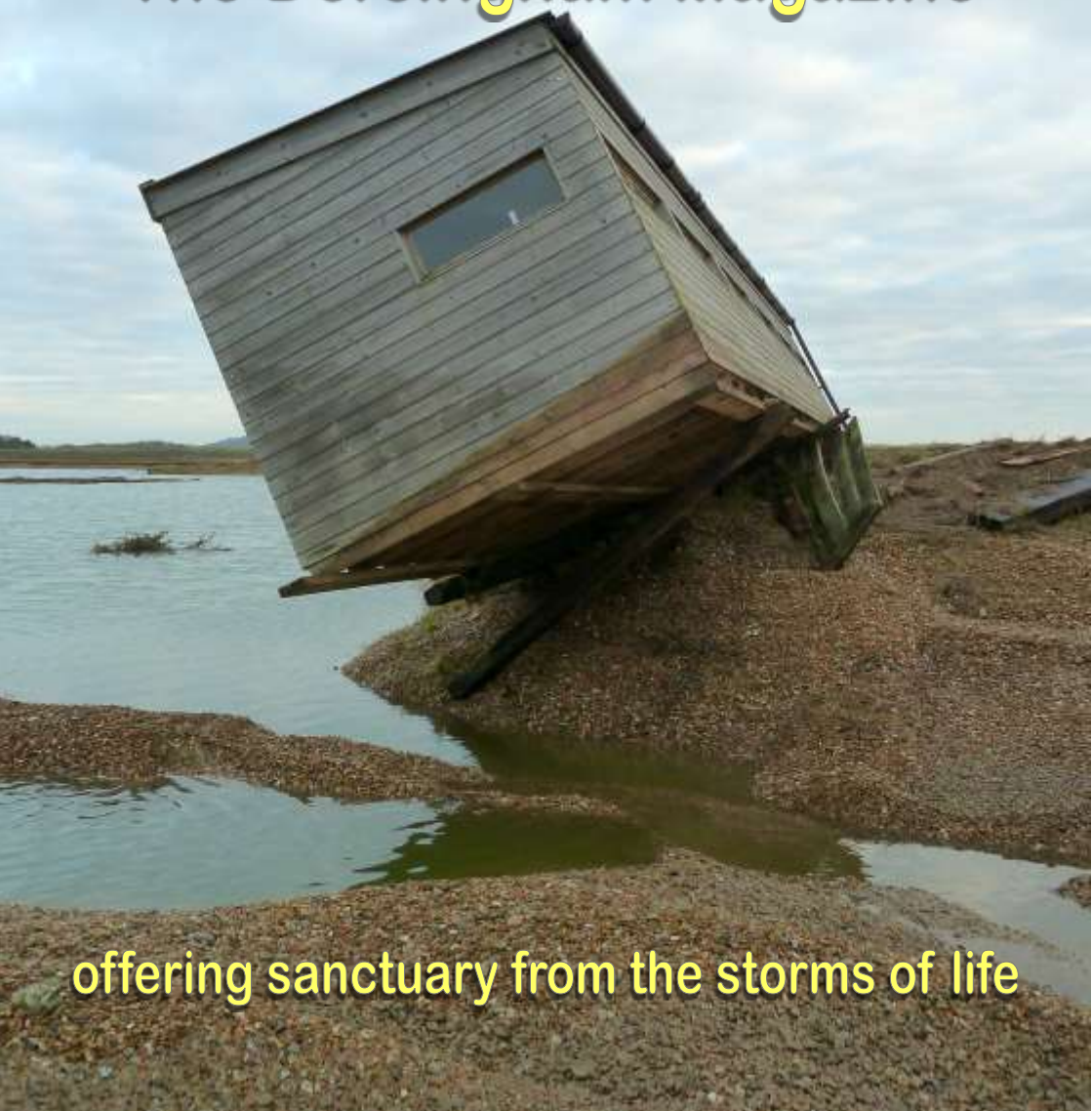


Number 86

Online Extra-Colour Edition February 2014

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



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Editor's Notes

By the time this reaches you, it will have been two months since the memorable storm surge of early December. Although mercifully we in Dersingham are far enough back from the coast to have escaped the effects, the places that many of us love to visit around and about have not been so fortunate. For me, walking around the Snettisham RSPB reserve (or should I say wading around initially) has been a very surreal experience, trying to come to terms with the fact that one of my favourite places will never quite be the same. Our cover photo taken by Paul Eele (RSPB Warden for the North West Norfolk reserves) shows how the ironically named 'Sanctuary Hide', up to now a great favourite with birdwatchers and photographers, looked shortly after the event. Although there has already been much coverage in the news and local press, our regular contributor David Bingham (who just happens to be the Regional RSPB Health and Safety Officer) summarises the full effect of the surge upon RSPB sites within our region and points us in the direction of their ongoing appeal for financial support. (*Google "rspb storm appeal"*).

Major catastrophes create vivid lasting memories for us, and it is touching to hear news of how communities draw together for mutual help and support in such times, as indeed was the case during wartime. Although in my 63rd year, perhaps still a 'whippersnapper' in the eyes of many of you, I was born a full six years after the 2nd World War. I can however appreciate the way in which such conflicts and circumstances would generate lifelong memories, as two of our contributors to this issue are keen to share – together with another who shares his National Service memories shortly after. No doubt this centenary year of the start of the 1st World War will bring more stories and details of remembrance celebrations into forthcoming issues. Perhaps there will be little in the way of first-hand experience of WW1 now, but our most senior contributor (so far) Jack Neale at 98 does just about qualify with his earliest memory.

The April 2009 issue of Village Voice introduced colour pages. With each successive issue the number of colour pages increased as those wishing to place colour adverts increased. One of the somewhat subjective decisions I have had to make as editor is to decide which articles should get the colour pages. Not any more! As from the next (April 2014) issue we have taken the bold step of going *all-colour*. Now I know that many of our old photos are just black and white, and the wife of one of our contributors even quipped that she thought her husband looked better in black and white! But, on balance I think the future looks brighter. Advertisers please note that although we will no longer offer separate rates for black and white adverts, we have in consideration greatly reduced our colour advert rates, and you'll be hearing about these together with attractive discount offers soon. (We will also be pleased to colour up any of your existing black and white adverts).

Occasionally, some Village Voice readers have commented that they find the large areas of small tightly packed text hard going on the eyes, and I do have some sympathy with this view. The problem of course is that there is only so much space available with so many wanting to contribute. Having researched into and experimented with a variety of text fonts, sizes and layouts, the best compromise so as not to affect the level of content too much seems simply to increase the spacing between the lines of text by 10%, as indeed I have done with this editorial page. How much difference do you think it makes to the readability compared with the with the rest of the magazine set at normal line spacing? Do feedback your thoughts on this and anything else regarding content as soon as possible so that decisions can be made in time for our new more colourful edition!

We do get encouraging comments from many readers; some saying that they read every issue of Village Voice avidly from cover-to-cover. In an age of instant access to online news feeds and social media, as well as high quality HD TV, it can be hard to compete for people's limited time and attention, but to make it work, it comes down to continued enthusiasm and support from you.

Steve Davis – editor@dersingham.org.uk □

Dersingham Village Voice is published by Dersingham Parish Council

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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.



I thought I'd write and review the outcome of the first year of the wild flower planting in the Churchyard. After a rather depressing start we met with some success. The plants that are successfully established and were definitely planted by us are:

Yellow Rattle, Corncockle, Wild Carrot, Meadow Crane's-bill, Dove's-foot Crane's-bill, Feverfew.

Those which may well have come from our seed but were already in the Churchyard are:

Yarrow, Ox-eye Daisy.

I am glad to say the Corncockle has been quite prolific - seven planting squares with about 25 plants. I have now scarified the soil beneath the Yellow Rattle and Corncockle in order to give dropped seed the best chance next year. The margin was cut and raked in October in order to expose the ground and reduce soil fertility.

It is worth recording that most of the clearly planted stuff came up on the Church Road side, continuing to the entrance by St Nicholas Court. There is, of course, more sunlight here as they are away from the shade of the trees.

My thanks to Yvonne Anderson, Andrea Smith and Lindsey Davis for their help in broadcasting seed and raising plants off site, and to the Task Force for raking off the cut grass.



Brian Anderson

Chair of Environment Committee, Dersingham Parish Council

Following a report in the last Village Voice that DDC had given a donation to the Village Christmas Light appeal, it very quickly came to the attention of the Day Centre Committee that some of your readers were under the impression that the sum of £600 had been donated by the Day Centre. It was also rumoured that this money had come out of the donation given us in November from the United Charities. This couldn't be further from the truth, so I wish to set the matter straight.

Back as far as September we were aware that the Council were planning to light the trees on the recreation ground to brighten up the village for Christmas. We were told that to set up and maintain each tree would be about £600, for which sponsorship from the local business community would be sought. It was also proposed to sell to the general public light bulbs at the cost of £1 each. To have some form of Christmas lighting in our village seemed a good idea and we promised to donate £50 towards some bulbs in the name of the members of the Day Centre. The money for this came out of money raised by our Volunteers at our Autumn Fair in October – and not out of any money donated to us by any local charities or individuals, without whose support we would be unable to keep the Day Centre going.

Since 2010 when Social Services withdrew our annual grant, we were determined to keep the Day Centre going (many closed) and to keep up the high standards set over many years. In this, we have been supported and encouraged by local charities and individuals. Our proud boast has been that any money donated to the Day Centre is spent entirely on our Members, be it on weekly expenditure, special lunches, live entertainment, birthday presents, Easter and Christmas parties etc. We have no paid helpers; none of the volunteers ever claim expenses and no money has gone towards “administrative costs” for the past thirteen years to my knowledge.

Derrick Worth

Trustee and Hon. Treasurer – Dersingham Day Centre



My sister and I often bring our caravan to a small site in Ingoldisthorpe, from where we are regular visitors to Dersingham. We love Thaxters Coffee Shop and Garden Centre, find the Post Office and Budgens have a good selection of goods and the Fish & Chip shop all serve the village well. We came across the Village Voice magazine and now look it up online (dersingham.org.uk) for events and information when we are at home.

The community activities you have in your village are to be highly commended; in particular the annual Flower Festival and Christmas Tree Festival in the parish church. 2013 was the first time we have been to the Tree Festival and quite frankly, it was outstanding. The Primary School trees with their bird decorations deserve a mention as did the knitted decorations and all the hard work put into making the items by so many. The “litter pick” tree (*by the ‘Task Force’*) was a superb idea complete with fairy at the top and the offending items put to good use.

We are recommending these events to all our friends. Thank you all.

Mrs S. Davy & Mrs Y. Leonard

A great pleasure to be able to share some of the good things we have here with visitors. Ed.

My letter in the last issue showed my Dad (Ted Beales) on duty as a policeman in the Sandringham division back in the 1950s. Here are a couple more photos of the division:



In the late 1940s one of the duties my Dad had to do was to check on drinking after hours in the pubs in and around Docking. There had been talk of late night drinking at the Norfolk Hero in Stanhoe so Docking's answer to the flying squad mounted their police issue cycles and descended on the pub in question. They arrived way after closing time and found drinking in full swing.

The system was that, when after hours drinking was found, the attending officers would go to each drinker and ask their name and also what the drink was in front of them. Everything was going well until Dad got to one old chap who we will call Jack. Dad asked his name which was given; he then said “What are you drinking” to which Jack replied “Thanks very much Ted I'll have small brown!!!!” □

Barry Beales



Parish Council Report by Cllr Suzy Daniels

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! Are you considering a new venture for 2014? We still have vacancies so if you would like to sit the other side of the table please contact the office for an application to become a Parish Councillor. 01485 541465.

CRIME....*is very low in our village, (one whole month CRIME FREE) but it would be better to have nothing on the crime report!!!!*

During the period of 28th September to 28th October there were NO CRIMES REPORTED which is fantastic...29th October to 9th December there were 9 crimes reported these consisted of 3 thefts, 1 burglary, 1 attempted burglary, 1 burglary other than dwelling, 2 anti-social behaviour and 1 possession of a class B drug.

Dersingham and Gayton reported a 28% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour.

COUNTY COUNCIL...*picnic site and incinerator update*

The picnic site which was originally bought by the County Council under a compulsory purchase order has been sold. Cllr Dobson has raised a formal corporate complaint against the County Council due to the unethical nature of the recent sale of the picnic site. The land should have been offered back to the original owners before going up for sale publically. This process was bypassed. The issue will also be put forward by our MP to be raised in parliament. Cllr Dobson reported that it was the auctioneers' responsibility to inform any interested party of the public right of way and it should be protected during and after any sale. It was suggested that any housing development was unlikely to be granted.

It was anticipated that the granting of planning permission would be decided on 14th January 2014. Independent QC's were to report on the behaviour of Councillors during the procurement procedure. It was unlikely that the original Councillors would be impugned as they were no longer employed by the County Council.

BOROUGH COUNCIL...*parking and parishioner services*

The majority of car parking ticket machines in King's Lynn no longer require users to input their registration number, with the exception of those situated on Red short-stay car parks. The Borough Council offer various services which parishioners can access. These include Homecare services for those with disabilities and housing benefits advice.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES....All minutes for Full Council and Committees are available on the Dersingham Parish Council website and on the Noticeboards.

The Recreation committee intend to host a multitude of events this year including *The Big Lunch* and children's summer activities so please keep an eye on the noticeboards, Facebook, our website and future issues of Village Voice for dates and details.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

3 Sugar Lane...15 Woodside Avenue...Application for retention of erected fence (second revised design)....*recommend approval.*

60 Lynn Rd...Application for single story extension to dwelling and new vehicular access.....*recommend approval.*

11a Post Office Rd...Application for a single storey rear extension to dwelling and construction of detached garage...*recommend approval, but to be noted this is within the conservation area.*

2 West Hall Rd...Application for construction of a pair of semi-detached chalet style dwellings. ...*recommend approval in principle, but raise objection to proposed front dormer windows.*

92 Hunstanton Rd...Application for vacant plot for dwelling.....*recommend approval.*

DETERMINATIONS

67 Manor Rd...*Granted*

15 Shernborne Rd...*Granted*

4 West Rd...*Granted*

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS...thank you!!!

On behalf of the Parish council I would like to say a huge thank you to *Budgens, Thaxters, Rounce and Evans, Dersingham Day Centre, Collings Estate Agents, Dersingham Post Office, Dersingham Institute Bowls Club, Dersingham Flower Club, Dennis Wright Body Repairs of Docking, The Garden Maintenance Co., TM Electrical* who sponsored and installed the Christmas lights on the trees alongside the Recreation ground. I thought those and the lights surrounding the War memorial looked beautiful. Without your generosity this would not have been achieved. It is still our intention to light up additional trees annually.

PRECEPT...carefully considered

After careful scrutiny of the Parish Council accounts and all committee budgets it has been agreed to increase the precept by 3.4%. To justify any increases, allowances have been made for increasing costs in certain areas, but to achieve such a small increase, significant cuts have been made where possible, whilst still taking into consideration planned projects to improve amenities within Dersingham.

The precept for 2013/2014 was £70,900 (council tax band D : £43.24 per year/£0.83 per week) 2014/2015 will increase to £73,325 (council tax band D: £43.99 per year/£0.84 per week)

I wish you all a very healthy, happy and prosperous 2014. □



From the Parish Office

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Hopefully Christmas 2013 was a little more festive for you with lots of lights around the recreation ground and a big thanks from the office for everyone involved and a hope that 2014 will be better still. As I write this it is rainy and cold and very miserable and we could do with a bit more sun!

Norfolk County Council plan their gritting routes a year in advance, and I have just received the plan, so we need to act now if we want to ask for another area to be covered for next year. Bus routes are not automatically gritted especially if the bus company does not have a problem with it.

There seems to be one or two scams going around the village, one offering security assistance etc. Please do not let anyone into your home without checking they are who they are supposed to be. They should have a card telling you who they are etc and a telephone number you can call. If you are in doubt make that call and if you still are not happy call the Police on 101.

The Recreation Committee are planning children's summer holiday activities for the weeks commencing 11th & 18th August. If you are interested in a particular sport or hobby please let us know and we may be able to include it in the programme. If you want to sign up for this year's Intervillage Sports Day at Lynn Sport, please let us know; there are training/taster sessions being organized for this. Do not forget The Coffee Club at the Social Club on a Tuesday.

If there is anything else happening in the village that you wish to know more about, or are not happy about, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office, and I will do my best to help. □

Sarah

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(A much talked and written about subject, but do the offenders read Village Voice I wonder? Ed.)



Action for M.E. by Helen Buckenham

My sister, Liz Smith and I have been volunteer fundraisers for the charity, Action for M.E. for around 20 years. M.E. stands for *myalgic encephalomyelitis*, and further details of the condition along with the charity itself can be found on their website at www.actionforme.org.uk. I became ill with the condition in 1991. The photo (taken two years ago) shows me centre with Liz on the right and our dear mother Anne Reynolds who used to support us any way she could.

Over the past year we have smashed through a total of £30,000 raised overall. The people of Dersingham and surrounding villages have been really supportive of things we have previously done and now, since the media coverage of our attending a reception at 10, Downing Street hosted by Samantha Cameron in June 2013, Bee & Brendan Hopkins, owners of the prestigious Hoste Arms Hotel, Burnham Market, have generously offered to hold a fundraising event for us on 6th April 2014. This will be a black tie Gala Dinner and Auction with a theme of diamonds & sparkle and will include:

- ★ Prosecco & Canapé Reception
- ★ Lavish three Course Dinner (set menu) with half a bottle of wine per person followed by coffee
- ★ Auction of amazing items and opportunities
- ★ Entertainment from West End star Michael Xavier accompanied on by Musical Director Colin Billings
- ★ Tickets are priced at £75 each
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So far, we have had some great auction donations such as an 1/8th share in an 8 times winning racehorse free for one year; lunch for two with a director of Norwich City FC and after to watch Norwich play Liverpool FC in the directors box and a two week holiday in Barbados. We will need further sponsorship to help fund things like the reception food and drink or a table for example, but any donation large or small would be greatly appreciated. Any individual or company can contact me, Helen on 01485 542 880 from mid-February onwards.

Tickets can be purchased from the hotel either in person or by 'phone; 01328 748 257.

In closing, may I wish you all the very best of health and happiness in 2014. □

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The current 5-year Norfolk Coast AONB management plan is being updated to produce the next 5-year plan. The draft management plan 2014-19 sets out background information, a 20-year vision and 5-year objectives and policies.

How to have your say

The draft AONB Management Plan 2014-19 is available on the Norfolk Coast Partnership's web site at <http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/consultation>, together with associated documents you may wish to look at.

There are two ways to respond

- Through a quick questionnaire, which you can access from the Norfolk Coast Partnership web site, or
- A more detailed response in a format to suit you, returning comments either by email or post.

All comments are welcome, whether you are a local resident, a visitor, a local business person, landowner or farmer, with a closing date of 17 April 2014. All comments will be recorded and considered carefully in finalising the plan, with a record of this being made publicly available.

Contact details for response and queries

Norfolk Coast Partnership
South Wing, Fakenham Fire Station, Norwich Road, Fakenham, NR21 8BB

Tel: 01328 850530 Email: aonb@norfolk.gov.uk Web: www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk



NORFOLK COAST
PARTNERSHIP



The Dersingham Weather

recorded by John F. Murray

On the second of November I noticed that my Brussels sprouts had been devastated. I immediately thought of deer and went to find some wire netting to protect what little was left. While doing this I found that it was not deer at all. All the plants were covered with caterpillars. The mild weather had caused it I am sure, but who expects to see caterpillars in November? We had to buy sprouts for Christmas Day. That was the last of the late summer weather and thereafter we had rather a chilly month.

The mean temperature for November turned out to be disappointing at a mere 4.9°C. In 2011 it was exactly double that at 9.8°C. The previous lowest was 5.8°C in 2010. The highest temperature for the month was 14.2°C which fell well short of the best November temperature, again in 2010, with 17.3°C. The rainfall for the month was 54.2mm which made it below the average of 67.1mm. In 2009 for example, we had over 108mm.

December was in complete contrast to November. This December the mean temperature was 6.6°C which made it the warmest that I have recorded. The nearest was December 2011 which was a full degree colder at 5.6°C. In 2010 it was a chilly 0.3°C. This December also had the highest recorded temperature of 14.3°C which was marginally better than 2007 but way ahead of, again 2010, which only got up to 7.7°C. Rainfall for the month was 26mm, again below the monthly average of 54.2mm.

Our luck stayed with us during the storm of 23rd and 24th December. When people couldn't get home for Christmas because of heavy rain and strong winds we had a maximum wind speed of 39 mph. Although quite high it isn't the first time I have recorded it. During the same two days we had only 5mm of rain.

Once again another year has gone by and so if you look at the table below you can see how 2013 compared to the previous years.

Year	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Mean °C	10.1	10.0	11.3	9.6	10.7	10.5
Rainfall mm	489.4	783.2	475.2	594.7	726.2	828.0

As you can see 2013 was a dry year, having only just beaten *the* dry year of 2011. As far as mean temperature is concerned last year was a 10 point something year. As you can see there are two years that stick out; 2010 when we had the big freeze year and, strangely, the following year 2011 when the mean temperature exceeded 11 for the only time so far. Of course I can't read too deeply into this as there are only eight years of figures.

As we start 2014, as I write this article, we are again having countrywide heavy winds, rain and high tides and flooding. Watch this space to see how we fared this time. Oh, and of course a Happy New Year to you all. □

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Old Picture Corner from Tony Bubb

Two groups of people this time. The top picture is of the Bowls Club taken in 1955, which is nearly sixty years ago now so in all likelihood nobody pictured is still alive, but can we get any names? It looks like an old Austin saloon in the background - was it your granddad's? Note the immense amount of trouble they went to with the tablecloth.!



Our second picture is of the opening of the sports pavilion in 1967. Yes we can recognise the Duke but what about some of the crowd. Are you the girl in the white socks looking away? Who was the man in the sheepskin jacket? Were you there? We are looking for answers. □



Where is it? What is it?
from Tony Bubb (answer on page 77)



Unfortunately no entries were submitted for the prize "Where is it? What is it?" picture in the last issue!



Perhaps Tony overstepped the mark with this one, or else nobody fancied the bottle of wine! It is in fact located outside the entrance to Matalan, and is a portal to the Gaywood River as it flows under the car park.

Sudoku No 34 by Rob

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

**Solution to Sudoku
No 33 in last issue**

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

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Dersingham Village Centre

Dersingham Church Hall, known originally as the Dersingham Village Institute Hall, was built in 1912 through a donation of £500 from Mrs Tylden and the kind donation of half an acre of land from King George. After the plans were extended to include a Coronation Room for the exclusive use of the men of the village, the total cost was £705.3s.10d. Construction was completed in 1912.



Since then, for more than a hundred years, Dersingham Church Hall has been well used by generations of villagers for a wide range of activities from coffee mornings, Phobbies and other societies, and numerous church-driven activities. It is also been used for family occasions like weddings and fund-raising activities, like community dances or other large gatherings.

Dersingham Church Hall is a well-loved fixture in many people's minds, who remember all the good times spent within its walls. However, the Church Hall is now 100 years old, and suffers from the problems faced by many similarly-aged buildings with inadequate insulation, inefficient heating, problems with damp and problems with the floors. Despite large expenditure improving the toilets and the kitchen, the Church Hall will continue to require significant funding in the future just to maintain it. The Parish Church Council will be unable to provide funds to develop the church hall in the foreseeable future, since its first responsibility will always be to maintain the magnificent medieval church building.

During previous studies the Community Centre and the Gamekeepers Lodge were possible alternative venues, but these are no longer available. The question has to be asked, what would happen to all the people and clubs who use the Church Hall if this was not available?

Dersingham is an expanding village with some 5,000 residents of all age groups and although there are a number of venues which can be used for functions, including the Social Club, the Methodist Church Hall, St Cecilia's Hall, the Sports Club, the Bowls Club, Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School Buildings, and the Church Hall, Dersingham Village does not have a single, large centre which can satisfy the growing needs of the villagers.

For more than 20 years, Dersingham Parish Council has carried out numerous studies and questionnaires to find out the attitudes and needs of the parish, and on each occasion there has been strong support for a new Dersingham Village Centre, which is large enough for functions catering for up to 250 people. There is also a need for facilities for all the specialist groups who at present cannot find suitable premises in the village, including people who want to form a Theatre Group. Other groups such as the WI and the Horticultural Society also need a larger meeting room.

During previous attempts by the Dersingham Parish Council to develop a Village Hall, the major stumbling block has been the lack of a suitable site. No suitable sites could be identified within the village, and any outside the village boundaries would need to be purchased, which was beyond their means.

Considering the advantages of developing a single Village Centre which included sufficient amenities and space to satisfy the reasonable demands of the village, the Parochial Church Council, who own the Church Hall, suggested to Dersingham Parish Council that it would be more sensible to develop a single centre for the village, rather than two less comprehensive and competing centres. Therefore the PCC suggested that the most appropriate site for a new Village Centre would be the existing Church Hall site.

The Dersingham Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council are therefore working closely together to achieve a common goal – a Village Centre. This must satisfy the needs of a multitude of Groups who currently use the Church Hall, as well as other groups, whom the Parish Council feel would benefit from the development of a new Village Centre.

If it were feasible and practical we would, of course, look to extend and improve the existing building. However, this will not be possible, or cost effective, due to the current condition of the Church Hall.

The Parish Council intends to apply to the Big Lottery for funds towards the construction of the new Village Centre. As a first step, the Council has commissioned a study to find out what groups of people living within the village would benefit substantially from a new Village Centre, particularly trying to identify Groups of people who need support of various types, perhaps

training, or transport to the centre, or special facilities within the Hall. The Phobbies need wheelchair access, for instance.

The Parish Council needs the support of all Dersingham residents for this major development. We aim to build a 21st Century Village Centre, which will serve as the heart of the village, where everyone feels welcome. We want everyone to feel there is something offered at the Village Centre which they will enjoy. The new Village Centre will be easier and cheaper to maintain, while blending well with the particular architectural charm of Dersingham, just as the present hall does.

We want you to be proud of your Village Centre and be happy for your children and grandchildren to enjoy being there as much as you have done in the past.

Your Village Centre needs YOU! □

Cllr Chris Davey

Chair – Dersingham Centre Working Group

Getting Tough on Foulers

Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) across West Norfolk will be teaming up with the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk in a bid to crack down on persistent dog fouling.

PCSOs across the district now have additional powers which enable them to issue fixed penalty notices on behalf of the Borough Council, the aim being to tackle the specific problem of irresponsible dog owners who do not pick up after their dog.

The fixed penalty notice carries a fine of £75 and can also be used for those picking up and then throwing the bag of dog faeces in the vicinity as a littering offence.

The new powers came into force as a result of feedback from the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panels (SNAPs) which are held across the district. Dog fouling was an issue that was raised by residents in many areas as a key issue where they live.

Inspector Paul Garrard, from the Operational Partnerships Team, explained: "Dog fouling is an issue we have raised with us both via SNAP meetings and our conversations with residents. These additional powers are an example of partnership working at its best. PCSOs spend the majority of their working time within our local communities and therefore are able to enforce this section of the Environment Act effectively."

"These new enforcement rules will also allow us to target hotspot areas for dog fouling, ensuring that these areas are regularly patrolled to target persistent offenders."

Cllr Brian Long, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "Dog fouling is an issue that we repeatedly get reports about. This partnership with the police and the PCSOs means that they are our eyes and are more likely to catch the worst offenders in the act. If they witness a dog owner not clearing up their dog's mess, then they will issue a fixed penalty notice, something they weren't previously able to do. We are hoping that the increased possibility of receiving a fine will reduce the problem and the increased physical presence of the PCSOs will encourage irresponsible dog owners to start taking their responsibilities seriously."

Safer Neighbourhood Action Panels (SNAPs) are public meetings where local people can raise any concerns about their community. Any member of the public living or working in the neighbourhood is welcome to attend and we also encourage organised community groups and Parish Councils to attend.

SNAPs are chaired by a local councillor and there is panel of officers from the Borough Council, Police, and other key local agencies such as Housing Associations. The meetings are held every two months, at a community venue within the neighbourhood.

To find out more about SNAP meetings in your local area visit www.norfolk.police.uk.

Sharon Ludford – Neighbourhood Officer – 01553 616655

Parish Councillor Kate Hathaway says: "In response to the article 'It's a Dog's Life' in the December issue, a number of 'blackspots' were highlighted to the Parish Council. These have since been notified to the appropriate Authorities." □



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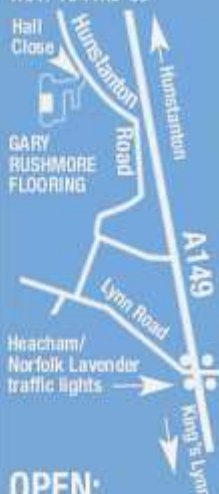
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St Nicholas Church News



We have a 2014 timetable full of invitations to extend to you from St Nicholas Church in Dersingham. Take a look at the listing below and get dates into your diaries for the concerts and the festivals that are centred around our parish church. Perhaps your interest will be more in the Open Gardens and Village Fair event that it is planned for May this year, involving so many people and organisations in the area and offering something welcoming to all of us.

There is also an invitation being extended to you to join in with the Deanery Lent Services that are coming up. An opportunity to visit different churches along the West Norfolk coast from Old Hunstanton to Sandringham, to listen to our speakers as they reflect on **“Words from the Cross”** and to come together to offer our worship to our God who invites us into his presence.

As God welcomes us to know him, he asks of his people that we should welcome one another in his name. As this year unfolds for you, you may feel that there is something new and challenging in this invitation to come and see. The question of Baptism or Confirmation perhaps, the possibility of a Church wedding or a growing need to explore with someone else what it means to be invited into God’s presence. We are always delighted to talk to people about the life of the Church and about the needs of the people whom it serves, and that includes you.

Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

St Nicholas Church Events During 2014

Sat 29 th March 10.30am	Fashion Show Church Hall Tickets £3.50
Sat 26 th April 9am-12noon	Grand Sale
Sun 25 th & Mon 26 th May	Open Gardens & Village Fair
Sat 31 st May 7.30pm	Hunstanton Concert Band
Fri 20 th June 7.30pm	Ely Cathedral Choristers
Thu 17 th to Sun 20 th July	Flower Festival
Sat 13 th September	Jazz Concert in Church Hall
Fri 5 th to 7 th December	Christmas Tree Festival.

During Lent we will be holding **Deanery Lent Services** in our local Churches. They are held on a Wednesday evenings at 7pm as detailed below:

- 12th March** St. Nicholas Church, Dersingham
- 19th March** St. Mary Magdalene Church, Sandringham with Revd Canon Beryl Wood from St. Faith’s Church, Gaywood, King’s Lynn
- 26th March** St. Mary’s Church, Old Hunstanton
- 2nd April** St. Andrew’s Church, Ringstead
- 9th April** St. Mary’s Church, Snettisham - with the Bishop of Lynn

We will also be holding Lent Lunches each Friday during Lent at 12noon in the Church Hall. All proceeds from these lunches going to Children and Youth Work. Each lunch will be done by different groups within the Church. □



Sandringham Social Club

The Sandringham Social Club is situated in the lovely village of West Newton, PE31 6AY.

Club membership is £5.00 a year, although non-members are welcome most nights (except Tuesday night bingo). We put on live entertainment throughout the year, singers, music you can dance to, race nights, bingo and quiz nights. We have a darts and domino teams and also a bowls section. If you are not a bowls player yourself, we have a lovely patio area from where you can watch them play in the fine weather.

The Clubroom can be hired for private functions. For further details, phone 01485 540573.

Lynn Bournier – Club Stewardess



Maggie's Miscellany

It's the Most Romantic Time of the Year—by Maggie Gray

St. Valentine's Day... the day women pretend they don't expect or want a card, or flowers or just a reminder that they are loved, but woe betide the men in their lives if they take them at their word! We expect you to be mind-readers you see, and to be able to see through the casual attitude we appear to have about this day. Of course, there are those women who really don't want cards and so on. No really, they don't.

Now for some facts.... Saint Valentine's Day as it is properly known, was originally a liturgical celebration of an early Christian saint named Valentinus. It was first associated with love in what's known as the 'High Middle Ages' though some historians claim it originated long before with Lupercalia customs which could come from pre-Roman times. However here, by the 18th Century it was being celebrated with flowers, confectionery and cards being given to the love of your life. The cards became known as 'Valentines' and at that time were largely handmade. By the 19th Century, these had mostly given way to mass-produced, printed cards, though there are still some people who make cards by hand.

Now for some trivia.... £22m was reportedly spent on flowers last year; at the last count Hallmark had over 1300 different designs of Valentine's cards; Cadbury's produced the first custom-made Valentine's Day box of chocolates.

In this country we usually send cards, give flowers or chocolates or some other token of affection, all pretty straightforward. In Denmark and Norway however, they send 'Gaekkebrev' which are poems or rhyming love notes sent to a lady with only a clue as to the identity of the sender, ie a dot would represent each letter of his name. If the recipient guesses who sent it, she gets an Easter egg, but if she doesn't, then she has to give the sender an egg... which beggars the question, if she doesn't know, how can she?

In Norfolk we had our own unique tradition of St Valentine's Eve of course, which was rediscovered a few years ago and celebrated in the newly refurbished Bridewell Museum. St. Valentine's Eve was well-advertised and for weeks running up to the day, shops would take on extra staff to cope with the numbers of people coming in to buy 'useful and ornamental' gifts, ranging from umbrellas to jigsaw puzzles. On the Eve itself, once it was dark, gifts would be left on doorsteps; some research refers to 'Jack Valentine' knocking on little children's doors and leaving them a small present, whereas other research tells us that the celebrations were for young and old alike. Sometimes practical jokers just rang the bell and ran away, whilst others tied a piece of string to the parcel, hid themselves away and when the door was opened, they would whisk the parcel away. Did they keep them all I wonder?

Information taken from various online resources... www.visitnorfolk.co.uk, www.todayifoundout.com, www.wikipedia.org.

A Good Read

Books for Lovers—also with Maggie Gray

Perhaps an unusual present for a loved one could be a book of love letters? There are several available including the following...

'The 50 Greatest Love Letters of all Time' by David

Lowenherz. In this book are letters from, amongst others, George Bush to Barbara Pierce, Horatio Nelson to Lady Emma Hamilton, Kahlil Gibran to Mary Hushell, Vita Sackville-West to Virginia Woolf, Marjorie Fossa to Elvis Presley.

'Love Letters of Great Men' edited by Ursula Doyle. These include Alexander Pope, Mozart, Charles Darwin and Robert Burns. She also edited a book of **'Love Letters of Great Women'**, amongst them Katherine of Aragon and Marjory Brews (Paston).

'Other People's Love Letters: 150 letters you were never meant to see' by Bill Shapiro.

'Love Letters: 2000 years of Romance' by Andrea Clarke. This includes a love letter from Charlotte Bronte to the French Professor she was in love with and a letter from Charles Dickens to his wife, written before he left her and which she kept to prove to everyone that 'he loved me once'. Isn't that sad? □



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The Sandringham Newsletter

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

Sandringham House, Gardens and Museum closed to the public for the winter on Sunday 3rd November, and Sandringham Visitor Centre staff had a very busy Christmas period; Christmas trees were available from the Sawmill, a wide range of locally-made gifts, food and drink was offered in the Gift Shop and the Plant Centre, and Christmas

lunches were served every day in the Restaurant. Hampers made to customers' requirements proved very popular again this year, and as the Visitor Centre is open every day over the winter, even though the House and Gardens are closed, and as parking is free, it's always worth a look.

Just before the House closed for the winter, a forecast of very high winds forced the closure of the Gardens for one day just at the start of the half-term holiday. The decision was not taken lightly – the last time the Gardens were closed like this was over ten years ago – and it inevitably caused some disappointment, but the anticipated very high winds at a time when the trees were still in full leaf posed a real risk, and some large branches fell frighteningly close to paths.

On the Farm, the last of the winter wheat has been sown. The soil was very wet this autumn, so Farm staff had to take every available opportunity whenever there was a small window of fine weather. At the same time, sugar beet harvesting continued, as well as making long-term storage heaps of beet in case hard frosts or further heavy rain make it impossible to get machinery onto the fields. The vegetable garden which provides fresh produce for the Restaurant kitchens has been very productive this year. Rhubarb, beans and snap peas, leeks and onions, courgettes and marrows, pumpkins and squash, celeriac and a wide range of herbs have all featured on the Restaurant's menus; now that the Restaurant is a little quieter, chutneys, pickles and relishes are being made and put into jars to mature.

Visitor Centre staff recently took delivery of a defibrillator and were trained in its use. While they hope never to need to use it, the Visitor Centre is so busy in and out of season that they felt it was a sensible addition to the first aid supplies already held there.

In the Gardens, after clearing up the debris from the October storm, most of November was spent cutting down the perennial plants in the North End Garden, along the West Terrace and around the Upper and Lower Lakes. The dahlia tubers in the Walled Garden were lifted and stored and the summer bedding removed, and holly and yew hedges were lightly trimmed. The annual job of leaf collecting took more time than usual this autumn as the leaves were slower to fall than usual after this year's very late spring.

The NHS blood donor service arrived at the Visitor Centre in November for the last time. Their next visit to this area will be in April, when they will be using St Cecelia's Church Hall in Dersingham. The Visitor Centre has been used for blood donor sessions for almost twenty years; in recent years, however, as the Restaurant has moved to 7-day opening through the winter, it became more difficult to make the event run smoothly, and packing away all the equipment at night with very little outdoor lighting also became harder. Estate staff will continue to support this valuable service and to give blood at the service's new home. □



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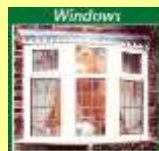
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**CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE (CBHC)
Patients' Participation Group (PPG) News**
From: Tom Morris, PPG Committee

Dr Kamal De has now joined the clinical team at the CBHC vice Dr Uni who has returned to be reunited with her family in India. Dr De, a very experienced and well qualified GP, graduated in Calcutta in 1988 and obtained his full registration in the UK in 2001. He has been a member of the Gayton Road team for some years, has a special interest in cardiology and leads Vida's Coronary Heart Disease Team. He will take over care of the patients that were on Dr Uni's list.



Practice Merger: Vida Healthcare has now successfully merged with the Fairstead practice Partnership. This merger will in no way affect the services provided at Carole Brown Health Centre. The increasing size of the Partnership does, however, allow the practice to be in a state of readiness to engage effectively with the ever changing NHS and the coming challenges and pressures we hear about through all media.

Quiz Night: Previous Quiz Nights have proved to be so popular that another will be held on 28th March 2014 at 7.30 PM, in order to raise funds to support the aims of the PPG and the Friends of St Nicholas Church. Readers are encouraged to enter a team or teams of up to 6 members for this event and to enjoy an evening of friendly competition, as detailed below:

New Telephone Number:

After much lobbying by the PPG, the Carole Brown Health Centre will have its **own dedicated telephone number.**

As of 6th February 2014, the old 08444 number will be replaced by:

01485 500 139

The 24 hour appointments booking line:

01553 696888

will remain unchanged. □

Carole Brown Health Centre PPG
and
Friends of St. Nicholas' Church

QUIZ NIGHT

**28th March 2014
at 7.30 pm**

in
**St. Nicholas Church Hall
Dersingham**

6 members per team - (maximum)

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

Details, entry forms and tickets from:

Tom Morris (541450), Keith Blythe (544866),
Edgar Cooper (540865) and Nigel Sisson (540081)



Hunstanton Rotary Club

The Road Behind the Rector

Our club enjoyed an amazing evening, listening to the Rev. Chris Wood telling the story of his life before being ordained into the Anglican Church. He was brought up in the shadow of his famous great uncle of the same name, and who was a renowned painter, and friend of Ben Nicholson. As a youngster he had some unusual experiences including visiting prisons and as a teenager volunteering to work in a psychiatric hospital. These experiences were to hold him in good stead in later life.

Having read Theology at Worcester College, Oxford, he went to work with Lord Soper among the homeless of Central London. After a time this led him on to look for employment in the Prison Service, where his responsibilities included running the workshops which provided prisoners with employment. These workshops included the making of mailbags and also the skilful art of bookbinding. The book binding led to him having access to fascinating prison records, including those of all the hangings. In his work in prisons, he came across some notorious offenders including Ronnie Biggs and Ronnie Kray.

From the Prison Service, Chris moved on into the Probation Service where his work was in the preparation of prisoners for their life on 'the outside'. During these years of working in London, Chris built up many contacts and fulfilled a variety of roles including being on the call-up for a National Crisis Support team to support people affected by major disasters. Chris's experiences included supporting people following the Kings Cross Fire and the accident of the Marchioness on the Thames.



In recent years, Chris moved to Norwich and, whilst working with homeless people there, made links with people at Norwich Cathedral which led on to him taking some further training in preparation for ordination. In this role he served at St.Margaret's, Kings Lynn, before becoming the Rector of the Saxon Shore benefice. Chris will soon be moving back to Norwich.

Chris had advised us beforehand that the back story for most clergy is more varied than you might think – his certainly is! □ *Rene Roothe*

RACE NIGHT

We're holding a race night at **First Race at**

Park House Hotel, Sandringham **7.30pm**

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Library News

New Year and new you with the Reading Well Books on Prescription:

Reading Well Books on Prescription helps you manage your well-being using self-help reading. The scheme is endorsed by health professionals and supported by public libraries. The books provide helpful information and step-by-step self-help techniques for managing common conditions, including depression and anxiety.

How does it work?

As part of your treatment, you may have been recommended a self-help book by your GP, psychological well-being practitioner or another health professional. The self-help books are also available for anyone to borrow from the local library.



Can books really help?

There is good evidence from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) that self-help books can help people understand and manage common conditions, including depression and anxiety. Although books can sometimes work on their own, research has shown that self-help approaches work best when there is support from a health professional. If you have been referred to an Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) service, you might be seen by a psychological well-being practitioner, who can guide you through the information. The books have all been recommended by experts. They have been tried and tested and found to be useful.

What do I do now?

- Go along to Dersingham library where you can borrow the book for free. The books are on display along with leaflets about the service.
- If the book is not available, you can reserve it. Free reservations are available in most libraries.
- Read the book carefully and follow the practical exercises and activities suggested.

See www.readingagency.org.uk/readingwell for more information.

Books to watch out for in 2014:

Joanne Harris - *The gospel of Loki*

This is Harris's first foray into fantasy for adults. With his notorious reputation for trickery and deception, and an ability to cause as many problems as he solves, Loki is a Norse god like no other. Demon-born, he is viewed with deepest suspicion by his fellow gods, who will never accept him as one of their own and for this he vows to take revenge. While Loki is planning the downfall of Asgard and the humiliation of his tormentors, greater powers are conspiring against the gods and a battle is brewing that will change the fate of the worlds.

Erica James - *Summer at the lake*

It was a wedding invitation that changed everything for Floriana. If she hadn't been so distracted at the thought of having to witness the one true love of her life get married, she would have seen the car coming and there would have been no need for elderly spinster Esme Silcox and local property developer Adam Strong to rush to her aid. If she hadn't met them she would never have had the courage to agree to attend Seb's wedding in Lake Como. For Esme, Lake Como awakens memories of when she stayed at the lake as a 19-year-old girl and fell in love for the first time. So often she's wondered what happened to the man who stole her heart all those years ago, a man who changed the course of her life.

Jojo Moyes - The one plus one

The latest hardback from the author of our favourite village read. Suppose your life sucks. Your husband has done a vanishing act, your stepson is being bullied and your daughter has a once in a lifetime opportunity - that you can't afford to pay for. So imagine you found and kept some money that didn't belong to you, knowing it would pay for your daughter's happiness. But how do you cope with the shame? Especially when the man you've lied to decides to help you out in your hour of need. Jo is in hell - Ed has saved her family - but is their happiness worth a lifetime's soul-searching?

J D Robb - Concealed in death

There is nothing unusual about billionaire Roarke supervising work on his new property - but when he takes a ceremonial swing at the first wall to be knocked down, he uncovers the body of a girl. In fact, 12 dead girls concealed behind a false wall. Luckily for Roarke, he is married to the best police lieutenant in town. Eve Dallas is determined to find the killer - especially when she discovers that the building used to be a sanctuary for delinquent teenagers and the parallel with her past as a young runaway hits hard.

Elly Griffiths - The outcast dead

Forensic archaeologist Ruth Galloway has excavated a body from the grounds of Norwich Castle, a forbidding edifice that was once a prison. She believes the body may be that of infamous Victorian murderess Jemima Green. Called Mother Hook for her claw-like hand, Jemima was hanged in 1867 for the murder of five children in her care. DCI Harry Nelson has no time for long-dead killers. Immersed in the case of three infants found dead, one after the other, in their King's Lynn home, he's convinced that a family member is responsible, though others on his team think differently. Then a child goes missing. Could the abduction be linked to the long-dead Mother Hook? Ruth is pulled into the case, and back towards Nelson.

E-books free to borrow from Norfolk Libraries

Did you know that Norfolk Libraries offers a range of e-books and e-audio books that library card holders can download free of charge?

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

Alison Thorne—Community Librarian - Dersingham, Kings Lynn and Wells Libraries □



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

Boy squirrels

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Chip
Barney
Gus



Buried Nuts

'Hey, Chip. I buried some nuts in the autumn,' said Scoot.

'Oh, did you?' said Chip. 'What sort of nuts?'

'Chestnuts,' said Scoot, pleased that Chip wanted to talk with him.

'I hope you mean sweet chestnuts,' said Chip. 'The horsey ones are no good. They are bitter and tough. The sweet ones are lovely. Both sorts fall and split open, but the sweet ones are smaller and flatter than the horsey ones, and they don't shine so much. The spines on the casing are not so tough.'

Because he was a little older than most of the other young squirrels, Chip knew more about food. He was ready to advise younger squirrels, and Scoot knew that he wouldn't tell them wrong things just for a joke. He could be trusted.

'Yes. I think they were sweet ones,' said Scoot. 'I didn't taste any, but I buried them near one of the gorse bushes just beyond the tree-line on the other side of the wood.'

'Why did you go that far over?' asked Chip, a little sharply.

'Well, I wanted to get out of the way of the tree roots, and I don't like going on to the park. It's too open. I like to have some cover round me.'

'That's right,' said Chip. 'You never know who can see you burying things on the park land. And the soil on the other side of the wood is soft and sandy and easy to dig. But why are you telling me you buried them?'

'I thought I'd go and find them and dig them up.'

'Why?'

'I'm hungry and there's not much food around at the moment.'

'OK,' said Chip. 'I'll come with you.'

So they went along by the sycamore trees and through a bit of a clearing where there were hawthorn bushes and brambles. Scoot didn't much like this area either, because he felt much safer when he was in the trees. Still, there were plenty of bushes that you could dive underneath if there was any danger. Scoot was especially careful about being seen by people or their dogs. There was a story among the older squirrels about a young one who was chased and bitten and killed by a dog before he could reach the safety of the trees.

After they had passed the clearing with the hawthorn bushes, they went through some young silver birch trees and then came to the grassy area with the gorse bushes.

When they had set off from their home part of the wood, Scoot thought he would walk straight to the right bush, but now he wasn't sure. He stood and looked around. Every bush looked the same. Chip looked at him, expectantly. Scoot paused, looked down, blinked, fidgeted with his hands and looked up again at Chip.

'I've forgotten which one,' he said, ashamed.

'Ha!' laughed Chip. 'Lots of us do that. But you should be able to smell them. If you sniff around, you should come across a smell you remember.'

'OK,' said Scoot, and he sniffed and sniffed and sniffed. Rabbit poo. Not much of a smell. It was always dry and you could pick up little bits of it and throw it. Scoot did this once or twice until he saw Chip giving him a hard look, and then he stopped, ashamed. Rabbit wee. 'Oh,' said Scoot. 'That's a bit sharp.' He smelled cat wee as well, and mice, and rats. There was also the smell of birds, and dust from feathers, which got in his nose a bit and made him splutter. People came this way, too, and stopped to eat food or play football. Scoot and Chip found some old socks, which smelled horribly fusty, a glove, a rubber ball that was flattened, with the wind out of it. Scoot found an empty cigarette packet that still smelled – horrible, choking, dirty.

'Don't people make some rubbish?' he said to Chip. 'They are much dirtier than we are.'

‘Yes,’ agreed Chip, ‘but there’s a very sharp, sour smell round here as well. Can you smell it? It’s fox. You want to be very careful, Scoot. They’ll chase you and kill you if they find you on the ground in the open.’

Scoot nodded, but he was no nearer seeing his bush. Then he smelled chestnuts, over to his left. He dug in the ground quickly with his long, strong, hooked claws, and soon had a pile of nuts on the grass.

‘Tak! Tak! Tak!’ Another squirrel that he did not know rushed at Scoot, hit him full on his body and knocked him over. Scoot heard the snap of its teeth, and was glad that he had spun out of reach just in time. The squirrel turned and charged at him again and Scoot, without thinking, leapt up into a gorse bush, and the thorns cut into his hands and feet. They bled and they hurt. As the squirrel turned to come at him again, suddenly there was Chip. Chip just stood upright to his full height, his tail pressed up along his back. Then he swished his tail from side to side but stayed still and glared straight at the other squirrel. It dropped onto its four feet but veered away. It did not want to get into a fight with Chip, who was bigger. Then it rushed at the nuts, picked up two handfuls and scampered off.

Chip relaxed and dropped onto his hands and feet. He smiled. ‘Never mind, Scoot,’ he said. ‘I guess you smelled the wrong nuts. They were his so we’ll let him have them. Come on. Let’s get you back to your mum and get you cleaned up.’

Scoot thought how nice it was to have friends. □




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3 – 4	River gardening best practice

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COMMUNITY DAYS

Come and join NORFOLK RIVERS TRUST for a day learning about your local river, the wildlife it supports and how we can work together to solve the threats it faces.

River Burn - Sun 9th February
 North Creake Village Hall, 10am till 4pm

River Heacham - Sat 22nd February
 Sedgford Village Hall, 10am till 4pm

River Ingol - Sat 8th March
 Snettisham Village Hall, 10am till 4pm

Dersingham Evening WI by Maggie Guest

We hope you all had a good Festive Season and send good wishes for 2014. At our AGM we elected a new committee and new officers. Our new President is Gilly Spencer and the Secretary is Stephanie Coulson. The Committee members for this year are Christine Bemrose, Pat Emsden, Antje Franke, Maggie Guest, Olive McCrea, Shirley O'Connor, Ann Saunders, Barbara Smyth, Wendy Snell and Diann Southgate. The committee meet at least once a month in members' homes and decide on the programme for the year and to discuss the finer details of each meeting or other matters as they arise. They do work hard to ensure all is well with the large group of members and that everyone has an interesting time.

A group of workers got together at Maggie's home to make decorative parcels for our Christmas Tree entry for the Tree Festival in the Church. We have been supporting The Purfleet Trust recently, so we made parcels from newspaper tied with red ribbon, which was symbolic of the homeless and the centre piece was a pair of red knitted 'hands' held out in a 'giving gesture'. The effort was collated and supervised by Rhoda, who did a brilliant job. Thank you and well done Rhoda.

Joan held a coffee morning and Shirley provided a sherry and sausage rolls/mince pie morning which was as popular and festive as always. The Theatre Group went to the 'live screening' from The Royal Opera House of The Nutcracker which proved to be a delightful evening. More such trips will be planned. A large group of our WI members went for a most enjoyable Afternoon Tea at The Hoste, Burnham Market.

The Activity Lunch Group met for lunch and a fun quiz at Thaxters before Christmas. Our main WI Christmas lunch was held at Heacham Manor which was well received by the members. The Christmas party was held the night of our last meeting in 2013. Antje gave us a talk on 'Growing up in East Germany' and she supplied the party with German food. This was followed by a fun game of Irish Bingo. *(I think explanation of the rules might be called for! Ed.)*



A party of eight WI members were lucky enough to go with Antje to Germany to see some of the Christmas Markets and visit Berlin. Wonderful to have our own interpreter! On that subject, we were invited to an adult English evening class and some of the 'students' braved speaking to us. We had taken mince pies which were a novelty for the German people. Lunch was enjoyed by our group one day in the revolving restaurant at the top of Berlin's TV Tower some 207m. high. Another treat was being fed by and visiting Antje's lovely parents at their home in Magdeburg. The festive decorations we saw in shops, homes and public spaces were very lovely and the markets full of delightful items and jolly people braving the cold. We warmed ourselves at one market with glass mugs of gluhwein and someone took a photo of us!! □



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Random Jottings

by Tony Bubb

A few issues ago I was enquiring if any readers had memories or photo's of the Isolation Hospital near the Hardwick cemetery. Nothing has come in so far but I recently discovered that there was a second one where the Hardwick industrial estate is now. Apparently it was a wooden structure that disappeared after the by-pass was built and the area developed for factories. It was sited just north of what is now Sainsburys recycling area. I have had no more luck tracking down information on this one than the other one. I suppose, by their very nature, the visiting of patients was not encouraged for fear of what you might catch. All information gratefully received.

We popped over to Sheringham just into the New Year. OK it was a decent day but I was amazed how busy it was. The streets were full of shoppers, the cafés were doing a good trade, well those that had bothered to open that is, and there was an air of prosperity about the place. For the first time ever I had a fish and chip lunch in a fish and chip shop, shall we say it was an experience. The tide was out but there was evidence of the recent tidal surge where the promenade had collapsed and some beach huts, that had not been scooped up with the majority, had been trashed by the waves. A bracing walk along the clifftops demonstrated once again that Norfolk is not flat.



One of my favourite pastimes is identifying where pictures, films and TV programmes are shot. With the advent of the video recorder, freeze framing and slow motion meant that detail could be inspected for clues. I was, for example, able to work out the locations used in "Blow up" – the film by Antonioni. Hours spent with a street atlas revealed that the park was Maryon Park in Woolwich. Other films similarly yielded their secrets to me. One of my oldest friends similarly enjoyed the hunt so I was delighted when he sent me details of Geoguessr. For those of you who have not found it, it is a website using Google's Street View to show you a place that you have to guess the location of. The closer you get the greater the score. There are often clues in the pictures –

signposts, shop names etc and other times just scrub which is Western Australia or South Africa. What you do find is that a lot of the world is very dull and a lot of the world looks like a lot of the world. It's great fun – well I think so anyway.

You may have seen the proposals to rejuvenate Lynn's Saturday Market Place. The Shambles, which occupied the site, was demolished 100 years ago this year. Originally a 14th century Charnel Chapel it was converted in 1788 to a Grammar School with a market being held underneath. In the photograph it looks to be still in reasonable condition. The outline of it is going to be shown on the ground in the re-development. □



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David Bingham The Surge

On the night of the 5th of December 2013, the east coast was hit by the biggest storm surge in sixty years. The computers at the Met Office would have been flashing a warning all day because a perfect storm was brewing. Strong winds off the northeast coast of Scotland added to a high spring tide pushing its way down the narrowing funnel of the southern North Sea. The surface of the sea was also raised because low atmospheric

pressure caused it to bulge upwards. High tide at King's Lynn was at 19:52 and it would have been a big one even without the extra push of the surge. This surge hit the coast of Norfolk with immense force and did a great deal of damage to vulnerable properties, particularly those perched on the top of soft cliffs such as those at Hemsby. Unlike the storm surge of 1953, when computers and communications systems were in their infancy, we were well prepared this time and tidal defences and early warnings worked very efficiently – not that this was much consolation to those



who suffered damage. The wilder stretches of the Norfolk coast are not well defended and at the Titchwell RSPB reserve two miles of sand dunes simply disappeared during the night. The Snettisham RSPB reserve was very badly damaged with only one of the four bird watching hides surviving the surge unscathed. The Sanctuary Hide was picked up and spun around landing in a very precarious position and the Roost Hide has been lost without trace. The famous roost bank has been severely damaged and many of the boardwalks and access roads have been completely destroyed.

The Norfolk coast is in a state of constant flux. Cliffs erode and the material is transported to form spits, beaches and dunes. Saltmarshes develop in sheltered locations and mudflats form when nutrient rich deposits brought down by the river systems come out of suspension on entering the low energy environment of The Wash. Shingle and pebble beaches are found on stretches of coast that are regularly pounded by the waves and all of these environments have their own special community of plants and animals adapted to their often harsh conditions. These natural habitats have an important role in protecting our coast. This is particularly true of saltmarshes and the Freiston RSPB reserve in Lincolnshire is an example of what is called 'managed realignment'. Sections of the outer sea wall have been removed and a saltmarsh has developed on what was farmland to create a rich wildlife habitat and to absorb the power of storm events. A new seawall has been built on the landward side of the saltmarsh but this is lower and was less expensive to construct because the saltmarsh plays its natural part in the sea defences. This approach worked well and the Freiston reserve weathered the surge with no damage at all. At Snettisham the mudflats come all the way to the outer sea wall and the environmental conditions do not favour the development of extensive saltmarsh.

The situation at the Titchwell RSPB reserve is slightly different. A new sea defence has been constructed to protect the fragile freshwater habitats and this defence held. The new defences were constructed because it was predicted that the sand dunes would soon be breached because of sea level rise. The predictions were correct. Even with the new defences considerable damage has been done to the visitor infrastructure at Titchwell.

So how did our coastal wildlife weather the storm? The pink-footed geese that were roosting on the mudflats would have simply floated on the sea when the tide came in and,



apart from a rough night's sleep, they were fine. The waders taking refuge on the normally safe roost bank would have had a very rude awakening and been forced to fly to a new roost – possibly on the agricultural land between Dersingham and the sea. The only major bird mortality event that I know about in East Anglia occurred in the Walberswick reedbeds in Suffolk. The site had been hosting one of those spectacular swirling starling flocks – known as a murmuration. The birds were roosting in the reeds and the day after the surge thousands were found dead. The surge must have hit them like a tsunami because it takes a lot to catch a flock of starlings by surprise even when they are asleep. Other wildlife fared reasonably well because coastal habitats are in constant flux – the plants and animals have a competitive advantage over organisms that require stable conditions. The brackish lagoon invertebrates at Snettisham will be fine and the flora on the shingle ridge may even benefit from a bit of disturbance. One exception is the lichen heath that had developed over many decades on the dry bare shingle between the sea walls at Snettisham. Some of this has been lost and it will take a long time to recover. This is a subtle landscape made up of pastille coloured lichens that are known by their scientific names to a handful of lichen enthusiasts. They are both attractive and useful -lichens are very sensitive to atmospheric pollution and therefore a good indicator of air quality.



Storm tide line just the other side of the wall from the Dersingham Beach track

The cost of repairs to the RSPB reserves in East Anglia has been estimated at £300 000 and a fighting fund has been launched to fix the damage (visit rspb.org.uk/news/358924-rspb-appeal-for-fighting-fund-to-fix-flood-damage). The fund is growing and individuals and organisations are being very generous with their time as well as their money. The Environment Agency are also working hard to repair damaged sea defences. Those of you who visit the Snettisham RSPB reserve along the track from Dersingham will find access very restricted at present with high water levels and no access to the beach.

There are also some Dersingham residents with disabilities who have special access permits allowing them to drive onto the reserve through the chalets. This is not possible just now because of damage to the roadway including severe damage to the access ramp onto the seawall, which changed from a gentle slope into a sheer cliff overnight. The photos show some of the destruction at Snettisham and Titchwell. The one of the tide line on the inner sea wall at Snettisham, taken by Steve Davis, is a sobering reminder of how close the surge came to flooding the land towards Dersingham. This did happen in 1953 when I understand the flood waters came within a couple of hundred yards of the line of the modern by-pass. The reason it didn't this time was probably because the winds weren't that strong and neither were they blowing directly onshore at the height of the tide. The storm surge was headline news for a day or so but wasn't dramatic enough to keep the newsrooms interested and they soon turned elsewhere (to South Africa). I'm writing this article in early January and once again the media are focussing on floods in the West Country.

I was on the Snettisham reserve the morning after the surge when the water levels were still very high and it was a disorienting experience. What had been a well known landscape had been transformed into somewhere alien and unrecognisable. I met two people that morning - a lady who simply said that it was a 'tragedy' and a man who said that this is what makes living on a dynamic and ever changing coastline so interesting. I'm guessing that they would have had different opinions about what should be done to protect the coast. Some people want more and bigger hard defences and others believe that allowing nature to take its course is the best - and cheapest – option. I favour natural defences but there will obviously be exceptions to this when built up areas and critical infrastructure or habitats need to be protected. The news media don't dwell on these events for long but it is important to understand what is happening, particularly for us because we live on the front-line of a rapidly changing coast. It is also important to reflect on why these events are happening and to consider what we need to do about it. □



Another strong gust and it's right over!
(Note too the missing causeway)

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As well as beautiful countryside, scenic coast lines and thriving towns, the people of East Anglia have something else to be grateful for! The East Anglian Air Ambulance is delighted to announce that it is now operating a full night-time Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS). The HEMS team will cover all six counties covered by the East of England Ambulance Service between the hours of 5pm to 1am.

Achieving night flying approval couldn't be more timely. As the evenings draw in, and many of us are travelling to and from work in the dark, it is reassuring to know that should the unthinkable happen, the East Anglian Air Ambulance will be there to help.

This is new ground for the Civil Aviation Authority, the UK aviation regulator, as well as for the EAAA. To finally get approval for night-time missions took almost a year. It was then necessary for our pilots, paramedics and doctors to receive extensive training.

The aircraft had to be modified to accommodate working with night vision goggles (NVG). Lighting in the cockpit was changed and additional room was required to accommodate the pilot's NVG. It was also essential to install a more sophisticated navigation system; as well as a Power line Detection System, a Trakka searchlight for the undercarriage, and put fluorescent markings on all equipment!



And when all these modifications had been approved the actual flight testing begins! A very long and challenging process, but incredibly rewarding if it means we can help more people in East Anglia.

The EAAA 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 and 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.

For more information about the East Anglian Air Ambulance or to find out how you can support our work, please visit our website www.eaaa.org.uk □

Tim Page – Chief Executive EAAA



Gardening with Disabilities

We are a support group encouraging and enabling people to manage their own gardens. We have talks and demonstrations, outings, garden visits and our own flower show in the summer. Our usual venue is the conservatory at Park House on the third Friday of the month from 2 to 4pm.

We ended 2013 with an excellent Christmas lunch at the Knights Hill Hotel and now, after a few weeks of armchair gardening, with the catalogues from the plant and seed companies, which seem to arrive by every post, we are looking forward to a new season:

Friday 21st Feb

A talk by Jane Lister of Hoecroft Plants

Plants will be available for purchase.

(NB This meeting will be at St. Nicholas' Church Hall.)

Friday 21st March

AGM followed by a talk on Trees

For further details please contact Joan & Ray Thomas on 01485 540712. □

Village Voice Live



An Evening with Chris Knights—Tuesday 3rd December 2013

Actually a better title would have been “A Jolly Good Evening with Chris Knights” which was enjoyed by some 75 people, quite a lot of whom were new faces to these evenings. Fairly local but internationally renowned photographer Chris got into his stride with some images of woodcock including one moving sequence of a bird bobbing up and down which got a good laugh. We were then treated to a short interlude as the computer, the source of his material, updated itself – isn’t

technology wonderful? Unfazed by this Chris then took us through a whole panoply of avian life to be found around here and in Breckland with a few deer thrown in for good measure. Some great pictures taken at Snettisham, one of his favourite haunts, finished off the first half. Festive refreshments in the form of mulled drinks and mince pies were taken at the interval and after the customary raffle our speaker showed pictures of his recent whale watching trip to Alaska. Big brutes these whales, splashing around in the icy waters oblivious to the watching boats circling round them. The audience fired a few questions to finish off a very enjoyable evening and Chris was given a donation for his charitable favourite – MacMillan nurses.

Dumpling

The Gaywood Valley Archaeological and History Project—Tuesday 7th January 2014

If you look on the Ordnance Survey map for the Lynn area it is easy to find the Gaywood River as it winds its way near North Lynn and through Gaywood on its way to join the River Great Ouse. Tracing its route back in the other direction towards Great Massingham requires sharper eyesight but on Tuesday evening Dr. Clive Bond spoke to a well filled hall about the Gaywood Valley Project. The Gaywood Valley extends from King’s Lynn



to Great Massingham and the aim of the project was to involve the communities that were linked by the river valley in archaeological digs and investigations into the history of their area. This would involve field walking, digging test pits, spade pits, metal detection, building surveys, and studying maps. Unlike programmes like Time Team on television where the experts did the work, the most important aspect of this project was that the local people would be fully involved in all aspects of the investigation. A successful application was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and in July 2012 a grant of £9,900 was obtained. Seven activity weekends were organised and work was carried out at Fairstead, Gayton, Grimston, Gaywood, Great Massingham, Congham and North Lynn. In each place we saw how, just in one small test pit, a wealth of material could be found to provide evidence of the people who once lived in the area. In some instances the finds dated back to Neolithic times. Any member of the community could join in as there was work to suit all ages. If you were not able to dig the pits there was work in washing and cataloguing the finds, studying old documents, helping to compile reports or preparing information to be put on the internet. So children and adults of all ages were seen busy at work learning new skills, meeting new friends and generally having a great time. This seemed the most important part of the project although it was very exciting when an unusual or rare artefact was uncovered. A rare piece of Samian pottery, a Roman brooch, a coin or rare metal finds caused great excitement and certainly raised the interest among the audience. One member asked if such a project could be started here in Dersingham. It would need very careful planning as there are several scheduled areas in this village so expert advice and permissions would have to be obtained. Moreover there is a cost to such an undertaking and funds would need to be obtained. Still Dr Bond’s talk created much interest so who knows perhaps someone here might be prepared to start the ball rolling. It was a fascinating talk and I for one would like to find out more about what was uncovered and the insight it gave into the people who have lived here over hundreds of years.

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MONDAY	12.15 - 1.00 pm	Fitness Pilates <i>suitable for all levels</i>	Headham Public Hall PE31 7HG
MONDAY	1.05 - 2.05 pm	Zumba Gold (gentle Zumba workout) <i>suitable for all levels</i>	Headham Public Hall PE31 7HG
TUESDAY	10.00 - 11.00am	Active Seniors (gentle aerobics) <i>suitable for all levels</i>	Ingoldsthorpe Village Hall PE31 6NZ
TUESDAY	6.00 - 7.00 pm	● Zumba <i>shimmy shake and have fun an all over body workout</i>	Ingoldsthorpe Village Hall PE31 6NZ
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WEDNESDAY	10.15 - 11.15 am	Zumba <i>shimmy shake and have fun an all over body workout</i>	Ingoldsthorpe Village Hall PE31 6NZ
WEDNESDAY	11.30 - 12.30 pm	● Fitness Pilates <i>suitable for all levels</i>	Ingoldsthorpe Village Hall PE31 6NZ
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News from St Cecilia's Church

We would like to extend to you all our very best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Both Churches looked beautiful over the Christmas period, thanks to the hard work of the volunteers who cleaned, set up the cribs and prepared the floral displays in both churches.

The Year of Faith, which was started by Pope Benedict to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, ended in November, the end of the Church's year. The start of the new Church year is now leading to a period of new evangelisation. Bishop Alan said as part of his address after the procession and vigil "We must let Christ touch and transform our personal lives so that our actions are in tune with the faith we profess. We must let that same Christ touch our parishes and communities so that they are ever-more welcoming places in which those seeking hope and reconciliation can meet Christ. Finally, we must go out and share the Light of Christ with others. That is the mission of the whole Church, bishop, clergy, religious and lay people."

We will be arranging our social calendar shortly for the coming year. The first social occasion is usually the Pancake supper at St Cecilia's on the evening of Shrove Tuesday. Look for details on the website or the bulletins, which are displayed at both churches.

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 10.15am 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. Our daily Masses are held at St Theresa's Convent, 27 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, except on Wednesday when it is usually at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. Please check for dates and times on Church notice boards, website or phone. Sunday Masses are 9am at Dersingham and 11am at Hunstanton.

The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

If you require a Priest please telephone Fr Peter Rollings on 01553 772220.

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org □



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Dick Melton

My mother and I first moved to Dersingham in 1945 and we lived at 'Perdac' No 41. It was a semi-detached bungalow and my father's sister, my Aunt Nell, and my three cousins lived next door at number 39.

We then moved to 'Restu' No 63 Lynn Road, a detached house, in 1946. Then my father joined us in 1948 when he came out of the army after serving for 25 years. Five years of them he spent in a German POW camp. My father always

wanted to come back and settle in Dersingham as he was born there in 1909 down Manor Road in 'Tresco Cottage' No 28. He got a job as the caretaker at St George's Secondary Modern School up Dodds Hill, where he stayed for 25 years until he was 65.

When we moved into Lynn Road (it was called Dun Cow Lane) it was a very busy road, as the by-pass was not built until 1990 so all the traffic used this road. Just after the Second World War this road was the second busiest road in England in the summer months, the busiest road being London to Brighton. Most of the houses in Lynn Road were built around 1900 though a few were built later. The Dun Cow was pulled down in the Nineties, though there had been a public house on the site since around 1800. When I was a boy we had one or two shops in Lynn Road: Mr Whisker ran a small grocery shop at No 50 and Fred Wagg had a cycle shop at No 40. There was a hairdressers at No 18 and the garage No 68 was run by Eric Hyner, who also had charabancs (coaches). The garage was then taken over by a Mr Charles Whisker (no relation to the grocery shop man), he had two sons and run the garage for many years. I remember one incident when he was there: he got some travelling men to spray tar on the garage roof, it was a windy day and some of the tar blew on to a field of ripe barley and it ruined the whole crop.

The field of barley that I have just mentioned was behind the garage and belonged to Ken Martins at 'Rose Cottage' No 60. Ken took this smallholding on just after the war, so he has been there for a good 60 years and he is still there today. A lot of young lads who lived in Lynn Road worked for Ken from time to time, including myself, Alec Howard and the late Tony Wagg. I can honestly say this, that I learnt a lot more from Ken Martins than I ever learnt at school.

Now lets cross the road and talk about Pleasant Place. That is numbers 75, 77, 79 and 81 Lynn Road. Dear old Mr Mickleburgh lived in No 75 and his garden ran down behind our garden at 63. Down the bottom of his garden, where the Bowls Club is now, he had his beehives. After he died Mr and Mrs Jeffries and their children came to live there. Mr Jeffries was a lengths man for the river board who looked after the marshes. In No 77 lived Mr Porter and his wife, who was the daughter of the man next door, Mr Mickleburgh. They had two sons, one of whom went to live in Australia. Mrs Porter was very religious and she would walk by our house twice on a Sunday on her way back and to the chapel in Post Office Road.

In No 79 lived Fred Howard and his wife. Fred was one of the strongest and hard workingmen I have ever known. He worked as a team man (horse man) at High Farm No 94 Hunstanton Road for James Jackson, who also at the time farmed down Centre Vale. Fred kept pigs up the top of his garden in a couple of sties; he had an allotment right up the top of Fern Hill. When he mucked his pigs out he would load all the muck onto an old wooden wheelbarrow and push it all the way to the top of Fern Hill, this was about one mile in distance. Also Fred did not use straw to litter down his pigs, he would go over the Shut-up Common and cut the bracken. Then, when it had dried out, he would cart it home. He would also use bracken to put around his potato grave (clamp). Fred had a son, Alec, who still lives in Dersingham today.

Next we come to No 81 Lynn Road or No 4 Pleasant Place, where Joe Painter lived. One of the most well known men in the village, Joe lived here with his wife, son and daughter. I have wrote about Joe many times before but I will just mention what he was well known for - his pansies, bonfires and go-sunders (chamber pots). Joe, like Fred Howard, was always at work; he was a bricklayer on Sandringham estate in the daytime, but in his spare time he done all sorts of building jobs around the village; he was also the village chimney sweep. In 1946 Joe's wife, Edna, my mum, Mrs Twite and a Mrs Bunn all went to work in Hunstanton for the Eldorado ice cream company. All four of them would catch the bus every day in the summer months and work in twos in their little kiosks on Hunstanton Promenade, cutting up the blocks of ice cream, putting them between two wafers and selling them for sixpence each. All four of them done this until 1953 when they left for other jobs, but these four ladies stayed friends right to the end of their lives.

All of the boys that lived in Lynn Road and the top end of Manor Road spent most of our spare time playing on the Common, the Fen or Shut-up Common. In the summertime we would go down The Drift, between No 52 and 54, to swim in the shingle pits, but one of our favourite places to play was on the open ground right next to 81 Lynn Road that was called Hoddy's Hole. You would not think so if you look at this area of ground today, but then days it was a flat area with no bushes or trees and we played football and cricket on it with goal posts made out of birch trees. Why was it called 'Hoddy's Hole'? Well, when my father was a boy an old man called Hoddy lived in a hovel (hut made of turf) right up the corner and the name has stuck ever since.

As us boys got bigger we went further away than Hoddy's Hole and a gang of us built a cycle speedway track on Shut-up Common, the remains of it can be seen today. There was also the village dump that was just to your right as you went onto Shut-up Common until it was moved to the bottom of the second hill on the Fen. One thing I always remember was that as you went from Shut-up Common into Dersingham Wood there was a bridge over the dyke made out of old railway sleepers; and always each summer time there would be a jenny wren's nest under that bridge.

Now a bit about the best place on earth, the Fen, Dersingham Fen. Whenever I went out mother would ask where I was going. If I said the Fen, she would always say stay away from the Red Dyke. This dyke that runs from the end of Babingley House garden looks red because of the red clay mud in the bottom; the water is only about one foot deep, but the mud is at least two feet deep. Joe Painter had a longhaired Jack Russell that got stuck in the mud and drowned because he could not get out. This dyke went to the railway line where it went through a tunnel and then along past the Little Wood. As it got over the marsh and nearer the sea the mud turned to black instead of red. Up until the First World War there was a rifle range on the Fen and we would hunt around in the sand by the old target area to find any spent shells. Those days the Fen was full of birds and wild animals and some days we would walk right across the Fen to Wolferton Cut. This was like a sandy cliff where a lot of sand martins built their nests each summer. So you see if you lived anywhere in Lynn Road, especially the southern end, you always had plenty of choice of where to go and play.

I have written before about the bonfires that Joe Painter had each bonfire night (November the 5th), that the main reason they were so good was the fact that Eric Hyner and Charles Whisker would give Joe all of their old rubber tyres. But there was many fires on the two commons and the Fen at other times, especially in the summertime as a lot of these fires started when we had steam engines running on the railway. The firemen on the trains would chuck the cinders out on the side of the track and set light to the grass along the side of the track. Many times the fires have spread right from the railway line across the road and onto Shut-up Common and the open common. Pleasant Place and the garage have been threatened more than once but always the firemen managed to put them out in time. Not all the fires were lit by the railway; sometimes glass bottles on the dump would get hot due to the heat from the sun and this would set fire to the nearby grass and then spread. At one time there was so many fires that a fire track was made for the fire engines from Dersingham sandpit right along to the cut at Wolferton. When the bungalows were built on Tucks Old Field (Manor side) a firebreak was made by a bulldozer from Hoddy's Hole right through to Heath Road.

Well I think that's about all I can think of for now about Lynn Road, Dersingham and Pleasant Place and I hope it will be of some interest to all who read it. □


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'PRIVATE HEALTH RECOGNISED'

Dersingham Guides, Brownies and Rainbows by Lynne Wheeler, Elizabeth Wheeler and Emma Eyre

Here are just some of the things the girls have been involved with over the past term:

Shoebbox Appeal

Members of all four Dersingham Guide Groups - Rainbows, 1st & 2nd Brownies, Guides packed Shoebboxes for the Samaritans Purse Show Box appeal filling 16 shoebboxes between them.



2014 Flanders Poppy Appeal

Members of all four Guide Groups have planted Flanders Poppy Seeds around the war memorial in St Nicholas Churchyard as part of the lead up to the World War I commemorations next year. The hope is that next summer the poppies will be flowering around the memorial.



St Nicholas Christmas Tree Festival

All the girls have made decorations for their tree, which they have decorated themselves. Every group has done something different and it looks very Christmassy.



1st Dersingham Brownies

We finished the end of term with an outing to Farmer Fred's Play Barn in Heacham where the Brownies thoroughly enjoyed playing on the equipment. They all had a party tea of pizza and chips and ice-cream. The Brownies all went home with a Christmas gift and feeling weary. It was a lovely way to end another busy year!



2nd Dersingham Brownies – Circus Sleepover

The 2nd Dersingham Brownies started half-term with a Circus Sleepover at Hunstanton Methodist Hall. The Brownies all gained their Circus Performer Badge with the aid of Crazy Bananas who came to run a circus skills workshop for them during the evening. The girls had a go at juggling, mini tricycles, ribbons, puppets, peddle wheels etc. Each six then performed a show for the rest of the Brownies.



1st Dersingham Guides – Big Gig

5 members of the Guides joined others from our division at the Big Gig at Wembley Arena in London for a Guide - only pop concert. 23,000 Guides over 2 performances saw Little Mix, Union J, Katy B and more. It was quite an experience!



Sailing

During half-term the Guides went to Brancaster Activity Centre where they went sailing. The girls had an enjoyable time, learning how to sail.



Bellringing

The Guides enjoyed an evening at St Nicholas Church where they visited the Bell ringers. The girls were fascinated by how the bells are actually rung. Those who wanted to were able to have a "first lesson" with an experienced ringing, learning how to ring one of the two stokes - backstroke. They also went up to have a closer look at the bells and saw how bells are attached to a wheel and rung "upside down" - the mouth of the bell is pointing upwards. □

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Butterfly Transect Report for 2013

by Brian Anderson

Last year I reported on the setting-up of a butterfly recording transect on the old railway line between Ingoldisthorpe and Dersingham. This the second year and I can now just begin to develop some statistical comparisons. It is, however, as the notes show, early days yet. The table below shows the comparison of the two years. But please read the notes for caveats!

(Dictionary definition of TRANSECT: a sample strip of land used to monitor plant distribution and animal populations within a given area. Ed)

Common name	Scientific name	2012 count	2013 count	%age change
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	0	4	See note 2
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	0	0	See note 2
Small/Essex Skipper		3	0	See note 2
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	18	6	-66.7
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	1	1	0.0
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	12	53	+341.7
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	21	112	+433.3
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	7	17	+142.9
Orange tip	<i>Anthocaris cardamines</i>	3	5	66.7
Purple Hairstreak	<i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>	0	1	See note 3
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phleas</i>	1	1	0.0
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	1	1	0.0
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	2	1	-50.0
White Admiral	<i>Limentis camilla</i>	1	0	-100.0
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	12	8	-33.3
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	1	0	-100.0
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	2	55	+2650.0
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	36	95	+163.9
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	12	3	-75.0
Speckled Wood	<i>Parage aegeria</i>	29	11	-62.1
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata mergera</i>	0	1	See note 3
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	28	48	+71.4
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtinia</i>	7	26	+271.4
Ringlet	<i>Aphanopus hyperantus</i>	35	78	+122.9

Note 1: Changes to small numbers produce dramatically large percentage variations. It's an empirical convention that serious statistical analysis can't really be done on samples of less than 30. A better approach than the one I've used above is to show the current year as a percentage of the longer term average - but with only two years I can't do that (yet)!

Note 2: Small and Essex Skippers can be hard to distinguish in the field (the only way is to look at the undersurface of the antennae tips - they're orange in the Small and black in the Essex). Thus, the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme allows a composite report for the two species (sometimes called the "Smessex" Skipper). I was lucky in 2013 to get close enough to be sure.

Note 3: A percentage change cannot be assigned to a species that was seen in 2013 but not in 2012. To do so would mean dividing by 0, a forbidden operation. (For the geeks amongst you, the best you can do is $a/b \rightarrow \infty$ as $b \rightarrow 0$ - otherwise you can "prove" $1 = 2!$)

Comments on selected species.

Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Meadow Brown and Ringlet: All these showed increases year on year of more than 100 per cent and also significant increases in absolute numbers. The transect results for these species were replicated in casual recording elsewhere in the village and more widely. The Small Tortoiseshell has had a particularly good year after some poor years. The reason for the recent decline in Small Tortoiseshell numbers is still in dispute. Many think that a parasitic fly *Sturmia bella* is responsible. It lays its eggs in the butterfly caterpillar and the adults emerge later from the dead larva (if you've seen the *Alien* films you get the idea). Others attribute the decline to changing weather patterns in recent years. It's possible both have played a part - in southern Britain the decline may have been exacerbated by *Sturmia bella* but less so in the north where the fly is less commonly recorded.

Orange Tip: The decline in Orange Tip records may be due to the weather - it's a univoltine (single-brooded) species that flies in the spring and the great summer we had did start rather late.

Purple Hairstreak: This is the first transect record for this species. Most Hairstreaks are under-recorded on transects as they rarely come down from the treetops (the Green Hairstreak being an exception). This one, a female, was sitting demurely on a *Buddleia* leaf at eye-height!

Painted Lady: This is where the vagaries of low statistics get you. They were generally much more common in the village than last year but just didn't happen to be on the transect at the right time.

Other species seen but not on the transect: I saw two Clouded Yellows - one in the Churchyard and one in our garden. They often appear when the Painted Lady is common. And one Dark Green Fritillary, rather worn and on a *Buddleia* bush at the end of Station Road. □



Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

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

on Tuesday 25th February 2014 at 7:30pm

An Illustrated talk by Chris Knights

Chris Knights is well known to many as a Breckland farmer, conservationist, award winning photographer, film maker and a member of NarVOS. His talk is as yet untitled but we are sure that it will be just as entertaining and informative as last year's that attracted a record attendance.

and Tuesday 25th March 2014 at 7:30pm

The Jewel Hunter

We privileged to welcome Chris Gooddie, author of *The Jewel Hunter*. This talk will chart his pursuit to see 32 pitta species across Asia, Africa and Australia, birding gems in 12 months, having given up his job to fulfil an impossible dream.

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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Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly

by Alice Worth



On January 8th the Dersingham Day Centre was back after the Christmas holiday and, as usual, it was good to see all our members again and to catch up on their news. It seems a long time ago now that we ended 2013 with a variety of special events.

At the end of November we celebrated our 32nd Birthday Party with a special lunch and entertainment. On the 4th December we were pleased to welcome the choir from Dersingham V.A. School. They were in great form and their singing was enjoyed by us all. It was nice to see the children afterwards circulating amongst our Members and chatting away. We hope they will come and sing to us again in the New Year.

Throughout the Autumn session members and volunteers had been busy making decorations for the Day Centre Christmas Tree, which was to be part of St Nicholas's Tree Festival held each December. We were very proud of the final result and received a lot of compliments on our effort. Every tree was special and it was obviously a labour of love for all the participants. The whole event was delightful and well worth visiting. On the Wednesday following the Festival, and despite the very cold weather, we were able to take Members across to the church to see the final result of their efforts and those of other organizations in the village.



All that remained then was to have our Christmas Party on December 18th, our last meeting of the year. Unfortunately our regular entertainer at Christmas and Easter, Leigh Murfet, was in hospital and unable to be with us this year, but we sent him best wishes for a speedy recovery. Nevertheless, after a superb traditional Christmas lunch, cooked by Carol Kenny and her merry helpers in the kitchen, and as tradition now dictates, the Vicar Michael Brock and Curate Julie Boyd led us in singing Carols, accompanied by Caroline Brock on piano. The afternoon ended with tea and home-made mince-pies, kindly donated yet again by Hazel Wolff, and each Member was given a Christmas card and present. Both Volunteers and Members were also given a large box of chocolates, donated anonymously to the Day Centre. On behalf of us all I would like to thank that person for his kind generosity yet again this year.

So ended another successful and happy year for the Day Centre and we hope that the coming year will be a good one for us and all Village Voice readers. □

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A Landlubber All at Sea

by John Delaney

"Whatever you do, don't go into the Army" (my friend's words) "It's all square-bashing and spit and polish Oh! and go for a trade, so that you are not just a dogsbody".

I was due for call-up for National Service and I must have listened to him, because I ended up as an electrical trainee in the Royal Navy. After basic training, I was drafted to a ship called 'Woodbridge Haven', a frigate attached to the submarine flotilla based at Rosyth in Scotland. There was a large depot ship there named 'Montclare' which contained

within its cavernous proportions, facilities for the maintenance and repair of submarines of every type. In addition, it acted as a giant mooring buoy for dozens of submarines. Shortly after I arrived, Montclare went away for a refit, and thereafter, Woodbridge Haven was required to fulfil Montclare's role. When moored side-by-side against the relatively small ship, the long line of submarines resembled a Giants Causeway. It was interesting to observe the comings and goings of these boats. (Submarines are classed as boats - not ships). One Skipper's technique had about it a bull-in-a-china shop element, and among the matelots his arrival prompted the observation that "Earthquake Ernie's back!" He was well-named. It really did feel like an earth tremor as he came alongside.

A note appeared on the ship's notice board offering to non-submariners, a day's experience of life beneath the waves. At this time the subs' daily routine involved cat and mouse exercises with surface ships, the latter using grenades in lieu of depth charges. Such an opportunity I could not resist and after filling in a form detailing name and address of next-of-kin (!) I boarded an A-class submarine, the name of which escapes me. It was a fascinating day. I think that we may have 'lost' on this occasion, because one of the grenades was very close indeed. It made a noise, the volume of which made me feel very thankful that it wasn't a depth charge.



Every cubic inch being vital within the confines of a submarine's hull, ammunition was stowed, among other places, on the mess decks, in racks resembling those found in a railway carriage. The ammo, was contained in airtight tins, which naturally reacted to 'outside' pressure changes. When the submarine dived, the tins in chorus made a certain popping sound. When heading back to the surface, the ammo played a different tune and, in time, the pressure on one's ears related in some way to the 'tune' being played! I imagined that I could interpret whether we were rising or descending. It was a fascinating experience and an opportunity not to be missed.

Feeding my habit of looking at notice boards, I was astonished one day to find my own name on one particular notice, and to find that it was displayed more than once. It was a list of entrants for a forthcoming sports spectacular (that was what they called it). An inter-divisional contest to be fought out on land and in water. In the pool, each contestant had to swim two lengths. I was listed to take part in the rowing, plus two pool disciplines: the crawl and the backstroke. I was an experienced oarsman and I was tidy in the crawl but not the backstroke! My technique involved a frog's legs kick, combined with a sliding movement of the arms up and down on each side of the body, turning the hands outwards on each down stroke. I went to see the organiser to explain why I should not do the backstroke. He told me that I was entered in the National Service division and that in the entire navy only four hundred-odd national servicemen were ever taken on (not to be confused with 'hostilities only' men) and those were spread about the country, so few could be made available. All I had to do, he said was to complete two lengths to earn one valuable point for the team: so that was what I had to do! On the day, I completed my two lengths, and the second length all but held up the start of the next event! I



received the biggest cheer of the day, combined as one can imagine, with some unprintable advice and suggestions! At this time (1948) there were still many mines adrift, which were a real threat to shipping. Woodbridge Haven was equipped to deal with these, and at any time of the day or night, orders could be received to

proceed to such-and-such, where a mine had been reported. The ship's boilers were kept 'warm' at all times for a quick get-away. To sink the mines, we had on board a Bisley Champion, whose shooting accuracy had to be seen to be believed. He had a favourite rifle, which I understood was a first war weapon. Whenever we could, we used to watch him in action. It was a demonstration of world-class marksmanship.

Another task allocated to the ubiquitous Woodbridge Haven was that of target-towing for the benefit of the submarines' gunners. For this purpose, there was a target which resembled a floating cricket sight-screen, with a canvas-covered area through which the shells would hopefully pass to record a hit. Hit or miss, the shells, when they struck the water were at such a shallow angle that they tended to spin base over apex, which induced a very rapid swish-swish-swish noise, as heard on all the best Hollywood action movies! The tow (rope) was reassuringly long!

At a later stage in my national service, I was based at Portsmouth, and it was there that I took up another notice-board offer. This was an invitation to 'crew' for a Lieutenant-Commander. 'No previous experience necessary' the notice said.

I understood that the Royal Navy had in its possession, several choice vessels commandeered at the time of Germany's defeat. The one that was the subject of this notice was a very smart sailing vessel, having been the property of one Hermann Goering.

At the appointed time, I and four other chaps mustered on the quayside - Along came the Lieutenant Commander who welcomed us informally, and his whole demeanour augured well for the coming trip - (quote ... "when I say pull on this or that piece of string - just, pull it!")

We got under way and, when it all came together, the boat proved to be a real cracker. We sped along in the Channel until 'at a given' point we sailed into a natural bay, where the anchors were deployed. The crew thought it a good idea to have a swim and we asked permission to do just that. We had no swimwear, so it had to be a birthday-suit job. We dived in and realised our mistake. It was freezing cold - well afterwards we checked with the 'constant-reading sea temperature thermometer' which was (wouldn't it be?) standard equipment on the German vessel. It actually read 41°F - not a comfortable temperature for swimming!

We struck out vigorously to try to keep the circulation going and at that point we heard a vessel approaching. It

was one of those magnificent carvel-built mahogany twin-engined speed boats of 1930s vintage. At the helm was a very smart young lady who, with great panache brought the boat alongside. Greetings were



exchanged and the pair of them sat on deck together, unhappily within sight of the plebeian pile which comprised our clothes! We were perplexed. We convened a meeting, held under the counter stern, out of sight. We tried to formulate a plan of action but no solution was forthcoming because there was none. The real problem was that the naval officer was a decent

fellow and we didn't want to offend him by embarrassing his girl-friend.

At the eleventh hour, there was a sudden burst of sound which could only have been those engines! With a flourish the girl shot off into the distance. Greatly relieved, we scrambled out of the water as fast as our cold bones would allow. We could scarcely speak because our jaws were chattering so, but we told of our dilemma and of our reluctance to engage in any full-frontal displays! He thanked us and added (more from kindness than conviction) "You never know she might have liked it".

I was called-up at a time when the duration of the National Service term was eighteen months. After demobilisation we had yet to serve three 3-week refresher courses spread over three years. For one of these, I was sent to the aircraft carrier 'Centaur' which carried for its air arm the Hornet fighter - a handsome relation of the Mosquito. The air operations were fascinating, and in complete contrast with my previous experiences. Of necessity, the planes came aboard at a rate of knots, but unlike little Woodbridge Haven with 'Ernie' the relatively massive carrier was not affected. At an early stage I gave up hope of matching my submarine trip with one in an aeroplane - the Hornet was a single-seater!



Looking back, although I was happy to take my friend's advice regarding choice of service, I nevertheless met with an unforeseen snag. I was prone to sea-sickness. Despite assurances that, given time, my system would adjust to combat the sickness, it did not happen. On numerous occasions, my shipmates would assure me that the water was as flat as the proverbial millpond, I was not convinced - and neither was my tummy! My turn came when, sailing from Londonderry to Oban we encountered a force-twelve gale. Being used to the misery of the *mal de mer*, I was able to carry on, where many of my messmates were hors de combat! When it came to de-mob time, I was offered a chance of a commission, but sadly I felt that Mother Nature had tried to tell me something....

.....something like 'you should have gone into the army!' □



West Norfolk

News from West Norfolk Mind

West Norfolk Mind are delighted to have been selected as **KLFM Radio's Charity of the Month for February 2014** which provides excellent opportunities to tell the community what services are available and helps promote your forthcoming events so please listen out or look on their website, Facebook Page or Twitter for all our news, events and personal stories.

The local charity are committed to working towards combating stigma around mental health and are involved in the **national 'Time to Talk' campaign on 6th February** with their main event at the Olive Branch Café, Hillington Square, King's Lynn 11am – 3pm where you can get free tea or coffee, have a chat, get information or join in our activities and write on the pledge wall. The campaign aims to instigate 1 millions conversations on that day and if you would like to organise a small event please contact Zena on the number below or see the website for details:

www.time-to-change.org.uk/talkday

2014 is feeling brighter at West Norfolk Mind having secured some new contracts, a little funding due to the continued commitment and hard work of the staff and volunteers. However there are still areas of our service that could be in jeopardy if we don't continue to increase our fundraising income. We hope to dramatically increase our team running in this year's **10K Grand East Anglian Run on 4th May** – it's a fantastic event and a great reason to get fit so please contact Zena Penty zena.penty@westnorfolkmind.org.uk 01485 572707 for a sponsorship form and **sign up to join our team.**

January saw the start of 2 new groups at our King's Lynn Centre: an Older Persons service every Monday for people experiencing early onset of dementia and a Peer Support group every Friday which complements the new Resilience Project that provides a selection of free workshops to adults who need low level support with their wellbeing.

For more details of our range of services or to arrange an informal visit www.westnorfolkmind.org.uk or contact our Head Office on 01553 776966. □



Dersingham in May

Do you remember when the days were warm and the air balmy with the perfume of flowers? Yes, well you must have been one of the many who visited Dersingham Open Gardens last year.

This time, Open Gardens will be even bigger and better than before, so make sure you put Sunday and Monday 25th – 26th May in your diaries. It's the late May Bank Holiday so there is a fair chance of decent weather, but if not there are some new under cover activities to entice you out. This year's event is titled Dersingham in

May, and brings together Open Gardens, an Art Trail and a Village Fair in a glorious weekend of something for people of all ages.

Of course, there will be plenty of gardens to wander round, some new and some old familiar friends. Along the way you will find that some of the gardens will be part of the Dersingham Art Trail so you can pop into a few art studios, chat to the artists and study their work. There will be stalls in St Nicholas Court offering craftwork, plants and delicious foods.

If you have youngsters with you, they may well enjoy the games and other fun events that will be added features this year. Should the weather be less than the best, or your feet need a rest, you can get an earful of easy listening jazz as Ken Warner's Cocktail Jazz Band entertains in St Nicholas Church. Another good chance to rest the feet and to restore your energy levels will be the cream teas that have always been a part of Open Gardens and are now extended to include lunches too.

With all that on offer, you really have to be there. At DersinghamInMay.org.uk you can get the latest on everything happening. The gardeners, artists and everyone else involved all look forward to meeting you!

By the way, there are still stalls available in St Nicholas Court, so if you are looking for a place to sell your wares look no further. Contact Judy Collingham on 01485 540271. Likewise, if you would like to open your garden or display your artwork, please get in touch. □ *Stephen Martyn*



John Lambert

Memories of the 2nd World War Years

I was 6 years old when the war started. This particular time in my memories I would have been 8 years old. My mother said her and I had to cycle up to Ipswich from the little roundhouse at Martlesham where we lived to see her mother and father because they had been bombed out in the raid.

The area of Ipswich where they lived was "Lower Dales", it was an un-made road and consisted of a row of houses, I think they were built to accommodate the workers at the brickworks.

When we got to my grandparents' house, the house next door had taken a direct hit, half of the upper floor was still there but the double bed was hanging from the upper floor and the people who were in it were killed. As far as my grandparents were concerned, Granddad got under the kitchen table and Grandma dived into the cupboard under the stairs. There were 16 children in mum's family, most of them had been round earlier so there wasn't much for us to do.

When we got back to our little roundhouse we were in for a shock. There had been bombing all round, the windows were all blown in and the ceilings were down. It just so happened that Dad was ploughing in the field opposite our house, had seen all the bombers flying over and watched the bombs coming out so he jumped off the tractor and laid in the furrow under the tractor until the raid was over.

We carried on living in the roundhouse, Dad went down to the farm, got some more glass for the windows and that was that. There was always plenty of excitement around Martlesham as the airfield was a Hurricane and Lancaster base. □





Dersingham Institute Bowls Club by Richard Bridges

The club members are to remove the tall conifer trees that stand next to the club as the tree roots are infringing on the playing surface of the green and are also preventing light and warmth reaching the green. A site visit by Collier Turf Care is booked for Thursday 16th January to inspect and advise on the condition of the Green, Collier

Turf Care provide us with fertilizers and seed and advice throughout the bowling season. The lowering of the perimeter hedges is due to start on Saturday 18th January, all the work as usual being carried out by club members.

The bowls club are set to purchase a new large storage shed having received a large donation from a club member towards the cost. An area will be cleared to accommodate the shed with the work starting around the 25th January.

The club recently held a 'Sellathon' table top sale of bric-a-brac items which raised an amazing total of £479 for club funds. Special thanks must go to Brenda Hollywood and club treasurer Freda Wren who organised and ran the event along with all their helpers, club chairman quoted - 'a terrific effort by all our members involved, considering this was the first time we have tried this as a fund raiser'.

The club will open the season with a 'signing on day' on April 5th with a light buffet, old and new members welcome. If you are interested in joining Dersingham Institute Bowls Club then please ring Richard Bridges on 01485 571496, the bowling season will start on the 12th April, both the April events start at 2pm. □



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Dersingham Walking Group

Welcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides regular guided walks round the local countryside. Our last walk of 2013 was on Boxing Day, when Tony Bubb led a circuit from Shernborne, under blue skies and with sixteen people all keen to walk off the Christmas turkey! In the coming weeks we've got walks coming up at Old Hunstanton, Sandringham and a completely

different route from Shernborne. None of these are too far from the village, but I'm sure there'll be some footpaths you haven't trodden before, particularly when we visit Old Hunstanton Park which is only open one day a week.

The walks are free and there's no need to book, just turn up on the day wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. Dogs are welcome, provided they're well behaved. The length is usually between 4 and 5 miles, taking around a couple of hours, so why not get some fresh air and exercise, you'll be in good company!

Details of our next walks are:

Thursday 13th February 2.00pm

Starting point: St Mary's church car park Old Hunstanton. Grid ref: TF 688 420

An intriguing exploration of Old Hunstanton Park, which is only open one day each week, so note the change of usual day.

Leader Steve and Lindsey Davis 01485 543138

Sunday 23rd February 2.00pm

Starting point: Sandringham Visitors Centre. Grid ref: TF 690 288

A circular walk ambling through the woods of Sandringham and Wolferton.

Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

Wednesday 12th March 2.00pm

Starting point: Shernborne Village Hall car park. Grid ref: TF 715 324

Visit the two S's of Shernborne and Snettisham on this circular ramble, plus Ingoldisthorpe too!

Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

You can always find the full walks programme on the parish council website:

www.dersingham.org.uk/announcements

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. As Alfred Wainwright said "watch where you put your feet"!

If you would like more information about an individual walk, such as the going underfoot, stiles etc. Please contact the walk leader. For general enquiries contact the group coordinator:

Stephen Martyn

Tel: 01485 541333 Email: stephenmartyn@gmail.com □





The Daily Doings of Mrs Dolittle

(a.k.a. Valerie Ankhorn)

And, a happy New Year to all our readers! I am determined that 2014 is going to be a good one, and as I look out of the office window to my immaculate garden (I have a good gardener now) and see the sky cerulean blue above, and spy a pigeon, curved into the bough of next door's flowering cherry, preening his under parts. I am feeling no rage or irritation. What a change!

This morning, when putting on my ankle boots, I couldn't get my foot in. I thought I must have left my sock balled up inside but on investigation, I found it filled with peanuts and other food from my parrots' cages, plus two neatly nibbled off tassels from the back of the other boot. And I just laughed.

Now, looking into the cherry tree, I see a fat female pigeon perched coily on another branch, while on our flat roof another pigeon scans the female with interest, and one flies over casing the joint. Ragged-raft nurseries will soon be swaying again amongst the greenery when it buds. I refuse to be baited, I refuse.

Talking of bait, I eventually put down some rat poison in the sitting room because I heard a lot of housework being done inside the sofa – very loud noise – and housework is not a noise associated with my house and certainly not within my settee. I knew it wasn't rats, because I could tell from the few droppings it was mice, but the bait hasn't been touched. Why should they eat poison, when it clearly states POISON on the packet? As they are very intelligent little things, mice can probably read. They wake me up at night, when I can hear them playing and rustling and nibbling inside the walls of my bedroom and then up above in the ceiling. No, I can do nothing about it, with a flat roof we cannot get inside any ceilings. Never mind – it's nothing like the ghastly floods and electricity cuts other people have been experiencing over the country.

I am taking counter-action and fooling the mice completely into the bargain, by lateral thinking. I'm having a parrot room built on which once completed will be shut off from the rest of the house, so the mice will starve. The parrots can still see and interact with us as we can open up the glass doors to their room. This means no more mess in the living areas and the parrots' room to stretch their wings and fly and walk about, perch on branches and so on. Unless the mice move into my kitchen area, then maybe I will have to think again...the measures one takes! No doubt they will pack their cases and move outside again, where they will then storm the bastions of the new parrot room...but that will be another day.

You will have noticed, maybe, my artist's throw-in of 'cerulean blue' in the beginning paragraph. I mentioned a couple of months ago that I began watercolour classes recently. In my mind, I am all Prussian blues, burnt umbers and siennas now, learning how to mix the colours, how much water to add to get it just right, boldly sloshing skies hither and thither across the paper and my old-lady-driving has now got far worse as I scan the trees and vistas either side of the car as I travel our wonderful countryside, watching how trees have shaped themselves, where the shade lies, how the clouds form, where the colours change....

I looked forward to perfecting some artistic renditions over the Christmas holiday, but was thwarted by the sound of pseudo German accents and the puffs of trains filled with art treasures, the shootings of rifles – the TV of course – and the persistent sound of chocolate wrappers and cigarettes being rolled, but my muse likes to hear only the sounds of nature as I squeeze cobalt blue onto my palette and I just couldn't concentrate. I put my beret back on when himself went back to work – but as it was his only chance to enjoy some leisure time I didn't mind. I am not going to moan at all in 2014 (my resolution) and let's see how long *that* lasts...

Spying a little sparrow outside, it reminded me of when we lived in Kent, and named our house Sparrow Hill, because the garden had a little hill over which sparrows flocked. They lived and nested in our hedges, as did so many other birds. The subsequent dawn chorus was like a simultaneous firing of a battalion of guns being fired. We do get a dawn chorus here as we are near to woods, but it is a pale imitation of those I remember years ago. Still thinking back to that garden and time, I recall coming back home from a modelling assignment. Yes, dear readers, I used to be a photographic model for commercial adverts, in the time of Twiggy, Jean Shrimpton

and that wonderful shop in London called BIBA where I had bought myself a ‘monk’s hat’ in black felt with a large brim. I was wearing a red corduroy trouser suit and had the hat rammed attractively over my long blonde hair, false eyelashes sweeping across my cheeks and knew myself to be an attractive creature. I used to ignore wolf whistles, but secretly enjoyed them (and mourn the loss today – political correctness is such a stupid thing). Not that anyone would want to wolf whistle me today, but that is beside the point.

What struck me as a car passed me in our little one-car-wide-stony -road, was that the pair of men with ‘prison haircuts’ drove by studiously avoiding looking at me, staring straight ahead at the road. I was seldom ignored in those days, so immediately smelt a rat and memorised their number-plate. Then a lady from up the road hurried towards me, crying and trembling, saying she thought she had been burgled...she had seen the car coming out of her drive as she was returning from the shops. I raced back to her house with her to see if there had been a break-in, and there had. I have never seen anything so horrible. Everything she possessed had been torn from drawers and shelves, even toiletries had been ripped to pieces – I suppose people hide their treasures in strange places – and I felt sick. The lady was in hysterics. I dialled 999 and the local police, told them about the robbery, gave them the car number and said if they hurried they could find them, they couldn’t have got far.



Eventually a couple of youths were detained at Her Majesty’s pleasure at Wormwood Scrubs in London, where the lady and I were requested to take part in an identity parade. We were both terrified. I can still see the faces of those men today in my mind’s eye. Grim and unsmiling. I did not want to identify them, because they knew where I lived, and could easily come back and kill me – or send their friends. The lady was just terrified, but because of the terrible state the lady had been then and ever since, I was determined to do my duty. I cut all my hair off, for some reason thinking the men wouldn’t perhaps recognise me.

We were driving in a police car to a huge buttressed gateway, where we got out and were accompanied by a police man through a vast ironed portcullis, which clanged behind us as we were locked in and walked through, passing lots of inmates with grins and leers and cat calls. It was horrible. The policeman told us that we were to walk along the line of men and if we recognised either of the suspects, we were to place a hand on their shoulders. Imagine! To touch one. In my mind I was looking for the ones with the grim, unsmiling face, but when I saw a line of hard faced criminals, and one smiled at me, I was completely thrown. He did look like the man I had seen, but because I was so frightened and not thinking logically, I placed my hand on his shoulder and the policeman groaned.

I had of course picked the wrong man, and knew it – but I can’t tell you how scared I was, and how fright makes you do silly things. The lady had recognised them both, but just couldn’t reach out and touch them – and so they both got let off. Even though the police knew they were the guilty ones, because I had mucked up and chosen the wrong man, they were set free. I vowed then I would *never*, ever go on an identity parade again. What if it had been a murderer I had allowed to go free? Luckily the occasion has never occurred, thank goodness, and I understand the system is now completely different where there is no direct contact, but it was a horrible experience.

A second scary experience around about that time was on another day returning home after a modelling assignment, this time on the train from London. Two young men jumped into my compartment just as the train was leaving Charing Cross Station, and my stomach curled. I was in a single carriage with no other passengers and it was non-stop to my station. There was no time for me to get out. Just me, and two rather nasty youths who were grinning suggestively at me. One grabbed my bag and opened it. I said, with a false smile, “You can have a good look – there’s nothing in there, no money, nothing worth nicking” (which was true) and they grinned back. They looked through the contents and gave me back my bag, saying, “You don’t scare like all the others”. One of the guys looked a bit short of the shilling, and I thought he could ‘turn’ if I said the wrong thing. I decided I would be friendly and get them to believe I thought they were nice people. I think we all want to be liked, don’t we? I can’t remember what I said, but striking up a

normal conversation with a couple of red-blooded young men of low intellect and foul intent when one is thinking they could easily rape me, is not easy. I have never known a train journey so long as that one, though it could only have been for around twenty minutes. My station hove into view. I said, "I'm getting off now, nice talking to you," hoping they wouldn't stop me. They replied, grinning oafishly, "Well, we will come with you". As I stepped onto the platform they followed me, so I said to them, "Yes, do come for a coffee, my husband will be pleased to meet you", and they declined with grins over their yellow teeth. Phew! They clearly did this kind of thing often, enjoying frightening young women, and possibly more, but luckily, I had chosen the right approach with them, and was still in one piece. Very shaken though and was so relieved to get back to my house, where of course my husband was waiting as he was at work.

Goodness, all that from a mention of sparrows...I was merely going to mention that instead of flocks, I only have two in this garden. Are they on the rare list now, I wonder?

Time to end. I do trust 2014 will be a good year for you too. □



West Norfolk Jubilee Youth Orchestra (WNJYO)

West Norfolk Jubilee Youth Orchestra is a local music organisation in West Norfolk that offers young musicians, aged under 21, the opportunity to play music as part of a group. The organisation consists of two ensembles: a Concert Band and an Orchestra, comprising of musicians of Grade 4+ standard, allowing challenging but exciting repertoire to be played. WNJYO is a place that also provides players with the chance to meet fellow musicians and build friendships through playing as part of a team.

We have two professional conductors who take both the rehearsals and the concerts, Mr Eddie Seales (Concert Band) and Mr Robert Galliard (Orchestra). Concerts take place all over West Norfolk from Hunstanton to Thetford, Kings Lynn and Swaffham with additional venues planned for the future.

WNJYO will be performing in a concert at St Peter's and St Paul's Church in Swaffham, Norfolk on the 22nd March, as well as a concert on the 11th May at Hunstanton Bandstand and would like to invite you to come along and listen to the New Year repertoire. This is also an opportunity for those upcoming musicians that would like to join a friendly and happy group, to see and chat to the band and talk to the conductors about joining as a member of WNJYO.

We rehearse on a Wednesday evening at Springwood High School (PE30 4AW) from 6.45pm until 9.00pm, with a short interval for refreshments and a bit of gossip. There is a membership fee of £45 per year but new members are very welcome to 'visit' a rehearsal free of charge to see whether it is something they would like to become part of.

If you are interested in becoming a member of WNJYO, please contact either the conductors; Eddie Seales eddie@eddie-seales-big-band.co.uk or Rob Galliard rob.galliard235@btinternet.com or our Youth Representative, Emma Pigott epigott2nr2@nsix.org.uk. □

Emma Pigott

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Jack Neale

A Wartime Honeymoon

Encouraged by the response to my previous items I hope to persuade the Editor to accept further offerings from a host of memories beginning with my father holding me at the age of three in 1918, on his return after being wounded, and being allowed to throw his army cap on to the kitchen fire to prove he would not be going away again, to the present day. Although not Dersingham related I think they are of sufficient and varied interest to be worth the telling.

The first concerns our marriage, surely the most important event in the lives of most of us. I had met my wife in the Spring of 1940, just before Hitler's armies went sweeping across France and the Low Countries. She was a student nurse at a large Mental Hospital on the edge of town. I was working in munitions at nearby Vickers Armstrong. It was a slow burning romance indeed, but after a couple of years both of us were aware of the uncertainty of life during wartime and at that time could not foresee an end to it. Eventually at Christmas in 1942 we got engaged and were prepared to wait a year or two before getting married, housing being very difficult to come by.

In 1943 a sudden opportunity was given to us, a very nice 3 bedroom semi-detached, fully furnished house owned by the Hospital just outside the gates was available for £1.7s. 6d per week rent, at least until the end of hostilities. It was originally rented out to a needlework instructor who had been conscripted to important war work. We arranged our wedding for the following July. After the ceremony at the Parish Church and reception at the local Scouts Hall we set off on our honeymoon. First to London for two nights at the Royal Norfolk Hotel in The Strand. The weather was brilliant and after a day or two enjoying the sights of London we decided to go to Torquay in Devon for the remaining two weeks despite not having booked any accommodation in advance.

Arriving there mid-afternoon, we left our luggage at the station and set off to find something suitable, but there was just nothing available. The place was jam packed with armed forces personnel from allied countries, many with colourful uniforms and strange accents, but mostly Americans and Canadians. We spent 3 or 4 hours endeavouring to find decent accommodation in vain. By early evening we were considering asking the police to put us up for the night!

Making our way back to the town after yet another lead had failed, we saw a lady coming up the hill carrying some shopping, I stopped her and asked if she knew of any accommodation locally, amazingly she said "yes, I can offer you good lodgings but can only do Bed & Breakfast and evening meals as I am no great cook. If you would like to see the room it's quite near".

Gratefully we followed her a bit further, through a door let in to a high wall and along a garden path to what looked almost like a mansion, though in fact was a large house but, after viewing so many small pokey rooms, it took on a grandiose appearance. She led us upstairs to a huge bedroom containing five beds (3 double and 2 single), each complete with a wardrobe and dressing chest. At the end were double doors leading on to a balcony with views over the town and the whole of Torbay. She said no-one else would use the room if we took it. It would be £7.10s per week for the two of us and left us to think it over, as if we needed to! We would have paid 2 or 3 times that amount, so on her return I gave her £15 for the two weeks. There were several other rooms already let. It seemed that she, Marjorie Dawe and her husband George were housekeepers for the premises, which were generally let to groups of people such as the military or students, but owing to a recent cancellation they were allowed to let what they could as a 'perk'.

Scarcely able to believe our luck we had a meal in our room, retrieved our luggage from the Station taking a taxi back to our Honeymoon Hotel. She was right about being no cook although she took all our ration coupons. Apparently the full time staff were hired as required. Yet we lived quite well, eating lunch out every day and having supper at a nearby Pub, 'The Alpine Inn' well named as it is quite hilly behind Torquay. The weather continued very warm, so much that there was a shortage of beer and we often had to make do with Cider. Troops do have a terrible thirst!

We could not wait to write home to our families about our good fortune, but during the second week I got a most worrying letter from my Mother. Our new home in Dartford had caught fire. Fortunately, no great damage had been caused, but what a shock! What happened was that my Best Man and Pat's nurse friend and Chief Bridesmaid had been having a fling and had been charged



with conveying late presents and left over items from the wedding to our house. They made the most of the facilities, indulging in a little 'snogging' to accompany a few drinks with music from the radio, a powerful battery 'Superhet', but neglected to switch it off completely, merely turning the sound down. Consequently by the next morning it had overheated setting light to some curtains. Fortunately the next door neighbour was Chief of the Hospital Fire Department and after his daughter raised the alarm it was soon extinguished. The Hospital Building staff removed and replaced the curtains and broken window and put fresh curtains up. There were sincere apologies from the 'Guilty Two' later but at the time we were oblivious to all this. So at the end of two wonderful weeks in Devon and armed with a few items of Devonware crockery we made our way home. (We had to provide our own bed linen, cutlery and china at the Hospital house.)

We arrived at Paddington, then on to Charing Cross for the Dartford train. Just as we were leaving, the carriage door opened, a man just made it into our compartment, put his bag on the rack next to ours and promptly dozed off. About five stations along at New Cross he belatedly woke up and realised it was his station, grabbed his case and jumped out just in time. We laughed at his frantic movements but on arrival at our destination realised he'd taken one of our cases by mistake instead of his own. We immediately told the Station staff who contacted New Cross Station. We were very relieved that he had realised his mistake and was awaiting the return in exchange for ours which was duly made. During the wait we had looked inside his case which was unlocked (unlike ours); it was almost empty apart from some pyjamas, toothbrush and shaving kit and a list of Irish addresses and weighing almost nothing against our very full and heavy one. He must have been very confused to take the heavy one, which we were pleased to recover.

The only problem now was getting home. The last bus had long gone and the few taxis that normally operated had also finished for the day as it was approaching midnight and we faced a two mile walk home mostly uphill. Luckily a special bus for late night staff from a neighbouring hospital arrived for its last trip of the day. This hospital adjoined the one Pat worked at but was separate, being a General and Military Hospital, the main gate being on a different road. Pat's Hospital was at the top of a half mile steep hill. But thankful for a lift to the bottom of the hill, we carried our cases up to the house on a hot August night.

Everything was more or less as we had left it except the remains of the burnt out radio which was left outside. It had been insured so no great loss had been incurred, we and the owner were very thankful that the damage had been no worse. But it was a most eventful and dramatic start to 66 years of happily married life. □



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A Winter Warmer Recipe from Caroline Bosworth

For this issue of Village Voice, I am going to share with you my God-daughter's recipe for Chestnut and Bacon soup – This warming, slightly unusual recipe has raised a considerable amount of money for local charities when served at events.

You will need:



3 oz Bacon – streaky if you like it – roughly chopped
4oz onions
2 oz carrots
2 oz celery
1 oz butter
1 tsp dried thyme
9oz cooked chestnuts / chestnut puree – I use a tin of this – although cooked vacuum packed chestnuts also work well.
2.5 pints chicken stock
2 tbsps sherry (optional)
2 fl oz single cream

I never, ever seem to quite have the right proportions of these ingredients, but this recipe is very forgiving. I usually have a tin or two of chestnut puree in my kitchen – so this is a quick, slightly unusual soup to make. Do make sure though that you don't use the sweetened chestnut puree!!

1. Roughly chop the vegetables and sauté together with the bacon, butter and thyme until everything is softened.
2. Add the stock and chestnut puree and cook gently for about 20 minutes. Remove from the heat and blend (I use a stick blender in the saucepan).
3. Reheat and add the sherry and cream and season to taste.

Community Involvement

As a local independent retailer, I believe that community involvement is one of the most important things that we can do for our staff, customers and neighbours. We have always enjoyed the different ventures and activities which we have been involved with and believe that many local organisations and charities have benefited from this. I don't believe that community involvement revolves around raffle prize donation – we want to be involved with our local community in fun, engaging ways that will make a difference. So – what I am asking for are suggestions from the readers as to what we could be doing. I am not based in our store, but come up most weeks – so perhaps you would like to email your suggestions to me and then we could arrange to meet up at our James Graven's Budgens of Dersingham store for a chat?

My email address is: caroline.bosworth@jamesgraven.com □



Norfolk Wildlife Trust West Norfolk Members Group

invites you to

Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street

Thursday 27th February – 7.30pm

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Greetings from the Manse by Rev. Kim Nally

"Always, everyday, give God permission to do what he wants with you"

Mother Teresa.



When I see words accredited to Mother Teresa I like many others tend to take notice. These words were addressed to John Pridmore. I did a little research & discovered a modern day conversion story, how he moved from "I'll take what I can get" to "Now I want to give."

John was born on the 7th February 1964. The crunch point in John's life came when he was a boy of ten. His parents told him that they were splitting up and he could choose which one to go with. The two people he loved most had failed him, and he was determined not to risk giving - or receiving - love again.

Life with his father and his father's new wife was tough. His father showed more care for his new stepchildren than he did for John, so he tried to get attention in the only way he knew- by getting into trouble. At fifteen he was in a detention centre and once out he did not go home again. He gambled and stole to survive and took drugs to deaden the pain. Still he refused love. His philosophy was to take what you want from life - no one else will give you anything. At nineteen he was in prison; his role models were those who had money and everything that could bring, and organised crime seemed the route to get there. He began "bouncing" at several of London's most popular night-clubs, and earned plenty with the money that he gained from setting up drug deals. They could bring him in thousands in a few minutes. He had everything that money could buy - expensive flats, cars and women. Yet he had to take drugs to dull the pain he constantly felt. When he got home he could not bear the silence even for a few minutes. Why was he so unhappy, he asked himself? He had everything that anyone could ask for in life, but his life seemed empty. It was then that God spoke to him.

John had experienced a difficult couple of months. He had wounded a man seriously enough to put him in hospital and he did not yet know whether he might even be up on a murder charge. He came back to his flat one night as usual but in the unbearable silence he heard a voice. It was the voice of conscience but more than that; it was the voice of God. And that voice told him all the wrong things that he had done. John felt terrified. Then for the first time he prayed - for God to give him another chance. "All I've ever done is to take from you, God. Now I want to give."

The first thing that John read in the Bible was the story of the Prodigal Son. He cried as he recognised in himself the wayward sinner. He knew that God had forgiven him, now he had to forgive himself. And that took longer. He heard the words of Jesus as he sat looking at a crucifix. He said: "Go free - I love you." John gave up his job as a bouncer and gave away much of his money. He worked among young people in East London, as a postulant in a Franciscan order in the Bronx, New York, but returned to the UK where he could work among young people with his own background and share the brokenness they experience and that he once knew. In schools he tells young people the truth about drugs, money and worldly success; best of all, he tells them about Jesus. A resurrection story to encourage and remind us how the saviour has the grace and power to bring life out of death. □

Dersingham Methodist Church News

We were delighted to welcome a number of visitors to our Christmas services who enjoyed carols both old and new and through drama and singing a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. We also raised £213 for the Philippines Typhoon Appeal.

Our usual coffee mornings will be held on 22nd February, 29th March. Date for your diary: Flower Festival 22nd - 25th May. Look forward to seeing you all.

2014 sees the anniversary of the outbreak of World War I in 1914, and already newspaper articles, television and radio programmes are being planned to remind us of the events. It was said that this war would be the end of all wars, unfortunately as we know this was not the case. While many will be looking back in history, others will be experiencing war as a daily reality; many of whom have never experienced peace. The wars may take place in countries far from our own but the devastation that bombards us through the media brings the horrors right into our living rooms. And it is in living rooms that other wars are taking place - arguments, domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, neglect, criticism. We may ask the question 'what can I do?' The answer is never easy but starts with trying to live in peace and holding out a loving hand to whoever needs it. Jesus said 'Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you'.

May you find peace, hope and love during 2014. □

Elizabeth Batstone

Dersingham Bog News from Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden

As I'm writing this article we have had one of the hardest frosts of the winter so far on the reserve. The amazing iced over heather and spiders' webs entwined with the silver birch trees make for a magical view across the site.

This winter so far has been a strange one weather wise with a lot of wind and not much frost and ice. The start of 2014 has also seemed particularly mild. This has caused the birds to think it's spring and there have been Song Thrushes singing close by to our office.

Spring though is not far away and if the weather stays warm the 2014 season will probably begin very early. Some of the trees and shrubs around the reserve have already started budding up and in some of the local gardens the first snowdrops have started poking their heads out.

February on Dersingham Bog NNR is a special time for the staff as it is this month where the year really begins. The scrub management work that we do over the winter months is all but completed and there is an anticipation of what is to come. It is the beginning of the bird breeding season and at Dersingham Bog if there is one bird that really signals the start of the year, it is the Woodlark. Much like a Skylark, which many people always associate with the beginning of spring, woodlarks are quite an early breeder and can begin territorial singing in late January but more normally early February. The song and display of a woodlark is very similar to the Skylark and you can normally see them hovering for a few seconds above the plateaux before they burst downwards in a flurry of song. They also have a short tail so when you look at them the tail looks almost stubby.

The Woodlark however is a very tricky customer when it comes to nesting. As a ground nesting species it can be particularly vulnerable to disturbance. This is the time of year when we begin to step up our wardening on site and remind people about keeping dogs on leads as well as keeping to the tracks. Dogs off the lead running through the heather can be very disturbing to a woodlark sitting on a nest and if the bird is disturbed too much it can cause the bird to desert the nest and leave the site. **Dogs should be on a lead at all times at Dersingham Bog NNR** especially during the breeding season. This small rule can lead to massive bonuses to the wildlife on the site and mean that the sound of Spring on heathland can be enjoyed by all for years to come and the team here thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

I hope that many of you will visit the reserve and come and enjoy the beginning of spring for yourself. If you have any questions or would like to know more please get in contact or speak to us when you see us on site. Also any records of wildlife seen on the reserve are more than welcome and will help to build a bigger picture in our knowledge of the site.

thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk □



King's Lynn Festival Chorus concert of "In the Mood"

Written in 2003, Will Todd's *Mass in Blue* has fast become a much enjoyed part of the choral repertoire. KLFC are delighted to bring it to Kings Lynn's Corn Exchange on Sunday March 30th.

Using the traditional Mass text, listeners will enjoy the fresh, jazzy approach that Todd brings to it. The 100 strong voices of the Festival Chorus will be joined on stage by pianist John Byron, and the Springwood High School Big Band.

With performances of Jazz standards like 'Ain't Misbehavin', 'Somewhere over the Rainbow', and 'Blue Moon', it promises to be a brilliant evening with tunes that you'll be humming all the way home. Tickets are available now from the Corn Exchange Box Office:

www.kingslynncornexchange.co.uk or call 01553 764864.

More information about KLFC on www.klfc.org.uk

or contact Marian on 07989177079 or mmrabramovich@gmail.com □

People

by Mary Davies

In the August 2013 edition of Village Voice I wrote about researching my ancestral roots in Norfolk. Since then, although I am still trying to locate exactly where my great great grandparents lived in Dersingham in the 1860's, I have been asked what brought my daughter and I back to live in Norfolk last year.

Briefly, we had separately moved up to Yorkshire around 1996, expecting to stay there ad infinitum. But life is full of surprises! One day in early 2013 Melissa, who was living near York City, some 60 miles away from me, proclaimed she fancied a change: "Do you know where I would love to be? Back in the peace and tranquillity of Norfolk! Would you come with me?" Although I was very contented with my life in the Yorkshire Dales, Norfolk had always been special and other family members are here. So it wasn't a too difficult decision to make. We searched the internet for a likely property and hit upon one in Dersingham, although the village was barely known to us. Earlier memories of it were dim and for many years we had only by-passed it on visits to family further along the coast. What a wonderful find! Once here, we very quickly discovered its charm and particularly the friendly welcome.

Then over Christmas, came the arrival of cards and personal messages. Being reminded of the people who have touched my life in a variety of ways in the many different places I have lived, I have been reflecting on the following words from the book "God is No Fool" by Lois A Cheney. I feel these are well worthy to be shared and passed on:

"People important to you, people unimportant to you, cross your life, touch it with love or carelessness and move on. There are people who you leave and you breathe a sigh of relief and wonder why you ever came in contact with them. There are people who leave you and you breathe a sigh of remorse and wonder why they had to go and leave such a gaping hole.

Children leave parents, friends leave friends, acquaintances move on. People change homes. People grow apart. Enemies hate and move on. Friends love and move on. You think on the many that have moved into your life with hazy memory. You look on those present, and wonder.

I believe in God's master plan for our lives. People move in and out of each other's lives, and each leaves his mark on the other. You find that you are made up of bits and pieces of all who have ever touched your life, and you are more because of it, and you would be less if they had not touched you.

Pray to God that you can accept the bits and pieces in humility and wonder – and never question, and never forget."

It is thanks to the people I have met in the past and the very varied experiences we have shared that have made my life so colourful and interesting. I am so grateful for having had those opportunities and certainly too for those that presently continue to touch my life...

...back here in Norfolk. □



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Where is it? What is it?
(from page 16)



Answer:

Ling House at the end of Ling House Road

Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

We love getting your reports of events and meetings, advertisements and advance details of forthcoming attractions, but please make sure any dates mentioned fall after the publication date. Space is limited so you are advised to submit well in advance of the deadline.

Issue	Copy deadline	Publication date
No 87	Wednesday 5th March	Monday 24th March
No 88	Wednesday 30th April	Monday 19th May
No 89	Wednesday 2nd July	Monday 7th July

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. Normal prices for a colour advert range from £20 for an eighth page through to £108 for a full page, though do enquire about our discount offers. (Prices include VAT).

To include an advertisement in the next issue, all details together with completed application form and payment should be with the Parish Clerk:
Dersingham Parish Council, 4a Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP
by mid-day on Wednesday 5th March 2014

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 5th March 2014 for publication on Monday 24th March 2014**. (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 not to use names, addresses, etc, these may be included in the publication and may be maintained on the Parish Council's database.

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

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

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

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Printed by Clanpress Ltd, Dundee Ct., Hamburg Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk

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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday March 4th

Cold War Architecture in East Anglia



Dr Ken Hamilton

An illustrated talk by the
Senior Historic Environment Officer
for Norfolk County Council

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

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday April 1st

Hidden Treasures of East Anglian Seas



Brought to you by
Rob Spray of Seasearch East

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