have been cheered when his eldest son, an ensign in the West Norfolk Regiment, was presented with a handsome silver sword in recognition of his spirited behaviour during an engagement with a smuggling schooner off Southwold. Just after this there was another election and Richard once more entered the fray with a series of pamphlets in support of the opponent of Thomas Coke. He tried hard to denigrate Coke but in spite of his efforts Coke was duly re-elected.

It was on September 4th 1781 that Richard Gardiner, Dick Merry Fellow, died at Mount Amelia and was buried in the church where there is a plaque to his memory. He had even prepared his own epitaph which ended with the lines, *The Man beset with every earthly woe / Whose bosom friend turns out his deadly foe.*

The break with Coke obviously ran deep still. □





Dersingham Walking Group

Welcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides a regular programme of guided walks round the local countryside. Below you can see the walks that are planned for the next couple of months, so why not get some fresh air and exercise, you'll be in good company!

During the months that are at least supposed to be a bit warmer, the Group includes evening as well as afternoon walks in the programme. The first of these was on Wednesday 8th May, when Christine Taylor led over 20 around a delightful circuit of the Houghton estate. The area was buzzing with preparations for the major art exhibition that Houghton is currently staging, but we were successfully identified as not being affiliated to Al-Qaeda, so the numerous officials left us alone to enjoy a pleasant evening stroll, combining woodland and fields.

The 2½ mile walk from and to at the Library as part of the *Walk for Life* programme took place on the 23rd May. Although wet weather was threatened, it held off for the ten or so who braved the very pleasant local walk across and around some of the delights of our village, finishing with convivial discussion over tea and biscuits at the Library. On Wednesday 12th June, Elizabeth Fiddick led us on a circular tour starting from Brancaster Church inland and west along the heights of the North Norfolk "Coast" Path as far as Chalk Pit Lane, then back down towards the sea, calling in at the old chalk pit, now maintained as a very attractive little nature reserve. Then it was on down over the main road and Gypsy Lane in Titchwell village and back along the sea bank. A thoroughly enjoyable evening walk of just over 4 miles. Starting from our village sign on the afternoon of Wednesday 26th June, Pat Reed led us around the delights of Dersingham Fen before heading up into the labyrinth of picturesque paths around the Sandringham Park that had many exclaiming "Ooo, I've never been along this one before!"

Details of our next walks are:

Wednesday 14th August, 6.00pm—Starting point: Brancaster church. Grid ref: 772 439
One of the best circuits around the Brancaster area, starting at the church and climbing over nearby Barrow Common where there are excellent views across the village to the coast.
Leader Keith Starks 01485 542268

Wednesday 21st August, 2.00pm
Starting point: Car Park approx. ¾ mile from Knights Hill on the right of the Lynn to Grimston road. Grid ref: 680 230

At this time of year there should be plenty of heather in bloom as we follow the footpaths around Roydon Common.

Leader Pat Reed 01485 540757



Wednesday 11th September 2.00pm—Starting point: Thornham church. Grid ref: 734 435
The picturesque villages of Thornham and Holme will be visited on this circular walk around coast and fields. **Leaders** Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138

The full Walking Group programme can be viewed at: www.dersingham.org.uk/announcements

*There is **NO CHARGE** for these walks: just turn up on the day wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. **WELL BEHAVED** dogs are welcome. The walks are usually between **4 and 5 miles long**, taking around a couple of hours. Quoted grid references are for the relevant Ordnance Survey map, usually Landranger sheet 132 or Explorer sheet 250. 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 about an individual walk, such as the going underfoot, stiles etc. please contact the walk leader or for general enquiries please contact the group coordinator: **Stephen Martyn** Tel: 01485 541333 Email: stephenmartyn@gmail.com □*

West Norfolk Disability Forum presents

WINTER WARMER

Helping you to stay warm, healthy and as comfortable as possible this winter

Downham Market Town Hall

Friday 20th September 2013

10.30am to 4.00pm

The event, will help you get ready for the cold weather, show you how to protect yourself against common winter illnesses, how to keep warm both indoors and out and to help make your home more energy efficient.

Come along and find out information from various organisations, all under one roof. Featuring displays, demonstrations, information and advice on a wealth of ideas from organisations, groups and individuals in the local community to help you stay warm and healthy this winter.

For further information please contact:

The Secretary

West Norfolk Disability Forum

King's Court, Chapel Street

King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX

Or email:

disabilityforum@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



West Norfolk Village Games 2013



This year we rose to the challenge to take a team from Dersingham to the 21st West Norfolk Inter Village Games which took place at Lynnsport on Sunday 30th June.

'Team Dersingham' consisted of more than sixty five men, women and children, participating in the sports of badminton, squash, athletics, mini soccer, darts, gymnasticators, archery, fitness triathlon, rounders and netball. Our team did us proud by coming overall fifth out of the seven 'medium village' teams in our competition. This is a very encouraging result for our first year of entering and something to build upon in the future.

A special mention must go to the mini soccer players who brought home our first medals of the games. Our athletics team came a close second and our squash and junior netball teams were third in their events.

The enthusiasm and good sportsmanship of our entire village team is to be congratulated. Our gratitude must also go to those individuals who stepped in at the last minute to make team numbers up due to last minute pull-outs.

Many thanks must go to our dedicated team managers, and also to all the competitors who 'gave it their all' and to the supporters who came to cheer us on.

It was a great day, enjoyed by all ending with an 'after event' barbeque at The Coach and Horses.

Next year we hope to do it all over again, but bigger and better. If you would be interested in participating in 2014 then please contact us via email louiseric005@aol.com or visit our Facebook page Dersingham – Village Games. We would especially like to hear from footballers, carpet bowls players and table tennis players.

Lastly a huge thank you to our sponsors who contributed towards our 'Team Dersingham' T shirts – J D Cooling, Fraser and Maria Lindsay (Dersingham Post Office), Sheila Roythorne (The Coach and Horses) and Dersingham Parish Council.

Louise and Michael Rice

Growly Girl's Patch by Baby

My mum is going on holiday and was unable to take me with her. So I was put in a basket, which I did not like at all, and then she carried me to a massive box on round legs. Strange creature that was and extremely noisy.

After a short cat nap she took me out and handed me to a two-legged female who I have never seen before. That one took me out of the basket and she put me onto the floor.

What is this then? This is not my floor. And who on earth is that opposite my mum? Looks very much like me, but a short fur cut, not like me, all fluffy and long fur. May I introduce myself: I am Baby and I am a Persian. And I am proud of it. And whoever comes in my way, I will growl at. There is another short furred creature strolling along. Where am I and why are there so many like me? I better go back to my mum. Where is she? I am panicking now, because I can't find her. She left me here all by myself. I am not having that. I better be growling. First at the other two cats then at the two-legged female. The result? Three more short furred cats appeared from somewhere. How many are there? Is there a nest? Is it mating time and I missed it? Surely not. I better be growling at those too. Just to be on the safe side! Now, let's see, where is the food? *Sniff, sniff* – ah, salmon. OK, why not. Oh for Felix sake, there is another cat, and this one is eating my salmon. She looks a bit weird though. Only three legs but a short fur cut like the others. Is this the new Look? Did I miss that as well? How long did I nap? Should I get this style? Never mind, first things first. My salmon ... A short loud growl took care of the three-legged cat and the salmon is all mine. Mmmm.

I better start investigating this place to find a nice cosy patch for the night. Found it. Purfect. Looks like a miniature human armchair. I just got comfy when I got jumped at. A massive tom cat is standing over me with one paw lifted, ready to whack me. I was not prepared to fight, so he got me. But I can do that too. I growled and whacked back. He was not expecting this, I could tell by his surprised squeak. We looked at each other for I don't know how long when we suddenly got rudely interrupted by a cream coloured tom cat. I know that I am pretty, but two toms courting me at the same time? The creamy one introduced himself as Vladimir and the one I had the stare contest with as Sidney. I don't care what their names are or what their intentions are, this is my armchair and my long and loud growl should tell them just that. They both walked away, heads and tails high up. OK then, I curl up and go to sleep. I can do this just like that.

I woke up because something is lifting me. It is a two-legged male. Now that tops it. How dare he interrupt my beauty sleep. Does he not know that I have to sleep a lot in order to look as pretty as I do? You guessed it, I growl at him, but he is unimpressed. I am being put down in a different room. Soft floor here. Maybe the interruption of my beauty sleep was not so bad after all. This is nice! Needs a bit of pummelling, but nice. Very nice. There is a loud noise coming from the other room and before I can get my head round to it, three cats come out of it chasing each other. What has the first cat got that the others want? Nothing apparently. It is called playing I am told by an elderly tortoiseshell cat, who is stretching next to my pummelled patch. I did not see her, she looks just like the soft floor. Not a floor she tells me, a blanket. And this playing is being done a lot in this house, she continues her explanation. She is too old for this activity and with her arthritis and all... she continues talking to me and I am amazed at what she is telling me. Her name is Meetze and there are eight including me here now. But the other seven are permanent residents here and they have two two-legged servants. I do not have that, I have only my mum, who is called Jess by the other humans. And this playing thing went on and off for all the days and nights I was staying. I don't do the playing, I may break a nail or a whisker. And that would not look good on me. After about 40 naps my mum came back to pick me up. I don't want to go in that basket again! No way. But I had no say in that, I was picked up and put in there. How un-Lady-like. And what an interesting visit this was. I must come back some time. Maybe to Sidney's birthday. He tells everybody that he going to be 4. I will speak to my mum about it. □



Thanks to funding from Enterprise Norfolk and King's Lynn West Norfolk Borough Council, a programme of **free** business start-up workshops, is available to people who are thinking about becoming self employed or who may have already started trading. This service includes practical, informative workshops, covering all the points that you need to consider in becoming self employed or setting up your own business. It also gives you the opportunity to discuss your questions and ideas with an experienced business adviser.

Workshops are taking place in the autumn. On 9th September in King's Lynn, you will be able to join a full-day 'Planning your Business' workshop. This will take you through the key steps in producing a business plan and how to use it as a business management tool. Topics covered will include sales, marketing and business finance including cash flow, profit & loss forecasting, and raising finance. By the end of the course you will have the necessary skills and knowledge to develop a robust business plan suitable for raising finance and managing your business.

Hunstanton's 'Is it for me?' workshop on 16 September will give you an introduction into business and enable you to see whether starting a business is a viable option for you. By the end of the workshop you will have the confidence to explore your business venture in greater detail.

Along with these, further workshops will be taking place in October and November. The 'Building your Business Idea' workshop will be held in King's Lynn as well as two more 'Planning your Business' workshops throughout October and November. Confidential 1:1 sessions with an experienced business advisor are available to help you assess whether your business idea is viable and identify the next steps for you to take whilst providing ongoing support.

If you have recently become self employed you too are eligible for this free service. Residents can receive on-going business mentoring to give your business every chance of success.

For full details please visit www.tchc.net/services/business-support or to book a place call **01923 698 474** or email courses@tchc.net. □

Paul Riddick

Enterprise Team Support Officer, The Consultancy Home Counties Ltd (TCHC)

News from West Norfolk



West Norfolk Mind is a specialist mental health charity providing local services to support people, their families, their carers and their employers.

Glorious weather contributed to the fabulous turn out at West Norfolk Minds Annual Allotment Open Day on 9th July giving anyone in the community the opportunity to visit the award winning Gardening for Health Project in North Lynn whether they have an interest in attending as a service user, sponsor or volunteer of this fantastic project. Zena Penty, Volunteer Co-ordinator said 'It was such a relaxed day and many people stayed for the whole duration as the weather was so lovely. I cannot stress what a fantastic project this is, however it currently receives no funding and vital resources are being used from the charity's reserves as an interim measure. I would love to hear from any companies or philanthropic groups who may wish to work with us and provide sponsorship.'

Since its inception in 2007, over 300 people have achieved great benefit as a result of the Gardening for Health project. It has been especially good at developing a sense of purpose and meaning in people's lives, increasing levels of physical activity, and creating opportunities for people to meet in a safe and enjoyable environment. The project has also enabled many people to acquire a range of new skills, openings for creative expression and personal growth.

West Norfolk Mind's next event designed to showcase the services on offer is a '**Taster Day**' on **Wednesday 7th August** based around the Day Centre, Carpentry Workshop and Furniture Warehouse at Saunders Yard, Austin Street, King's Lynn PE30 1PH. There will be many interactive activities and entertainment on offer, tours of the projects and an opportunity to discuss how you might benefit from attending whether it be through a personal budget or self funded. For more details of the Taster Day or an appointment to arrange a visit at another time see www.westnorfolkmind.org.uk or contact our Head Office on 01553 776966. □



Village Voice Live

Is the Bus a Thing of the Past—Tuesday 7th May



Hot on the heels of one of the sunniest Bank Holiday weekends we'd known for a while, Ben Coulson, the managing director of Norfolk Green eloquently discussed and reasoned the logic behind the development of public transport through the ages to the present time. With the good bank holiday weather came severe road congestion around our parts, necessitating Ben being on full-time troubleshooting duty over the weekend when he might otherwise been sorting out images and illustrations to present to us. However, his otherwise bland PowerPoint presentation was more than adequately compensated for by his competent descriptive knowledge of his subject, and we learned a great deal of the history of public transport development and the various government interventions, constraints and manipulations that have brought it to where it is today. As a businessman, the advent of Senior Citizen Free Bus passes have been something of a thorn in the flesh, but he appears by all accounts to balance the needs of running a public service with maintaining a successful business that includes an impressive fleet of modern, state-of-the-art buses. I felt a sense of gratitude towards him for his public mindedness.

Brucie

King's Lynn Civic Society—Tuesday 4th June

Alison Gifford spoke to a well filled church hall on the work of the King's Lynn Civic Society, under the title - Only the Best Will Do! She left no



one in any doubt of her enthusiasm for the work that the Civic Society undertakes in its attempt to maintain, or create, a better environment in the town for the benefit of residents and visitors. It was explained that she no longer brought visual presentations to such talks as unfortunately most of what she had to say was of what might have been (e.g. Southgate), derelict and neglected buildings (e.g. Purfleet House) and the vast quantity (over two thousand) of unoccupied houses in the town.

A brief history of the Civic Society was given, from its founding in 1947 with an initial emphasis on art festivals, theatre, leisure and the preservation of ancient buildings, through to its present main role of attempting to influence local and county authorities, property owners and developers in respect of planning decisions and strategy. It was pointed out that King's Lynn had no town council to represent local views on planning matters to the Borough Council and that the Civic Society therefore tried to fill this position. While this role does sometimes bring the Society into conflict with the authorities it always tried to be constructive and to arrive at solutions by consensus. Another significant date for the Civic Society was 1984, when it helped instigate the local training of Town Guides, in a manner which continues to the present day.

An interesting and enlightening talk to all who heard it, although many might have appreciated the use of audio/visual enhancement to the overall presentation.

Whiffler



West Norfolk in Old Postcards— Tuesday 2nd July

Well the title probably says it all. Local builder Simon Masson has been collecting postcards for over 35 years and he showed a good chunk of his collection to an attentive audience. Staying mainly away from Dersingham with his selection, Simon took us on a trip around the area with views that were largely around 100 years old. We were amazed that there were so many cards produced of what was really a rural backwater,

but then Auntie Flossie was probably pleased to find any local view to send to the folks back home. As Simon said, it is often the writing on the back that is the best bit.

This was a splendid evening and was very well received, with a good donation to Simons chosen charity for helping homeless children in Rumania being raised in the process.

Dumpling

See back cover for what's coming next in August & September at Village Voice Live. Ed.

Heacham & District Community Car Scheme

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL USERS

We are a local charity based in Hunstanton providing transport (for a small charge) for local residents who have no other means of transport and have difficulty in reaching their medical appointments.

Our scheme relies on donations but unfortunately due to the present climate and the lack of funding, it has become necessary for us to increase our charges: All charges will be increased by 50p effective on all journeys on and after July 1st.

Bill Cummings—Chairman



An Ode to the Oldies



A row of bottles on my shelf
Caused me to analyse myself.
One yellow pill I have to pop
Goes to my heart so it won't stop.

A little white one that I take
Goes to my hands so they won't shake.
The blue ones that I use a lot
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.

The purple pill goes to my brain
And tells me that I have no pain.
The capsules tell me not to wheeze
Or cough or choke or even sneeze.

The red ones, smallest of them all
Go to my blood so I won't fall.
The orange ones, very big and bright
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.

Such an array of brilliant pills
Helping to cure all kinds of ills.
But what I'd really like to know...
Is what tells each one where to go?

*Thank you to Barry Beales for sending this in.
Despite finding it on several websites though,
the poet appears to be unknown! Ed.*



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represented. They include the British Legion, Royal Norfolk and Royal Anglian Association, Norfolk army and Air Force cadets, Britain Australia Society, London Legacy, and The Gallipoli Association. There will also be representatives from Australia, New Zealand and Turkey.

Once again after the service you are invited to the Church Hall opposite for tea and ANZAC biscuits (*as sent to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps serving in Gallipoli*).

If you would like to know more about the service, please don't hesitate to contact the me. □

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Dersingham Library

August /September events

Crime Book Club (second Monday of the month)

Monday 12th August and September 9th 6-7pm
New members are always welcome.

Knit and Knatter Group

Every Thursday 10-30 – 12 noon

Book Club (third Monday of the month)

Monday August 19th and September 16th from 6-7pm
New members always welcome

Scrabble Club

Every Monday from 1.30-3.30pm

Summer Speedstacking

Every August Wednesday from 10.30-12

If you've never tried speedstacking before, then browse www.speedstacks.com

This free summer reading challenge for children involves reading books over the holidays and collecting smelly stickers and Mungler trading cards as you read. Children can read any 6 books they like and at the end of the summer they'll receive a certificate and medal for completing the challenge.

Creepy House monster making

15th August 10-12

Build your own junk monster - Join the Creepy House Summer reading challenge and create your own junk monster from a plastic bottle! There's no need to book, but under 7s must be accompanied by an adult.

Mungler card swap

Monday 19th August 2.30-3.30pm

Bring along your duplicate Mungler cards and swap with other collectors!

Creepy House Certificate Presentation

If you joined the Creepy House summer reading challenge and read six books over the school holidays, then sign up for the medal and certificate presentation at the library on Thursday September 12th September from 5.30pm

Coming in the autumn...

We'll be running another **Surf's Up computer course** for complete beginners. These courses run for six two-hour taught sessions and are funded by a National Lottery grant. Spaces are limited to six, so if you are interested and want to know more, please give us a call on 01485 540181. The course covers everything from using a mouse and keyboard to sending emails and word processing.

We plan to run our Drop in and draw sessions again in the autumn. Look out for the next dates on our noticeboard!

Did you know...

That you can borrow e-books and e-audio free of charge via the library website? Most gadgets are compatible (except for the older Kindles). Find out more at

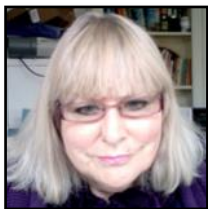
www.norfolk.gov.uk/Leisure_and_culture/Libraries/E-books_and_e-audio/index.htm

That you can request music CDs free of charge and have them sent to Dersingham for you to borrow. Music CDS cost 70p for a week to borrow and £1 for a double CD.

Happy reading!



Alison Thorne



The Old Biddie and her Cottage Garden by Valerie Anckorn

It's raining, chilly, there's a grey sky and it's July: I am fed up, lethargic and back in a vest, socks and fleece jumper, which is enough to drive anyone to drink, so instead of succumbing to the perils of the bottle, I thought I would get on my piece for the magazine.

Observant parishioners will have noticed that one of the lovely old conker trees in Manor Road is on its last legs. Tree surgeons, in an endeavour to encourage its further existence, have cut down the main trunk and branches, hopeful that it will muster strength and throw out some new growth. As my office is opposite the old trees, I have gained great pleasure from looking out at them over the years. Pigeons use them as a dating agency, squirrels leap from branch to branch and the oldest one homed a clattering of jackdaws – their official name, that seems very appropriate. The jackdaws all congregated on the top branches, their black plumage shining like jet in the sunshine. They used it as a lookout and every now and again launched themselves off the top branches to do a circuit of the neighbourhood, taking advantage of the thermals for a bit of gentle gliding. I imagine they are feeling displaced now all the big branches have gone and have been clattering in earnest as they adjust and claim their new personal perches. I watched as one of the men buckled himself firmly in place before chain sawing off the top branches. It all looked highly dangerous to me.



I was heartened one day recently by a phone call from a gentleman who reads and enjoys this column and had noted a couple of issues earlier that I had been muttering on about getting a bike. He told me his wife had bought one but actually felt very nervous on her first try after forty years, discovering she wobbled too much, so the bike has been in the garage ever since. He wondered if I would be interested in it. Actually, as I told him, I have just bought one - but like the lady in question, I haven't been out on it yet, as I found that I was wobbling too. I thought it was one of those things that once you know how to do it, you never forgot. However, I will pluck up my courage soon – I've had a lot on my plate recently and am a bag of nerves in general, so now is not the time. The bike is a garish shade of lavender, so maybe I shall get some purple spandex shorts and lavender shoes and a nice purple visor to keep the sun out of my eyes. You will know it is me, when you see an oversized wobbling vision of violet, causing mild chaos on the roads!

So why am I in a state? One of the reasons is that my computer died before my very eyes. I am too old to understand (or retain any knowledge) how to save my files, so I lost everything – all my photos of the garden, grandchildren, all my writing, stories, articles but it is no good mourning the loss any longer as there is nothing now that I can do about it. My daughter rushed me off to the Mac doctor in Norwich, where to my delight – if that is the word in a distressing situation – while the hard-drive was defunct, they could regenerate the computer for a reasonable price, so I didn't have to fork out for a new machine. As I had 'saved' money on that, at the suggestion of Remote Man and egged on by my daughter, I bought myself an iPad. I didn't know why I needed one, but when I asked the salesman to give me reasons why I should buy one, he did his best to persuade me. "You can play games on it" he said. Games? I don't want to play games! "You can play Solitaire" he said (no thanks and perish the thought) and so on. No, I wasn't convinced, until he said it had a microphone that also typed out what was recorded. Now, that was more like it. Currently I not only write for Village Voice, but I go out interviewing interesting people for the Norfolk Link Magazine, for which I am editor. (You can google the online magazine if you wish to). This recording device would help me.

Remote Man, of course, had ulterior motives for suggesting an iPad of course – he wants to use it himself for games, solitaire, snooker and goodness knows what else, but it was the microphone that hooked me. Unfortunately, once bought and paid for, I discovered that as a secretary the machine is not very bright and however good one's diction, it gets the words all wrong when typing – quite comical really, and reminds me of my dreadful secretarial skills when I first started

work. However, having got the thing, I am delighted with it, as I discovered by accident when taking photos with it, that it does videos too, so I have been wandering around the garden, talking into the machine, recording my delightful garden and hoping nobody notices an apparently mad woman talking to herself amongst the floral abundance. Apart from a lovely record, I can take it in to the care home and show Mother the film (she is now 101) so she can see how the garden is growing (she started the garden 40ish years ago).

My forget-me-nots are on their last legs now. I am amazed at how long they have lasted in the borders – from early spring to the beginning of July– and they have been a constant cloud of colour while the other plants have taken their time to grow to fruition. They all seem slow this year, or am I just impatient?

I'm not a fan of yellow flowers, yet *loosestrife*, an invasive plant, has popped its head up in drifts in all of my various beds, and I let it be for the moment. I don't find it an attractive plant, but the mass of green and yellow is a wonderful foil for the purple predominance of perennial geraniums, cornflowers, catmint, lupins, peonies, et al and it fills up gaps nicely, as I don't like to see earth showing in my flower beds. I like the way it's poked through the willow fedge brightening up the pavement area, together with the geraniums, almost like saying to passers by, 'Hallo, how are you? Have a nice day!'

Other reasons for being fed up? I bought Remote Man a costly high ladder so he could trim the overgrown trees. He lopped two down to size, actually enjoyed the process and surprisingly looked forward to doing more. He came in for a cup of tea, turned to watch Mildred - a little wood mouse - outside helping herself to bird feed, and like lightening striking, his back went. Totally. He has been flat on his back in bed for over two weeks now and can barely walk. Added to which the oven keeps shorting the electricity, so now I can't use it: I have a lot of dentistry work to endure which will be very expensive as I decided to go private, after NHS apathy. And, I have more skin cancer on my nose, so will have to go through that painful operation again. The last skin graft hasn't healed at all nicely, so probably it will be better for all who have to look at me for me to invest in a comic nose with Mexican moustache under to make people smile instead of recoiling in horror. Still, mustn't moan – it could be worse!



I mustn't end on doom and gloom, there is always a positive if you look for it, and I find mine at the moment by sitting at the dining table, watching my little nature reserve out on the kitchen patio. I've got a large candle 'tree' where I have placed fat balls on the candle spikes, hung a lovely little bird feeder that initially fooled the blankety blank pigeons who now wander *indoors* - my lawn is littered with their droppings and so too are my house tiles. Apart from them, I have a constant delightful visitation of junior blackbirds, sparrows, blue tits, parent blackbirds and fledglings, as well as Mildred Mouse of course. □




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Returning to our Ancestral Roots! by Mary Davies



Having been born in March in Cambridgeshire, I believed that I was a true fenlander with all my ancestors there dating back a number of generations.

However, I had always loved Norfolk and eventually lived in Ringstead for a few years before moving up to the Yorkshire Dales in 1996. It was whilst living in Yorkshire that I began to research my family history (very addictive!) and discovered to my great surprise and delight that my ancestral roots are as much in Norfolk as in Cambridgeshire!

Now, after 17 years away, I have moved back with my daughter. This time to Dersingham where my Norfolk born great-great grandparents, John and Martha Adcock, lived in the late 1860's.

I would love to be able to identify exactly where they lived in the village, and would be very grateful if anyone could throw any further light on the exact locations, especially as their time here also involves the history of the village postal services. With appreciation and thanks to those who have already helped, this is what I have already also learned from the Census records and Directories of Norfolk.

The 1861 census shows John Lewis Adcock (tailor and draper) living with his family at Shernborne Road, Dersingham. Some of the names are difficult to read on the original census records, but this appears to be next to the home of Edward Brett (Solicitor) and family and just along the road from a "Rose Cottage" and a Grocer. On the other side of John, close neighbours were the Wells, Chambers and Chapman families and then Sand Hill Cottages, Hill House and Lyng Farm House leading on to Bircham Road.

The 1863 Harrods Directory of Norfolk lists John Adcock as tailor and sub-postmaster (no address).

Kelly's Directory of Norfolk 1869 lists John as postmaster & tailor & agent for the "Lynn Advertiser and People's Weekly Journal", postmaster at the "Post and Money Order Office and Post Office Savings Bank" and as Insurance Agent for the "Liverpool & London & Globe" (no address).

An article on the Dersingham Parish Council website giving a "Potted History of the Post Office" indicates that in 1864 the Post Office was at John's tailor's shop but in 1870 Mr Beckett was appointed sub-postmaster (no address).

The 1871 census shows John's family living in Main Road, Dersingham, with John's occupation as tailor. His wife and two daughters are also dressmakers and his son a tailor, too.

Although it appears from this 1871 record that John and family had moved, it may be that they were in the same house and the road name had changed as the enumerator has listed on this and adjacent pages a mix of very close neighbours living in Main Road, Shernborne Road, Dodds Hill, Sandringham Road and Snettisham Road! The nearby Coach and Horses is listed nearby in Sandringham Road. Was this then the Main Road that ran through the village?

I know that John and family had moved to London by 1881 but it is fascinating to know that my daughter and I are walking in their footsteps back here in Dersingham! □

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

DERSINGHAM EVENING WI by Maggie Guest

The WI would like to thank all the Village Voice readers who kindly donated left over wool. The MAD (Make a Difference) group are still busy knitting blankets for the more needy to have next winter. This group meets once a month at different members homes and should have a good supply of blankets before the cold weather comes.

We now have 76 paid up members and continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at St Cecilia's.

The outing when we went to Tutbury Castle, near Burton on Trent, for an audience with Mary, Queen of Scots is still well remembered. Mary had been a prisoner at the castle at various times.

The curator, Lesley Smith, dressed magnificently as the queen and kept her audience enthralled. She spoke of her life and loves, with both passion and humour and moved us all with her account of events leading to her execution. The 'Queen' then answered questions from the enthusiastic audience. We certainly learned a great deal about this tragic lady. Everyone agreed that the long journey was worth it as we had all shared an amazing experience.

A group spent a day at Taverham Garden Centre where members visited the many shopping outlets and enjoyed lunch there. The next lunch with an activity saw members putting and playing Crazy Golf at Hunstanton before lunch. Smaller groups have been trying the cooking at the College in King's Lynn, The Yurt and The Lifeboat, both at Thornham but on Wednesday 3rd July a large group of members went to Briarfields for a most enjoyable Summer Lunch.

The walking group went to Wolferton for one walk then Burnham Thorpe for the following one. We were blessed with pleasant weather.

Maggie and Diann have had coffee mornings which have raised money as well as giving members a chance to chat in informal surroundings.

We have had some very interesting speakers recently. Christine Adams told us the amazing story of her husband's Aunt May who took her house to pieces and moved it to Wells-next-Sea as a retirement project! May never managed to get it put together again in her lifetime but her family have finished it. The story has been covered on TV and Christine has written a book about May's toiling.

Vivienne Weeks gave an illustrated talk on Brides and their Trousseau. The talk was most enthralling but we were all impressed with the incredible dresses and old garments she had brought to illustrate the talk. Beautiful old wedding dresses and under-garments were there AND we were allowed to feel and examine them which we were thrilled about. In fact Margaret, one of our members, even got to put one on and model it for us!

Future event for all the village ---18th October in the Church Hall a fashion show by ATRICHOKE. See notices in village shops. Do come. All welcome.

(For further details please contact Diann 01485 540637 or Maggie 01485 542424) □

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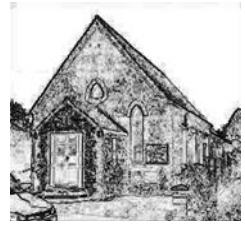
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Greetings from the Manse by Rev. Kim Nally



The book of Esther in the Old Testament presents scholars with many problems. Like other stories with a purpose, the historicity of Esther is slight, but, unlike the others, its religious value is also slight. Its greatest value is probably literary, but that is hardly enough to justify its presence as an official or canonical book of Scripture. Indeed many eminent scholars have not been very happy about the inclusion of this book in the Bible, even the name of God is not directly mentioned, though some Hebrew and later editors have tried to insert it. It is a romantic thriller. Esther was young and beautiful the queen of an empire. Only one man knew her secret, a secret that could mean death! That's the stuff of periodicals and magazines!

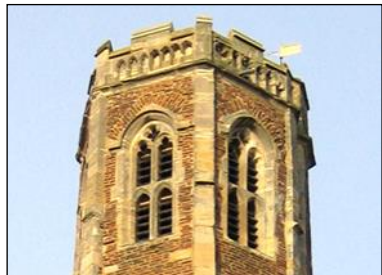
Here is an outline of the story. Xerxes the king ruled over a huge kingdom. But there was trouble ahead, so he held a conference for 180 days to decide how he was going to deal with the threat posed by the Greeks. At the end of the conference they held a seventeen day feast in the palace garden. When they had had too much to drink, the king sent for his wife, Vashti, to come and dance for them. But Queen Vashti refused to come, and events take their course. This refusal put the king in a really embarrassing situation. If he couldn't control his household, what chance the kingdom? And so he banished her but grew lonely. So somebody suggested that he should hold a beauty contest, and that the winner could become his wife. It was a serious business. Esther had a full 12 months of beauty treatment before entering the contest. She duly won, and so became Xerxes' new queen. Mordecai was her cousin, but she had been left an orphan, so he had adopted her as his daughter. At Mordecai's request, she kept their relationship secret, because of anti-Semitic attitudes, the Jewish communities in the empire were in a precarious position. She became the king's favourite wife. The 'baddie' in the story is Haman. He was descended from Agag. Saul, the first king of Israel, had been told by Samuel the prophet to go and defeat Agag. But Saul wouldn't kill him, and so Samuel took over and hacked Agag to pieces before the altar of the Lord. This set up hatred between the Agagites and the Jews, and so Haman had a hatred of the Jews because of that bit of history, a hatred which makes the story especially highly charged. The flash point came when Haman insisted that everyone must worship the emperor.

Mordecai refused, and so Haman told the king. He explained that they should really annihilate the Jews living in the empire. They were different, with their own laws, their own customs, and their own religion. They were misfits and they really must go. He also offered a large bribe to the treasury if the king would agree to annihilate the Jews. They actually drew lots to decide the day on which all the Jews would be secretly killed. Interestingly, the lots cast the thirteenth day of the month for the annihilation of the Jewish people. This is one of the reasons why the thirteenth day has been regarded with superstition ever since. When the Jews heard what was going to happen they mourned, fasted and put on sackcloth and ashes. Mordecai sent a message to Esther to beg the king for mercy. He suggested that God had brought her to the kingdom for such a time as this. She was the queen, through a rather unlikely chain of events, and so was in a position to help her people. So Esther faced a real battle. Should she reveal that she was Jewish? If she did, her life would be at stake too. But she decided that if she perished, she perished.

So how was she to make the request known? The queen was not allowed into the king's presence unless sent for, but she knew she had to see him. So she boldly walked into his presence and suggested a banquet, with Haman as the guest of honour. The king acceded to the request and the banquet was duly arranged. Meanwhile, Haman had become so angry with Mordecai that he built a gallows 23 metres high to hang him on. But he didn't tell anybody who it was for.

More next time! ☐

Where is it? What is it?



(Answer: The top of Greyfriars Tower in King's Lynn)



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With more tales of life in a Norfolk Village – by Maggie Gray

'TIS THE SEASON FOR OPENINGS

It's that time of year when flower shows proliferate, fetes abound and, all over the country, gardens little and large are being opened by their proud owners, as they are in my village. We had a beautifully drawn map to guide us through the village; some of the gardens were indeed very small and could be glimpsed by

looking over the garden wall, others took longer to walk round.

The first garden I visited belongs to Phoebe, affectionately known as the village eccentric, not generally known for her sociable nature, so the villagers were amazed that she had agreed to open her garden in aid of a local charity. Unlike those gardens listed in the famous Yellow Book, there were no rules and regulations for these open gardens, which is perhaps as well in the case of Phoebe's garden. She hadn't bothered to weed it for a start, to her mind if that was what you wanted, well there were some very well-manicured gardens not far from here to suit your tastes. She describes her garden as 'a work in progress', a real garden where weeds grew, some things got overgrown, others covered with mildew. Except the plastic flowers of course! The lady herself stayed out of sight for the time visitors were allowed, leaving it to the Major to answer questions and so on.

On to Mr Bartholomew's garden next, and there were high hopes of this one because the front garden is just beautiful, with roses and honeysuckle growing up the porch, the scent of old-fashioned pinks and lavender bushes filling the air on warm, sunny days. Nobody had glimpsed the back garden, except for those who had been invited – or snooped through the yew hedge in the churchyard! It was no surprise really to find a wonderfully laid out vegetable garden, with raised beds with salad crops and herbs, lovely old-fashioned wigwams made from prunings from his fruit trees in the small orchard at the bottom of his garden. Pots of flowers on the little terrace where he takes his meals in the summer, sitting beneath a lovely old umbrella, patched in so many places where it had simply worn out. Hanging baskets filled with tumbling baby tomatoes, some with petunias. He is thinking of getting a bee hive next, to put in his orchard.

From here I meandered along the lane to Elsie Drew's garden. Now it came as something of a revelation to many villagers that she even had a garden worth opening, some cattier person I overheard wondered that she had time to tend it, what with being the purveyor of village gossip and all! But Elsie's late father was a great gardener, and their house was built at a time when houses had large back gardens, with space to keep chickens and maybe a pig, to grow all the fruit and vegetables a family could need, so from a young age Elsie was used to being able to go and pick fresh produce. Although her own garden may only be the size of a back yard, she has it full of pots of vegetables, anything she thinks can be grown in a pot, picked and eaten, she'll have a go at. Her front garden is just a small paved area as well, but she has pots of scarlet geraniums to liven it up, and a garden gnome taking pride of place in the centre. And of course, whilst people are looking, they often have time for a little chat, and it's amazing what 'news' you might pick up! Because her garden is so small, Elsie hasn't made a charge for looking round, she felt it was a bit of a cheek, but a small tin marked 'Donations' was sitting by the gate post and nobody left without leaving some money.

As I said, some of the gardens were small enough to see without entering, in those front gardens that exist as gardens still, not parking spaces. One was laid out like a chess board, another was raked gravel and large rocks with a small water feature. Another was full of grasses, swaying elegantly in the gentle breeze – in fact it looked very grown up and elegant until you looked closely, and there in a corner, under a large wooden carved mushroom, sat two small fairy sculptures. Not visible from the lane, unless you look closely or know where to look, but in full view from the sitting room window, where no doubt this touch of whimsy brings a smile to those who see it. One small garden had been given over to nature, a small pond, wild flowers seeding themselves everywhere, plants beneficial to bees and other insects, a little log pile in one corner. It probably doesn't take much looking after, nature seems to take care of most of it, and people were sitting on the wall, waiting to see if the frogs would make an appearance. Everyone knows there are frogs in this garden, at the right time of year you can hear the males calling to their loved ones.

I guess you'd have to be a lady frog to appreciate the noise!

Some of the owners laid on refreshments, included in the entrance fee, which was usually just fifty pence or a pound. Pru and Leonard had a strawberry tea going on in their garden, whilst others just had scones and a cup of tea. Others took advantage of 'passing trade', the craftspeople in the village deciding they would show off their wares. Laurie had some of her lovely little jugs for sale, whilst Rowena had some handmade knitted dolls and toys for sale. Jessie, our local artist, owner of the most wonderful studio at the bottom of her large garden, opened this up for the first time. Inside, it was lovely and cool, there was iced tea and fairy cakes on offer, and a selection of her paintings and sketches displayed on the walls, some for sale.

And it wasn't only gardens that were open. The local allotment society had opened their patch, and here were allotments taken over by vegetables, or fruit, or a mixture of both, some growing flowers for cutting too. There is a large one owned by a couple of young mums from the village, feeding their families with fresh produce and seeing this purely as a larder, whilst at the other end of the scale is Norman, growing for prestige, for shows, the longest carrot, the heaviest marrow, with all manner of weird and wonderful growing methods. At the end of the day there was a barbecue, with burgers and bangers, chilled elderflower champagne, cider or beer, and a chance to buy produce, get growing tips and chat to people you might otherwise not meet.

A lovely day out, looking at beautiful gardens, chatting to interesting and enthusiastic growers and gardeners, tasty treats to eat, all whilst raising lots of money for a local charity.



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The Dersingham Task Force by Keith Starks

The task force has continued its work of clearing paths around the village, keeping the rose bed in Post Office Road tidy, etc. At this time of year the weeds, nettles and wild flowers grow at such a pace that the paths soon look overgrown again but think how much worse they would be if they were not cleared at all!

We were pleased to see that work on some of the rights of way has been done by Norfolk County Council who have also erected new finger posts and other signs showing where the paths are. This is,

probably, the result of the survey by members of the Ramblers' Association which showed that the main problem with the rights of way in the parish was poor signage. It is a pity that some mindless vandals have already damaged some of the new signs.

Mid-June, eleven members of the task force fanned out across the Warren and adjacent paths on a mainly litter-picking mission. Apart from the path towards the old railway station (where someone had strewn a quantity of leaflets which, presumably, they were supposed to have delivered!), we were pleasantly surprised at how little litter there was. Compared to similar expeditions in the past, our haul was very small. Congratulations to those using the Warren. Even the amount of dog-fouling had considerably diminished – although there are still some anti-social dog walkers using the area!

Work continues throughout the summer so, if anyone would like to join us, they can either see where we will be working from the notice in the Parish Council office window or 'phone Sue (543870). □



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Random Jottings by Tony Bubb



The editor (who must be obeyed) wants more “up to date material” for his magazine so I will endeavour to help him out with this. As a borough councillor I get to see the wider picture of what is going on in the Borough. Most of you leave the village, at least occasionally, to visit the town or to go further a field, so you could be interested in what is out there. This, together with interesting snippets picked up on my travels, will make up a good proportion of my jottings but I may also seize upon other topics as well.

But I start with a query. Some of you may remember that around 1967 there was a television serialisation of *Angel Pavement* by J.B. Priestley. The action takes place around the premises of Twigg & Dersingham. Now at the time I had no reason to take notice of the name, my sole foray into Norfolk had been to visit an uncle who had moved to Sheringham, but on hearing a plug for the recent Radio 4 adaptation I pricked up my ears. I cannot find any reference to Mr Priestley having spent time in or around here but this proves nothing so does anybody remember anything about this? The book was published in 1930 so I doubt there will be any first hand memories.

And so to Lynn. Which town car park do you think has the greatest income per space. You might be surprised to learn that it is the Blackfriars Street car park that wins at £3263 per year. This is closely followed by the St James Court park at £2914. By far the worst earner is the Boal Quay at just £276. Clearly then if you need a space guaranteed your best bet is the Boal Quay but I am told that the multi-storey is never full and of course, as you pay on exit, you only spend your cash on the time you have used.

The Open Gardens event has been and gone. It was very successful and it is great fun to have lots of people around your garden if you open yours. A couple of newcomers to the scheme opened with trepidation this year but after the first day were bubbling with enthusiasm. But we would like some fresh gardens for next year. It does not have to be Great Dixter or Chatsworth that you offer, all gardens have something to offer and ideas to give. So how about opening yours?

I like a bit of wildlife. We often go for walks down to the beach or on the bog and recently have been lucky enough to spot three marsh harriers over the beach road, a kestrel over the bog whilst we were being serenaded by a cuckoo and, on a recent drive through Anmer, a red kite. The sparrow hawk has yet to make his/her yearly visit to our garden but we have pigeons a plenty. Our cat does his best but only manages one or two a week so supply outstrips his demands. I have got one up on them though. Our portly friends like to clear up under the feeder that hangs in the Rowan tree, I say clear up but they merely exchange a little dropped seed for a far worse mess that it is all too easy to tread in. However, with a bit of lateral thinking, our very realistic stone fox has been relocated to the affected area with the result that pigeon visits are now almost nil. Pigeons are not the brightest of birds then!

We went along to see the Festival Too fireworks which were, as usual, extremely good. The south quay had been cleared of cars, stalls were set up and a good atmosphere prevailed. It



highlighted what a very good but underused area this is. Other towns, particularly abroad, would make more of such a facility with restaurants, shops and visitor attractions. Rouen, for example, holds the Foire Saint Romain in late October. This is a massive fair placed on the south bank of the Seine which makes our Mart look like a little church fete. True we have some mooring pontoons coming but that will only be for about 8 boats to start with. Honfleur has a shrimp festival each autumn which packs the place. But Norfolk does different, which in this case means almost nothing. Suggestions on a postcard please.... □

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:-

Issue	Copy deadline	Publication date
No 84	Wednesday 11th September	Monday 30th September
No 85	Wednesday 6th November	Monday 25th November
No 86	Wednesday 22nd January 2014	Monday 10th February 2014

The earlier you get your copy to us the more favourable position it is likely to get.

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, 4a Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP
by **Wednesday 11th September 2013**

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, 4a Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP or e-mail: editor@dersingham.org.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 11th September for publication on Monday 30th September 2013**. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication). Should you be providing graphics to accompany advertisements or articles, it would be appreciated if these could be in JPEG format.

It must be pointed out that the editor encourages contributions but reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Any contributions received will be accepted on the understanding that, unless a specific request is made that names, addresses, etc are not used, these may be included in the publication and may be maintained on the Parish Council's database.

Due to limitations on space it is possible that some items received may not be published, or may be held for publication at a later date. Contributors should also be aware that published material will appear on the Parish Council's Internet web site. The copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor does not necessarily agree with opinions that are expressed, or the accuracy of statements made, by contributors to the Village Voice.

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

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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday August 6th

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by
Walter Blaney

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7.30 pm Admission £3.50 including refreshments & raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday September 3rd

Brian Hedge invites you to Take a Nostalgic Trip back in time

visiting Norwich - A Fine City

&

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