

Number 89

August 2014

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



local news
reaching
far-flung
places!



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Editor's Notes



When Steve Martyn, local artist and co-ordinator of the Dersingham Walking Group sent me the photos to accompany the article within on his recent visit with Margaret Mann to walk sections of the Great Wall of China, I couldn't resist using the casually posed shot for the front cover. After all, why wouldn't you take a copy of Village Voice on holiday with you? I try to carry one or two wherever I travel, though I wish now I'd had the forethought to take one when Lindsey and I made, what was for us, our momentous climb to the top of Goat

Fell, the mere 2,867 foot highest peak on the Scottish Isle of Arran last month. On such a glorious day, it gave us perhaps the most spectacular 360° view we've ever had.

Why not send in photos of any visits you make to remote places, complete with Village Voice of course?

On our rather roundabout route to get to Arran, we also



visited the incredible, recently constructed, gigantic sculpture of "The Kelpies" that straddle the Forth and Clyde Canal as part of the newly regenerated Helix Park in Falkirk; (visit thekelpies.co.uk). This surely has to become a new world-recognised landmark.

As always though, it is good to get back home to Dersingham, not least to escape the dreaded MIDGES that blight Scotland's countryside at this time, enjoying a veritable feast at our expense and a couple of weeks catching up with Village Voice production soon brought me back to earth again!

In this issue we again feature several articles marking the centenary commemoration of the start of WW1. This global war centring in Europe started on 28th July 1914, though Britain didn't officially declare war until 11pm on 4th August 1914, (which was of course midnight, the start of 5th August in Europe). Details are also included of ways in which you can take part.

I am slowly working my way through a fascinating book on my Kindle entitled "Churchill's Wizards" by Ian Rankin, and have been surprised by some of the terminology of warfare, now in everyday use, that originated in WW1. The French word *Camouflage* for instance came into being and was very much pioneered throughout, the object being "Deception, not concealment". Hitherto, armies had gone into battle with brightly coloured flags and tunics blazing. The expertise of prominent artists of the time, most notably one Solomon J.Solomon, greatly assisted with the art of camouflage. Another word tied up with the art of deception that came into being then, requiring the efforts of authors, critics, poets and playwrights of the day, was *Propaganda*. You may recognise the names of one or two involved such as J.M.Barrie, John Buchan, Arnold Bennett, G.K.Chesterton, Arthur Conan Doyle, Thomas Hardy, H.G.Wells or Rudyard Kipling. I am amazed by the number of nations involved and the complexities of reasons for joining in WW1, particularly around the Middle East, each with its own agenda, though nominally taking one side or the other, as documented by people like T.E.Lawrence. It's almost a situation parodied in the old fashion western films where two start a fight in a saloon and then everyone seems to join in!

A word used frequently in the news now is *Radicalisation*, the blight of many nations and group factions, whereby hate and extremist views are engineered and propagated. This in turn seems to demand a counter-response from others who might otherwise simply want to live in peace. Here in our village community at least, may we gratefully celebrate peace in our time with one another.

Steve Davis—editor@dersingham.org.uk □



Dear Village Voice

Please email (editor@dersingham.org.uk) or write to us at 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.



Thank you very much for allowing me to give my talk on *Norfolk Aviation* to your *Village Voice Live* in May. I really enjoyed it. (*As indeed we did too! Ed.*)

Having had the chance to look through the copy of the April issue of the Village Voice magazine that you gave me, I was interested in the 'Random Jottings' by Tony Bubb. The picture shows the original workhouse St James on London Road. This was formerly a chapel-of-ease to St Margaret's Church which was converted into a parish workhouse in 1582 and in 1701 became the Workhouse of the King's Lynn Corporation.



With the introduction of the Poor Law Amendment Act in 1834 it became the Union Workhouse for Kings' Lynn. Before that in 1824 there were reports of subsidence but nothing was done about it until 20 August 1854 when, whilst the local clockmaker, William Andrew, was repairing the clock, the 80foot clock tower collapsed killing Andrews and one of the inmates.

The new Union workhouse was designed by Medland and Mabely and built on Extons Road at a cost of £9915. It is this building shown in the old photo that survives today as St James Hospital.

Stephen Pope

Over the years many people have asked me about the Norwich Gates; that's the large gates that stand at the entrance to Sandringham House. Most people want to know why they are so called, where were they made and by whom. George Porter says in his book, *Growing up in West Norfolk*, that they were made at Thornham Iron Works. In fact, they were made in Norwich so, with kind permission of Helen Walsh (public enterprise manager at Sandringham), I will tell you something of their history.

When the Prince of Wales first purchased the Sandringham estate, one of the first alterations to the gardens was the installation of the Norwich Gates, an extraordinary achievement of design and mechanism featured at the 1862 international exhibition. The gates are 25 feet high and 40 feet wide, surmounted by a golden coronet. To either side are griffins holding heraldic shields representing the various titles of the prince, while the body of each gate is composed of sprays of flowers and foliage, including rose, shamrock and thistle. On the pillars of the gates are the coats of arms of the towns of Norfolk.

The makers were Barnard, Bishop and Barnard of Norwich and the designer was Thomas Jekyll. The gates were bought after the exhibition at a cost of £3,000 raised by public subscription throughout the county of Norfolk and presented to the Prince and Princess of Wales as a wedding present. As the gates were made in Norwich and Norwich is the capital of Norfolk, they were called the Norwich Gates.

Dick Melton, Sunny Hunny

The name missing from the list given for the 1955 Dersingham Bowls Club line-up in the last issue is "Mr Williams", pictured third from the right. The original framed photo, complete with names can be viewed at the Bowls Club.

Dick Murrell

So now we can all sleep more easily, and I've now seen the original photo hanging at the Bowls Club for myself!! Ed.



Regarding Tony Bubb's postcard of "The Folly" at Sandringham, many readers might be aware of its past history from its construction and various occupancies up to recent times.

I recall being volunteered by Mrs Bell, teacher at St George's to deliver a club newsletter to the Folly. I believe two sisters, whose surname was Sanderson, lived there in the mid 1970s.

The postcard shows a very open setting, but during the period of my visits it was very overgrown. The access from the scenic drive road near the Telecomms mast was like the route to a large house from a Dickensian novel with the vegetation very close to the house giving it a haunted look. This was enhanced by the stuffed bear just inside the door. What became of the two sisters, the Folly's future use and the stuffed bear I am not aware! However, a few years later I was employed by a local builder charged with improving the Folly for the Sandringham Estate.

In the postcard the gable end faces towards the public road so the view shown with the turret would be off limits. I recall that the turret was only accessed internally at ground floor level with stone steps climbing to the glazed gallery which had bench seating. At that time good views towards the Wash could be had.

I think that originally the balcony surrounded the Folly, but a section was removed to allow for construction of a new kitchen and utility extension, which also required the infilling and compaction of an old cellar. This was built on the side not seen on the postcard. Extensive other alterations were also carried out.

One of my tasks was to create a modern "thunderbox" from an older mahogany version.. This was created in a doored-off area of landing with a window and views of the Wash.

I can imagine that in its early years the Folly commanded much wider views toward Babingley, Castle Rising, Dersingham and neighbouring costal villages as more heathland and fewer trees featured in the landscape then. It was here that I last saw red squirrels in the Sandringham area. [Ian Skerritt, Tilney All Saints](#) □





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Parish Council Report by Cllr Suzy Daniels

Only a few more days and the school summer holidays will be upon us!

RESIGNATION & CO-OPTION.... It is with regret Cllr Fiona Hinds has taken the decision to resign. Fiona was a huge asset to the council, making massive leaps forward in the financial and staffing issues within the council. Not an easy task!! On behalf of all the Councillors I wish you well, you will be greatly missed. Fiona continues to support the Council as a co opted member of the Recreation Committee. I would also like to

welcome Cllr Paul Edwards to the Parish Council. A small write up about Paul will be in the next edition! 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.....ASB on the increase

Since the end of April there have been 4 reported burglaries. **PLEASE WATCH FOR ANY SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR!!!** There were 22 reports of ASB (*Anti-Social Behaviour*) compared with 18 at the same time last year. Priorities of the SNAP (*Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel*) meeting included dealing with the increased congregation of youths in the Station Rd/ Paiges Close area. The Police are currently attending to this.

COUNTY COUNCIL... Finances and Incinerator

Cllr Dobson reported that the County Council had returned to a committee system and had abolished the cabinets established through the Local Government Act 2000. The financial situation of the County Council was to become substantially worse over the coming years, with an anticipated improvement in 2016. Non essential services: administration and third party transactions were highlighted as areas with potential to save money. Dr Wendy Thompson has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the County Council. She would appoint new corporate directors. A parishioner enquired about what would happen if Mr Pickles approved the plans for the incinerator. Cllr Dobson responded that nothing could happen without a policy in place and there were new environmental factors to consider. He had recently been involved in drafting a motion to prevent any further development of the incinerator site. This policy recommended greener options and had been approved.

BOROUGH COUNCIL...New Mayor, money and most unwelcome visitors!

Cllr Bubb reported that Cllr Barry Ayres had been elected as the Mayor of King's Lynn and Cllr Colin Manning the Deputy Mayor. The National Lottery money had been awarded for improvements to the King's Lynn regeneration project. He planned to attend a meeting regarding redundant buildings in the town and asked parishioners to e-mail concerns to him. Cllr Collingham had received reports of rats within the village and asked all parishioners to be extra vigilant and report any further sightings. This will continue to be investigated.

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

Other matters: There had, quite rightly, been a number of complaints about the grass-cutting in the churchyard. The initial tendering process had to be repeated due to some difficulties over whether a tender had been received or not. This led to a delay in starting the cut. The contractor chosen made a lot less progress than required and eventually relinquished the contract. The Council was left in an embarrassing position and apologises for the upset caused. Councillor Davey has since worked very hard to get the next contractor on the list to begin cutting immediately. Due to this second delay and some inclement weather they did get rather behind, but it is, hopefully, looking much better now. A new three year contract is now being issued and Cllrs Anderson and Hathaway will be monitoring and dealing with any ongoing problems.

EVENTS....

The Annual Open Gardens and Village Fair was a huge success with lots of parishioners and people from afar wandering around the gardens and taking advantage of the lunches and cream teas. **Active Norfolk Sports Roadshow** was really enjoyable although the turnout was quite disappointing. Those that did attend enjoyed Archery, Athletics and Rounders. **The Big Lunch** on the 1st June was attended by 150-200 people enjoying the sunshine and live music. The **Parkour** guys did a fantastic job of providing a show of their skills. The **Summer Childrens Activities** have been confirmed but please keep an eye on our FaceBook page or website for confirmed times.

The **WW1 Commemoration** plans appear to be coming along nicely. This is being organised independently of the Council and details, I am sure, will appear further on in this magazine.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

4 Heath Rd....Application for construction of new study and Garden roomrecommend approval.

35 Chapel Rd.....Application for extension to dwelling....recommend approval

DETERMINATIONS

3 Chapel Rd...Granted

11a Woodside Close...Granted

18 Sandringham Rd...Granted

4 Park Hill...Granted

Application for replacement fence...Refused

I would like to wish all our young parishioners good luck in their transition to new schools or moving up a year!!! Stay safe and

HAVE A WONDERFUL AND HAPPY SUMMER! ☐

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The **Summer Childrens Activities** have been planned each day from **10am to 12noon** on **Monday 11th** through to **Friday 22nd August** as follows but, as Suzy's Report says, please keep an eye on our FaceBook page or website for confirmation or contact me for further details:

Mon 11th	Tennis	Mon 18th	Hockey
Tue 12th	Football	Tue 19th	Tag Rugby
Wed 13th	Athletics	Wed 20th	Laser Gaming
Thu 14th	Cricket	Thu 21st	Archery
Fri 15th	Netball	Fri 22nd	Rounders

Unfortunately the Council Office is no longer selling **caddy liners**. These are now available next door from the Post Office, so you will no longer be restricted to our opening hours.

I have been asked recently about how to get rid of paint. The simple answer is that at present, unless Norfolk County Council has another session to allow paint etc to be taken to the Recycling Centres, there is nowhere local. The nearest Community Paint Bank is in Wisbech. Maybe someone would like to start up a Community Repaint so that people could bring unwanted paint and swop for a different colour or pay a small amount for some otherwise unwanted paint.

I too would like to welcome our new Councillor Paul Edwards. That leaves us still with seven vacancies, so if anyone wishes to have their say in what is happening in your village please come and talk to us about joining us. Your village NEEDS you.

Please let us know your thoughts for the Village through the Council's Face Book page and if there is there is anything else that you wish to know about, or not happy within the Village, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office and I will do my best to help.

Sarah
clerk@dersingham.org.uk—01485 541465—[facebook.com/dersingham.parishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/dersingham.parishcouncil) ☐



1st Dersingham Rainbows Go Wild at Amazona Zoo

by Lynne Wheeler

On Saturday 14th June 16 Rainbows, their leaders and helpers went by coach from their HQ to the Amazona Zoo in Cromer for their Summer outing. The zoo contains lots of animals from South America, so everyone had fun visiting the Jaguars and Pumas, watching the River Otter and the Spider Monkeys be fed. We also saw lots of noisy parrots, ducks and bright pink flamingos. There were giant rodents, such as the Capybara, reptiles with sharp teeth: the Caiman and constricting snakes. In between visiting the animals we played on the outside adventure play area and tried out the new indoor Jungle Tumblers Play Barn.



We had our picnic in a Yurt and finished off the day with an ice cream.

Everyone had a very enjoyable day.

Brownies

**1st & 2nd Dersingham Brownies
North West Norfolk Division Sleepover
Thursford: Sat 21st to Sun 22nd June 2014
To celebrate 100 years of Brownies**



It has been a very exciting time for 1st & 2nd Dersingham Brownies in the last few weeks. On Saturday the 21st June 7 brownies + 1 guide helper from 1st Dersingham and 16 brownies from 2nd Dersingham took part in a sleepover at 'Thursford', we joined the many other units in the Girlguiding North West Division for a fantastic time. During the day the Brownies were able to complete 10 challenges/activities as well as enjoying a delicious fish and chip tea followed by ice cream. In the evening they took part in a

special horse racing game, had a campfire sing song and finished it off with a special carousel birthday cake and sang happy birthday to all the brownies and one of our leaders Emma Harrison who celebrated her birthday at the event. The following morning we woke up for a big surprise - an exciting ride on the vintage carousels, the Brownies were absolutely thrilled as this was kept a secret for the big finale. *Dersingham Brownies Leaders* □



The Icknield Way by Cliff Jordan



Many in Dersingham will have heard of the Peddars Way, the Roman Road which forms the extreme eastern boundary of the parish, but how many are aware that this older trackway passed through the parish and that it is still possible to walk along that route today? It remains unknown to many as, unlike the Peddars Way, it is not shown on any current Ordnance Survey maps of this area and, if the name is researched, you are likely to be directed, initially at least, to a completely different region of England. So why is the Icknield Way such a mystery?

To begin with, entering “Icknield Way” into an internet search engine will produce several pages of results almost entirely relating to either a modern 110 mile footpath (Icknield Way Path) or a modern 170 mile trail (Icknield Way Trail), both traversing Southern England on high ground north of London. These modern paths are based upon older routes, sporadically mentioned in such search results, but here there is a vagueness which is unhelpful. In some places it is described as an ancient trackway, without really defining what “ancient” is in this context. Slightly more helpfully, it is referred to as a prehistoric trackway, re-used as a Roman Road and later a medieval droveway. However, its prehistoric origins have been doubted by some academics and it has even been suggested that the Icknield Way never existed and that it is simply a medieval myth.

Clearly the modern paths and trails are not relevant to Norfolk but the route of the older trackways could be. There is a general agreement amongst historians about the route it followed but some are prepared to suggest more detail than others; from a very vague description - that the route ran from Norfolk to Southern England - to the more precise delineation of a line from Norfolk to Wiltshire following the chalk escarpment which runs through the East Anglian Ridge, Chiltern Hills and Berkshire Downs. The historian G.M. Trevelyan in his “History of England”, first published in 1926, goes further, relating it to other chalk upland trackways which existed in Iberian Britain and stating the function of the Icknield Way was “to join up the fenland and agricultural civilization of East Anglia with the great downland civilization gathered round the circles of Avebury and Stonehenge, where man was most thickly congregated”. The southern half of the relevant map from Trevelyan’s History of England illustrates this.

The reference to Iberian Britain raises the question of the age of this route. Trevelyan clearly believes it predates the Celts who arrived in Britain between 600 and 300 B.C., and who replaced the Iberians. Others, while not disagreeing with the above, simply refer to a pre-historic or pre-Roman date which suggests that it was existing in 43 A.D. Documentary evidence of the name is found in Anglo-Saxon Charters from about 900 A.D. and continue through the medieval period, although a variety of locations and different old spellings are often quoted. However, during all these

periods, the route would have traversed mainly open countryside, its direction and width limited only by naturally wooded areas. It is only with the Enclosures of 1750 to 1850 A.D. that field boundaries were generally established in farmland areas and these defined the droveways which ran between them. It is this more confined route of a droveway that will be observed today in regions such as Norfolk.



But what about the route locally? I would be extremely sceptical of Trevelyan's map in this respect, which seems to suggest that it may have provided a direct route from Dersingham to Avebury, although this could form an interesting basis for a historical novel if someone has the inclination! Some would say that it did not actually reach Norfolk, terminating in the vicinity of Bury-St-Edmunds in Suffolk and suggesting Icklingham, Ickworth or Ixworth as destinations.

Various destinations in Norfolk have also been proposed including Yarmouth (which did not exist in pre-historic Norfolk!), Caistor St Edmund, site of the Roman settlement of Venta Icenorum, and the north Norfolk coast near Hunstanton. Ordnance Survey did provide some assistance in the middle of the twentieth century, with isolated short stretches of road, track and field in Norfolk marked "Icknield Way" on their maps, but no similar marking was shown before this time or since on their recent maps. The Norfolk Historic Environment Records (NHER), a comprehensive and definitive record of the historic environment maintained by Norfolk County Council, provides the most up to date and useful resource, identifying many roads and tracks within the county as the Icknield Way and thereby suggesting a route from Thetford to the North Norfolk Coast in the vicinity of Hunstanton and Holme next the Sea. I have plotted the NHER information (in red), 1950's O.S. information and some of my own interpolations on a Google map to show a probable route from Thetford through Stanford, Cockley Cley, Drymere, Narford, Gayton Thorpe, Hillington (via Eastgate Drove), Shernborne, Sedgeford, Ringstead and on to Holme. The map pin indicates the site of the Bronze Age timber circle found off-shore here, although I would not go so far as to suggest a positive link with the Icknield Way.

Residents in Dersingham may well be familiar with some of the route described above when driving back to the village from Shernborne. The straight road rising from Shernborne is part of this route and, where the road turns sharp right towards Dersingham, the track straight ahead is a continuation of the route. An alternative route closer to the village is also mentioned in The Binham Priory records of about 1250 A.D., where a road described as *Ykenildestrethe* and *Ikelynge Street* runs from Sandringham through Dersingham and on to Ingoldisthorpe, leaving that

village by St Thomas Way (St Thomas's Lane), but this route bears little relationship to the route from Thetford to Holme.

So what to believe? I would suggest that you treat all you read about the Icknield Way with caution,





including all I have set out above. Even the origins of the name are uncertain, some have sought to see a derivation from the Icení tribe that inhabited Norfolk at the time of the Roman invasion, but this is doubtful. In our own county I believe that there is enough evidence and consensus of opinion to accept that there was an ancient way, probably pre-Roman, running from Thetford to Holme next the Sea and that within the parish of Dersingham it followed the route shown on the map above passing through Shernborne. Evidence connecting this route with other ancient ways to Wiltshire seem less certain but is not totally implausible.

But was this The Icknield Way? This question presupposes that there is a single Icknield Way in England and that therefore all documented records must either relate to one continuous route or be rejected as false. I believe this supposition to be wrong. It is probable that the name was originally applied to a specific track somewhere in Anglo-Saxon England but that the location of this original cannot now be identified. The reason being that later historians and antiquaries started to use this name generically to identify any ancient way or track which could not be proved to be Roman. A present day analogy would be to consider how we now generically refer to motorways; if, say, we were in the locality of Cambridge, and spoke of “The Motorway”, most people would know that we meant the M11, were not claiming it was the only motorway in the country or that it was connected to all the other motorways in the country. On this basis I believe it quite reasonable to consider the route marked on the above maps is an Icknield Way and that the alternative local route shown is also an Icknield Way but not forming part of the continuous route from Thetford to Holme.

For my part, I will continue to walk the track that leads south from the corner on the Shernborne road to Ling House Road, enjoy the countryside it runs through and the views it affords, and refer to it, controversially, as The Icknield Way. □



Anyone know where this is? Ed.

A New Badminton Club

**on Monday evenings, commencing 1st September
in St Nicholas Church Hall from 6pm—8pm.**

If interested please contact Sue on 543276 or Debbie on 542691



Dersingham's 8th Lace Day

On 24th May seventy lace makers from as far away as Duxford and March in Cambridgeshire, Oulton Broad, Norwich and along the coast from Sheringham met at St Cecilia's Church. They started to arrive at 9:30am and by 10 o'clock the hall was buzzing.

We served tea and coffee all day, sausage rolls and cheese scones at lunch time and a variety of lovely cakes for afternoon tea.

With ticket sales, raffle and donations for refreshments we were able to present Mrs Dot Nurse from West Norfolk Befrienders with a cheque for £500.

It was a lovely day and thoroughly enjoyed by all. We would like to thank everyone who helped and supported us: friends, family and the rest of the Dersingham Lace Group.

Barbara Lake & Barbara Merrick □





The Royal British Legion 1914-1918 WW1 Commemoration

At 11pm on 4 August 1914 Britain declared war on Germany, ushering in one of the darkest periods in our history. As the moment approached, the British Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey made the famous remark:

“The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our life-time”.

In a dramatic UK-wide event **LIGHTS OUT** is an invitation to everyone to turn off their lights from **10pm to 11pm** on **4th August**, leaving on a single light or candle for this shared moment of reflection. Those who prefer can go to their nearest War Memorial to mark their respect. It is hoped that One Million people will take part.

LIGHTS OUT, working closely with The Royal British Legion is part of the programme from the WW1 Arts Commission **“14-18 Now”** who are responsible for the cultural

side of the Centenary (www.1418now.org.uk). This will be one of the largest participatory events of its kind ever seen in the UK, and will complement the candlelit vigil held at **Westminster Abbey** on **4th August**.

100s of our Legion branches are busy arranging gatherings at War memorials, supper parties, special parades including Legion staff member Kevin Forbes. Our Community Fundraiser for North Wales is arranging a special 4th August trek up Welsh Mountain Moel Famau to hold a special ceremony at the summit.



We have a special **commemorative candle** available from **Marks & Spencer** priced **£4.00** available from 4 July with all profits going to the Legion. There is also a special film which features Jeremy Paxman, Fiona Fullerton, Twiggy and Louis Smith who are helping support **LIGHTS OUT**.

On **Sunday 10th August** The Royal British Legion will be commemorating WW1 on the Dersingham Recreation Ground.

Come and join us from **12noon till 5pm**. Exhibitors will be Military Vehicles, Classic Cars and Motor Cycles, East Anglian Air Ambulance, RNLi, and Fire Service. For our younger generation a bouncy castle is at hand. There will be a BBQ, Hog Roast as well as Fish & Chips. The NAFI will cater for those who would like Tea & Coffee where a raffle will also take place. A cake stall courtesy of "Inspirations" of Heacham. During the afternoon a jazz band will play nostalgic music. The lovely duo of “2wice” will sing.

There will also be a small dog show consisting of three classes. Small, Medium & Large breeds (15 dogs per class). There will be prizes to be won. Please register early as you don't want to be disappointed on the day. For registration please ring **01484 541895**. Those wishing to have a side stand please contact Valerie Brundle on the same number.

If you wish to get into the spirit, please feel free to dress up accordingly.

At **4.15pm** around the **War Memorial** there will be a small Service taken by Rev Michael Brock remembering those who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

For more details and downloads of national events visit www.britishlegion.org.uk/ww1. □



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Keep it Clean

At a recent Dersingham Parish Council Environment Committee meeting a parishioner attended with a large bag of litter that she had collected whilst walking around the village. Litter is a huge problem across the country, with 25 million tonnes dropped each year; that is as heavy as 62500 jumbo jets according to the Campaign to Protect Rural England. So the Environment Committee decided to organise a litter pick in the village. As Dersingham was to hold the Open Gardens and Studios event over the Spring Bank Holiday the committee decided it would be a good time to ensure that the village looked its very best for the anticipated visitors. A litter pick along the main roads through the village was organised for Sunday 18th May and willing volunteers met on the Recreation Ground near the War Memorial. With equipment borrowed from the Task Force and supplemented by litter pick packs from the Borough Council and the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign over 30 kilos of litter was collected in one hour, quite astonishing really. However, it was interesting to meet the Borough Council litter picker on the following Monday to be told that on his fortnightly visits to Dersingham he regularly collects over 60 kilos of litter.



In support of the Opens Gardens, Studios and the Litter Pick events the children at Dersingham VA Primary & Nursery School were invited to create anti-litter posters. With such a colourful and imaginative array of posters the school Eco-Council had a very challenging task to choose just 25 posters that were to be displayed inside St Nicholas Church during the Open Gardens Event. As a thank you for their efforts, one child's poster from each class was chosen by lucky dip to receive a prize very kindly donated by the parish councillors. To reinforce the need not to drop litter the school children also were to hold their own litter-picking event around their school.

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who gave up their Sunday morning to support the litter pick, you did a great job! Thank you also to everyone at Dersingham VA Primary & Nursery School for your support and many wonderful posters. I really enjoyed visiting the school and meeting the children, so I do hope we can work together again in the future. And thank you to everyone who regularly picks up litter around the village to keep Dersingham tidy.

We are very lucky to live in a beautiful village and we should all try to keep it that way by not dropping litter, putting it in the litter bins provided or disposing of litter at home.

Cllr Kate Hathaway □



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The Colours of Butterfly Wings

by Brian Anderson

What makes butterfly wings coloured?

If you ask most people "what causes the colours on butterfly wings?" the answer will probably be "pigment". In many cases - this will be true so we'll deal with that first - but it is by no means the whole story. Most butterfly wing pigments are synthesised by the caterpillar and carried through to the adult in the pupal stage.

There are many chemical routes available. Yellows and oranges are produced by *uric acid* pigments or flavones (produced by plants and passed through with little modification), browns and blacks by *melanin* (like our suntans!), *ommochromes* produce reds and browns and *pterins* produce white and yellow-to red pigments. Before I go on, I ought to say that with an estimated 18000 -28000 butterfly species in the world, evolution has many opportunities to provide novel ways of producing wing colour, so much of what I say is a generality - there will be exceptions.

Some mixtures of pigments produce what I term "illusory colours" The green of the Green-veined White and the rear underwing of the Orange Tip is actually a mixture of black and yellow scales, which give quite a convincing "green" from a distance. Green is not a pigment colour in British butterflies but is produced by pigment in the Emerald moth. I haven't been able to discover whether the blue in the *Clifden Nonpareil* moth is pigment or not. However, blue is also not a pigment colour in British butterflies.

As well as colours produced by pigment, there is a class of colours where the colours are generated by the physical structure of the wing scales. This structural colouration is caused by interference - everyday examples are the colouration seen in an oil film on a puddle, the iridescence of a soap bubble and the hologram on your credit card. Butterfly scales have evolved to produce a range of mechanisms that create this interference. If all this seems overly technical, suffice it to say that there are physical structures in the wing scales that are able to tune out all but one colour or wavelength.

The most obvious examples in British butterflies are seen in the blues. The Common Blue (for example) is described by in one recent book as producing the blue as Tyndall blue (the same effect that makes the sky look blue). This isn't universally accepted as other authorities state that Tyndall blue effects are confined to the Swallowtails. That the colour is structural is beyond doubt as placing a drop of a volatile solvent (*p*-xylene) on the wing suppresses the blue completely as the refractive index of the fluid is the same as the *chitin* from which the wing scales are made and so the structures are effectively inoperative. The colour returns as the *xylene* evaporates.



The Green Hairstreak uses diffraction lattice scales to produce the green of the under-surface of the wing. There is one tropical species referred to in the literature (the Emerald Swallowtail) that uses selective mirrors to produce two reflected wavelengths (blue and yellow) that allegedly combine as green. (*Really? This is a bit dubious if you know about mixing light!*)

I wasn't able to discover any references to interference mechanisms used by the Small Copper because, despite the brightness of the colour, it seems to be a pigment (a 3-hydroxyanthranilic acid derivative if you really want to know!) I can find no reference to it being a wavelength shifter i.e. it doesn't seem to be fluorescent. I suspect there *may* be some structural enhancement.

It must not be assumed that these interference effects are limited to the visible part of the spectrum - there are effects in the ultraviolet too. This is not particularly surprising as butterflies share with other insects the ability to see into the ultraviolet. Sometimes there are combined interference and pigmented wing patterns in that part of the spectrum where the pigment too is visible only in the ultraviolet.

White butterflies present an interesting case. There is white pigment but also structures that are not organised into regular patterns so the light is scattered randomly from a diffusing surface. This

is rarely a perfect diffuse reflection but it does represent a structural effect. I did an experiment on the wing of a Green-veined White some years ago and the light transmitted through the wing showed distinct signs of a diffraction pattern. There are some interesting examples of the Large White being bred in the 1960s which show a blue translucent colouration on the top wing surface. This is almost certainly caused by interference and suggests that the propensity to produce structural colours may be latent in many butterflies. Indeed, the literature suggests that very complex optical structures can be obtained from a fairly simple genetic template. Now, you will be asking "Why do butterflies do this?" What, you didn't? Where's your sense of curiosity?

Evolution has no sense of aesthetics, so we can dismiss any thoughts of a conscious desire for beauty. The colours have evolved for a variety of reasons:

- ✿ **Camouflage** (or *crypsis*). Look at a Peacock, Comma or Small Tortoiseshell with shut wings and you'll see a remarkable resemblance to a dead leaf. Speckled Woods disappear when landing in dappled sunlight. The Grayling similarly disappears on sandy soil (its behaviour is even more subtle - it sits oriented so that it doesn't cast a shadow in sunlight).
- ✿ **Diversion of attack**. Many species have evolved eyespots at the top corner of the forewing. Birds tend to attack this area as a target, diverting away from the vulnerable body.. The Peacock has taken this to extremes and changed the survival emphasis. If attacked with wings closed it will flick its wings open and the predator is confronted with a huge pair of "eyes".
- ✿ **Sexual selection**. As is frequently the case for birds, colour and pattern advertise fitness for breeding. Obvious differences (sexual dimorphism) are shown (for example) in Orange Tips, Purple Emperors and most blues.
- ✿ **Confusion in flight**. The way butterflies fly also provides a predator-avoidance strategy. The butterfly frequently seems to disappear on every half wing beat. This is aided by contrasting colours and patterns on the upper and lower wing surfaces.
- ✿ **Warning colouration**. This rare in British butterflies but is shown by the male Orange Tip which warns a predator that it is unpalatable (due to the caterpillar concentrating the mustard compounds from the foodplant Garlic Mustard). The extreme case is shown by the black and crimson Cinnabar moth, where the concentration of Ragwort toxins can be fatal to a bird.
- ✿ **Thermal control**. Even a subject as innocuous as this can create controversy. Some years ago, scientists proposed that white butterflies use their wings as reflectors to warm up in colder weather. Other scientists challenged this hypothesis. My own calculations (and some experiments) made me very dubious - the whole physical and mathematical basis of the model seems ill-founded.



This article is freely adapted from one I wrote for the Norfolk Butterfly Conservation Newsletter. □









Fancy jumping 13,000ft from a plane on 14th September 2014?

The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House, is seeking 30 thrill-seekers to take part in a Skydive to celebrate 30 years of caring in Norfolk. To find out more contact Rebekah Mills at the Fundraising Office. Tel: 01485 542891 or email: rebekah.mills@norfolkhospice.org.uk

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Dersingham's Day Centre Gets an Award

The West Norfolk Disability Forum, one of the panels overseen by King's Lynn Borough Council, operates the Opportunity Award Scheme every two years. Initiated in 1989, the award seeks to recognise outstanding contributions, including innovation, imagination, commitment or efforts, which have helped to enable people with disability to lead an ordinary life. This has also been developed to include those individuals who have overcome various difficulties to help or be an inspiration to others.

One of the nominees this year was the Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly. The judges learned that the centre has come through difficult times when their funding was cut and their meeting place was closed to still provide a welcoming gathering once a week for

its members. With the benefit of a hot lunch, celebrations, outings and entertainments, it is not surprising that there is usually a waiting list to join.

The award was received, on behalf of the whole team of volunteers, by Alice Worth seen here with the Mayor Barry Ayres in the town hall. Well done!

Tony Bubb □



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Dersingham United Charities

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Annual Report for Year Ending March 2014

Membership of the Trustees is limited to nine volunteers who manage approximately 100 acres of land in Dersingham. This land is divided into farm land, fuel allotments (commons) and field gardens (allotments). Revenue from the land is used to provide funding for general benefit to the poor and those suffering hardship and in assisting persons who are preparing for a trade. During the year two obligatory committee meetings are held on the second Thursday in May and November, with interim meetings taking place as and when required.

The committee Chairman is Mr Alan Hayward, a representative trustee appointed by the Parish Council, as are Mr Alan Cross, Mr Allan Coleby, Mrs Sarah Harmer and Mr John Hunter who are serving a 4 year term which commenced in 2011. Co-optative trustees appointed by the committee are Professor Walter Blaney, Mr Barry Smeaton and Mrs Elizabeth Fiddick who serve a five year term. Revd. Michael Brock, vicar of the parish of St. Nicholas completes the committee.

Annual accounts are produced at the end of March and sent to the Charity Commissioners. Copies are held by the parish council and clerk of the trustees and are available to parishioners on request. Charity donations are distributed to local charities and individuals whose criteria meet the requirements detailed in paragraph one. Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly, Dersingham Seniors Club, Dersingham Hobbies and Orchard Close Community Group have again benefited.

Donations are made upon application, which should be received by the clerk of the trustees by 1st November each year, for consideration by the committee, for December distribution.

Management of the Commons and SSSI site on the Fen is ongoing. Income from agricultural land, grazing, allotments and shooting rights is regularly monitored and updated.

Station Road Allotments are all occupied and there is a short waiting list. The Allotment Association carries out regular maintenance to roadways and hedges.

A Christmas lunch was held last year to encourage community spirit among the allotment tenants.



DERSINGHAM UNITED CHARITIES

Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2014

2013 £	Income	2014 £	2013 £	Expenditure	2014 £
554.00	Allotment Rents	595.00	279.44	Public Liability Insurance	297.29
			1000.00	Admin Costs	500.00
	Other Rents				
960.00	Sandringham Hill	960.00	908.63	Commons Maintenance	730.00
170.00	Snettisham Ken Hill Estates	170.00	3000.00	Fen Maintenance	3502.00
767.50	Town Land (Richard Stanton)	767.50	1800.00	Charity Donations	2200.00
363.00	Sandringham Estate	363.00			
130.00	Heath Road	257.85	£6988.07	Total Expenses	£7229.29
305.47	Dersingham Fen	305.47			
	Other Income				
87.31	Eastern Electricity (Wayleaves)	90.35			
3362.75	R.P.A. Fen Maintenance	3362.75			
				Balances at end of Year	
21.46	Interest on Bank Deposits	10.55	2472.34	Bank Current Account	2114.97
£6721.49	Total Income	£6882.47	9462.97	Deposit Account	9473.52
	Balances at Start of Year		£18923.38		£18817.78
2760.38	Bank Current Account	2472.34			
9441.51	Bank Deposit Account	9462.97			
£18923.38		£18817.78			

Note: Figures in Italics refer to current year's accounts

Ruth Mountain – Clerk □

Old Picture Corner from Tony Bubb

Two views showing things that have gone. This aerial shot of the village was taken around 1980 before the traffic lights came. The pedestrian refuge in Chapel Rd has now been removed and the old butchers garage and car park have been built over.



This postcard was sent to Auntie Dot in Maidstone on the 24th of August 1951. No surprise that it shows the pier but can you remember the bandstand at the north end of the promenade? Quite a bit of artistic licence here with a distinct bay created where there is only a straight coastline. Doris, who sent the card, had been to Sandringham the previous day so when did it first open to the public?" □



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Answers on page 79
(including answer to this issue's Sudoku)

Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words:

KITE	ROCKING	ANGER	MADISON
CLOTHES	AVARICE	HOBBY	MONROE
GRANT	RACE	LINCOLN	PRIDE
FALCON	SLOTH	MERLIN	CART

Where is it? What is it? by Tony Bubb

This *Where is it? What is it?* is probably only a *Where is it?* as what it is is a bit obvious! However I would have thought that something a little more impressive would have been used.



Sudoku No 37 by Rob

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

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The Birds—A Prequel

by Jack Neale



In about 1950 the large retail and service organisation where I was employed, as a Painter and Decorator, built a modern Grocery branch in a village called Lanesend about 3 miles out of town. It was badly needed as there were only 2 or 3 small shops and a Post Office to serve a thriving community with a fair number of private homes and a large Council Estate, a Pub and Village Hall. It was on a prime site, on the main road, opposite the Village Green, being set well back from the road and with a good sized forecourt. With a wide frontage of about 40 feet, central entrance and a garage at its side and a two storey flat above for the manager and his family, in no time at all it became a most prosperous branch. After a year or two a serious problem emerged. The roof had a rather large overhang at the front – about 15-18 inches wide and carrying the guttering. This Soffitt as it is called provided an ideal nesting site for a colony of House Martins which had established themselves. The numbers grew from just a few to about 12 or 15 nests over two years, their droppings creating a mess not only on the flat and shop windows but on the prams and pushchairs which the shopping Mums left outside. At first the Manager tried to dislodge them from his bedroom windows but with very limited success, so the Building Dept. were called in, the manager of which suggested driving some nails into the underside of the overhang and stringing some nylon thread along the area thus preventing avian access. Normally this would be Carpenters work, but as they were all busy elsewhere myself and a young apprentice called David were asked to do the job as we were used to working on ladders.

The roof line was about 25 feet above ground. The plan was to string lines of nylon twine to nails attached in rows 3 or 4 inches apart, running the width the of the building. We put 2 ladders up and because we had to have both hands free (one for the nails, one for the hammer) had to improvise safety belts comprising a length of rope round the waist with a metal hook attached to a rung of the ladder. We were used to this when 'burning off' old paintwork with a blow-torch in one hand and a scraper in the other. Having knocked down and destroyed the mud nests and dislodged them, including unfortunately some young chicks and eggs, we started work driving in the nails and stringing the twine along them, placing our ladders about 6 feet apart and by attaching at one end then handing one to each other leap-frogging along the length. To avoid having to move too many times we cut about 5 or 6 six lengths of line and tied it to the first line of nails and passed them to each other. It took a little while to work out this system and had just got going when suddenly the dispossessed birds who had gathered on the green opposite endeavoured to reclaim their site. They really made a determined effort to attack us. We were utterly amazed and tried to defend ourselves with a handful of lines partly attached to the nails. They kept it up for quite a few minutes with us beating them off. I was really glad of our safety belts.

Eventually they dispersed and we got the job completed, the nylon twine and nails stayed in for years and there was no more trouble from the birds. But it was one of the most frightening and unusual things to occur, some years before Alfred Hitchcock made the film 'The Birds'.

Like the mystery of the audacious break-in I described previously it was an absolute one-off and one the most remarkable events of my working life, looking back almost unbelievable.

As a footnote David completed his apprenticeship, got his City & Guilds Certificate and became a valued member of our team. He had a brother serving in Cyprus, his young wife out there with him when he was tragically killed by an Army truck. Frances came home and David consoled her by taking her out occasionally and in time they fell in love and wanted to get married. But there was opposition from within the family over him marrying his sister-in-law, a few years previously it had been illegal. So they decided to get married anyway and emigrate to Australia, as '£10 poms'. David followed his trade there becoming employed by Sydney Corporation. Despite hardships they bought a home, had two children and reconciled with the family and he is now retired. We still correspond with each other and exchange photographs. □

Dick Melton

The Cribbage League



As I played cribbage around the local public houses and clubs for many years in the local league and it is the league's fiftieth anniversary, a friend of mine asked if I could write about it. Well, the league was started in 1964 at the Ship public house at Ingoldisthorpe. I believe the men that started the league up were George Blowers from the Ship public house, Len Firth from the Ingoldsby cafe, Bill Martins and Char Daw. I played for the Albert Victor pub in Manor Road, Dersingham in the first season when Peter Rogers was the landlord. I played for a few public houses and clubs over the years, including the Fox and Hounds at Heacham, the Wash and Tope, the Hunstanton Social and Bingo Club and the United Services Club, all at Hunstanton.

For the first few years there were not many teams participating so there was only one division. Then a lot more pubs and clubs put teams in, so there were two divisions as it became more popular. Some pubs and clubs had two teams, including the Wash and Tope that had two teams named 'Port' and 'Starboard'.

In 1980 the late Frank Haycock took over as secretary till the year 2000 and he was for many years assisted by Gordon Johnson. They organized Crib drives for many years, first at Bircham Club, then at Old Town Social Club and, also, Heacham Town Hall, where we would also have our yearly Presentation Night with music from Waddo.

I shall now list some of the public houses and clubs that had and still have teams in the Ingoldisthorpe and District Cribbage League over the last fifty years: The Dun Cow, the Albert Victor and the Coach and Horses at Dersingham; the Royal, the Grapes, the Compasses, the Queen Vic and the Beach Club at Snettisham; the Greyhound, the Bushel and Strike, the West Norfolk, the Social Club, the Fox and Hounds and the Wheatsheaf at Heacham; the Wash and Tope, the Con Club, the Bingo Club, and the United Services Club at Hunstanton; and the Social Club and the Le-Strange hotel at Old Hunstanton. I cannot remember if the Neptune (in Old Hunstanton) had a team or not.

Out in the smaller villages there were many more pubs and clubs in the league, so I will now try to name as many as I can remember: the 71 Club in Brancaster; the White Horse in Holme; the Hoste and Lord Nelson in Burnham Market; Bircham Club; Shernborne Club; the Railway, the Hare and King William in Docking; the King William in Sedgeford; the Bell in Grimston; the West Newton Club; the Anvil in Congham; the Union Jack in Roydon; the Narborough Club; the House on the Green in North Wootton; and the Wolferton Club. I remember one night when we were playing at the Wolferton Club, a RAF plane crashed on the marshes killing one of the crew and we were not let out of the village until the police gave us the 'all clear'.

One I missed out of the list above is Dersingham Social Club. I worked out that, out of that list of clubs and public houses, twelve of them are closed down or demolished. If anyone can add to this list anything at all then please write to me or the village voice.

Prominent Places

The letter from Jenny Oliver asks if I could do a list of old public house and road names in the village. Well a few years back I done a list of shops that were trading in Dersingham in 1925, then I done a list of the ones that are there today and where the older ones used to be. I sent the list in to Village Voice but it was never published. So I will now give you a list of some of the more prominent place names like the one that Jenny Oliver mentions, the Shut Up Common. Well, this common, that is in Heath Road, was fenced off so that people from the village could keep and



graze their horses, ponies and donkeys there. About the last person to do this was Norman Towers, the butcher, who had a horse on the Shut Up Common right up to the end of the Sixties. He used this horse to pull his butcher's cart. Dan Grief from Manor Road kept his donkey on there for many years. Those days there was plenty of grazing as there were no birch trees the Heath Road side of the stream, as they were all cut down by the men of the village for pea and bean sticks. Also, the village dump was just inside to the right of the gate until in 1950 it was moved to the first hill on the fen. The gate was always kept shut and the fence was always kept in good repair by the people of the village.

Parkers Corner was so called at the bottom of Sandringham Road, as it was where the Parker family had their grocery shop for many years. They also had a store at Hunstanton.

Laundry Lane (Brooke Road) and Wash House Yard (Albert Victor Cottages) both had washerwomen plying their trade there, the lady in Wash House Yard done a lot of washing for staff up at Sandringham House.

Senters Corner is at the junction of Manor Road, The Drift and Lynn Road. The reason for this junction being so called is because, for many years, the Senter family had three shops there at No 2 Manor Road - a sweet shop, a cobblers and a cycle agents.

The old Dun Cow public house stood where Budgens is today and the stretch of road from there to the common was called Dun Cow Lane. Then, when the old pub was knocked down in 1938 and the new one built, the name of the road was changed to Lynn Road.

A gentleman called Dodd lived up Dodds Hill and the road was named after him but, over the years, people put a 's' on the end, so for many years it has been known as Dodds Hill. The same goes for Sugar Lane, the rough lane that runs from the top of Fern Hill to Jannoch's Corner. It was named after Mr Sugar, who lived in the house at the bottom; and Jannoch's Corner was named after a Mr Jannoch, a nurseryman who lived in the Old Hall.

Mr Rolly Lindford had a grocer's shop that is now a fish and chip shop near the traffic lights and this junction is always known as Lindfords Corner. White Horse Drive was named after the old public house that was where the shopping precinct is today at No 7 Hunstanton Road.

Now we come to the 'Emblems'. For those people who don't know where this area of land is, well, they can be forgiven as these days it is well hidden. If you walk across the road from the Feathers hotel to the bottom of the old school wall there is a gate, the other side of this is about 40 acres of overgrown land with a pond in the middle, trees, grass and bushes. When I went to school it was a favourite playground for us boys. At one time it was proposed that Dersingham Parish Council should take this land over and turn it into amenity land for the village, but this idea was turned down. The word 'emblems' refers to crop on land farmed by a tenant, but it must be many years ago since this area of land had any crops on it.

There are many more places with strange names around the village and I will put some more in the next Village Voice in October. That's about all for now, look after yourselves. □

Your letter certainly pressed the right there button Jenny! Ed.

Burnham Market's 39th Acclaimed Craft Fair **Saturday 16th August 2014**

Traditional, local and regional crafts will be displayed alongside items by local artists, designers and artisans on over 100 stalls in the centre of the village, on the greens, from **10.00am to 5.00pm**.

Exhibitors include jewellery, plants, textiles, ceramics, cards, woodwork, pottery, basketwork, sculpture, furniture, glassware, photography, aromatherapy, metalwork and more.

Stallholders contribute 10% of their takings which are distributed to local good causes.

There will be a traditional **Hog Roast** and **Mr Poz**, with his **Punch and Judy Show**, will entertain children throughout the day.

Ample parking is available on the Creak Road Playing Field, for a small fee.

Enquiries to **Geof Hanley** on **01328 738503** or email geof.hanley@virgin.net



Dersingham Walking Group



Welcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides regular guided walks round the local countryside. Our summer evening walks conclude on July 23rd with a circuit round Sedgeford., leaving at 6.00pm. 2.00pm is the start time for the remainder of the programme and we'll feature

some of the favourite locations among our leaders, with the beach, coastal views and field edge footpaths all providing some great walking.

The walks are free and there's normally 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 with a stop or two, so why not get some fresh air and exercise, you'll be in good company!

Details of our next walks are:

Wednesday 23rd July 6.00pm

Starting point: Sedgeford village hall, Jarvie Close off Ringstead Rd. Grid ref: TF 710 368

An evening amble round footpaths near Sedgeford, including part of the Peddars Way. Parking £1 per car.

Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

Wednesday 13th August 2.00pm

Starting point: Brays Pit duck pond, Heacham. Grid ref: TF 672 374

A walk along the beach and through the dunes, returning on the top of the sea bank.

Leader: Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138

Wednesday 27th August 2.00pm

Starting point: The car park approx. ¾ mile from Knights Hill on the right of Lynn to Grimston road. Grid ref: TF 680 230

A tour of Roydon Common, when the heather should be in full bloom.

Leader: Pat Reed 01485 540757

Wednesday 10th September 2.00pm

Starting point: Brancaster church. Grid ref: TF 771 438

Great views over the coast from the heights of Barrow Common.

Leader: Keith Starks 01485 542268

Wednesday 17th September 2.00pm

Starting point: Great Bircham windmill.

Grid ref: TF 760 327

A circular walk with the possibility of a tea-shop stop at the end!

Leader: Elizabeth Fiddick 01485 540940



You can always see 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 □

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DVPK (Dersingham Village Parkour)

DVPK are a group of Free Runners from Dersingham and surrounding villages, created five years ago and are always introducing new members, currently aged between 15 and 17 years. They have all been practicing for various amounts of time, some as long as 6 years and some only more recently. They have performed at fetes and fundays and you might have seen them most recently at the 'Big Lunch' at the recreational ground.

Parkour or Free Running is a sport that originates from France and its aim is Art of Movement, getting from A to B in the most efficient way including vaulting, jumping, rolling and quadruple movement while doing so. This is becoming more and more popular and can now be seen in a lot of movies and music videos.

So if you ever see them jumping from place to place, please feel free to stop and have a chat or check them out at **DVPKmedia** on *YouTube*.



Kerry Bowman

These guys are amazing! It may be wishful thinking for most of us but don't try this at home! Ed. □

Mr. James E. Kemp

B.Sc., D.C., M.R.C. (& Associates)

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Sandringham Squirrels

written by Allan Coleby, illustrated by Jeanne Ockenden

Girl squirrels

Ella

Eve *Stories for children: a group of eight young*

Cassie *squirrels play, feed and explore in the woods*

Thora *of Sandringham.*

Boy squirrels

Scoot

Chip

Barney

Gus

Teasing and Daring

Word spread among the squirrels that there was a fox which was hungry and was hunting in their wood. He seemed to like to eat squirrels. Scoot, Chip, Gus and Thora were talking about this, when Scoot said that he thought it would be the same fox that he and Chip had seen by the bungalows that time when it scared them. Gus asked what bungalows they were talking about. Scoot remembered that he had promised Thora not to tell Gus and so he said that it wasn't him who was at the bungalows but someone had told him about them and he didn't know where they were.

'This fox is especially dangerous,' said Thora, 'because he lies in bushes, hoping that someone will walk past on the ground. But he also waits at the bottom of trees for anyone coming down – all covered over in leaves, of course. It's very dangerous. You all want to be on the lookout.'

'Oh, I'm not scared,' said Gus. 'Foxes can't climb trees, and if they come after us, we can soon nip up a tree.'

'Boasting, boasting,' sneered Thora. 'That's all you ever do. I suppose you think you're so clever, and we're supposed to think how good you are. We don't. We think you're stupid.'

'Well, I think you're cowards and you're weak and anything can scare you,' said Gus. 'I'm tough.'

'We're not weak. We're sensible and we're clever enough to look after ourselves,' replied Thora. She was enjoying the argument. 'Do you remember that time you got run over? You were nearly killed. You weren't so clever then.'

'That was a car.' Gus's voice was lower now, almost a grumble. 'You can't fight against cars, but a fox – as I say, you can nip up a tree.'

'Don't listen to him,' Thora told the others. 'He'll get too close to a fox one day, and it will kill him and eat him. A fox only eats other animals, you know. We eat nuts and fruit and things that grow, but a fox eats other animals, especially squirrels like Gus.'

A few days later, Gus and Chip were up a sycamore tree near the gorse edge of the wood when Chip whispered, 'Hey, Gus. Do you see that pile of dead leaves under that bramble bush?'

'Yes,' said Gus, not very interested. 'What about it?'

'It just moved,' said Chip.

'How could it just move?' asked Gus, who was not the cleverest of squirrels.

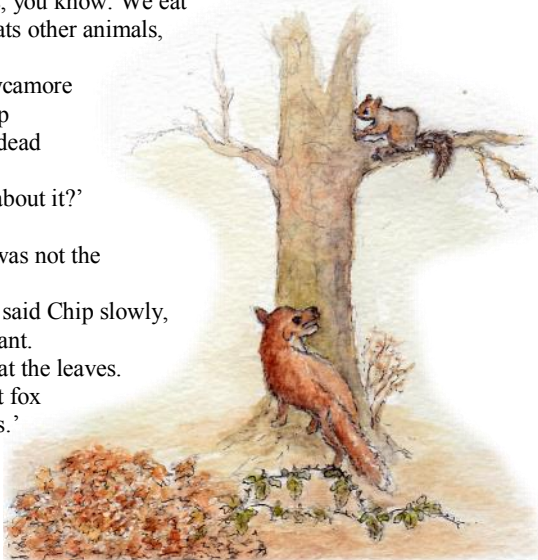
'There must be something in it, or under it,' said Chip slowly, hoping that Gus would understand what he meant.

'I don't believe you,' said Gus, as he stared at the leaves.

'There it goes again,' said Chip. 'It'll be that fox that Thora was talking about, the one that hides.'

Unknown to Gus and Chip, Scoot, Eve, Ella and Cassie were watching from a few trees away and could hear them talking.

'I still don't believe you,' said Gus.



‘Well, foxes stink,’ said Chip. ‘They have a really sharp smell, and I can smell him from here.’

‘I’m going to see,’ said Gus, and before Chip could say any more, Gus was down the tree and going towards the bramble bush.

Just as he got there, there was a great flurry of action and the leaves flew in all directions. Gus darted back to the sycamore tree and climbed up it like lightning. Still, the fox would have caught him, but just as he threw off the leaves and sprang forward, a bramble branch caught his back leg and slowed him down. He was left looking up at the tree.

‘Ha! Can’t catch me!’ called Gus, really excited by the near miss.

The fox began to walk away round the bush, and Chip and Gus heard the other squirrels behind them, as Scoot, Eve, Ella and Cassie came closer to see what was happening.

Gus could not resist this. This was an audience and Gus was going to show off. Down he went and got to one side of the bush. The fox whirled round, snarling, and lunged at him. Gus darted to the side just in time and got back to the tree, laughing as he climbed. The others watched in silence.

Gus was enjoying himself so much that he turned to face the others and did a little dance on a low branch of the sycamore tree. He was showing off again, but this time it was a bit too much. He slipped and tried to grab the branch with his front feet but just missed and fell to the ground. The fox heard him slip, shot across, and was within two yards of Gus.

At that very moment a dog barked. Everyone looked along the pathway and saw one of the men from the bungalows, walking along, taking his dog for a walk. The dog had either heard or smelt the fox and was charging along the path. The fox was more afraid for his own life if the dog got him than he was keen to get Gus. He ran in the other direction as fast as he could with the dog chasing. The dog soon gave up. He was not hungry. His owner would feed him that day, whatever happened.

Gus climbed back into the sycamore tree and laughed across at the others. But he did not show off any more. Three near misses were enough for him. Though he would not say so, he realised how lucky he had been.

Thora had joined the other squirrels watching, and had seen everything from the time Gus had started to dance in the tree.

‘We hope you’ve learnt your lesson,’ Thora shouted to Gus. ‘You got run over and nearly killed. Now you’ve nearly been killed by the fox. Why do you have to nearly get killed before you learn not to do things?’

Gus did not answer. He just went away deep into the wood.

‘Scoot. I want you a minute. Come over here,’ Thora called.

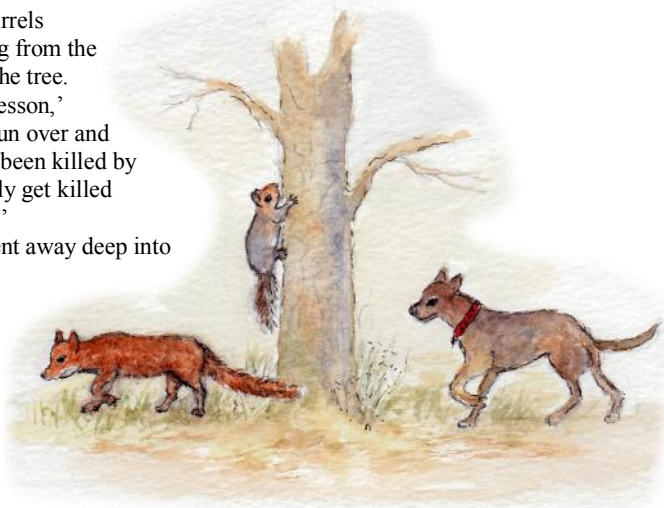
Puzzled, Scoot went to the part of the chestnut tree she was in.

‘Look over there at the bramble bush,’ said Thora.

Scoot looked. Bang!!

Thora hit Scoot on the head so hard from behind that his head rocked forwards and then backwards. ‘That’s for telling Gus about the bungalows when I have told you not to,’ she shouted. ‘Now where’s Chip? He’s run off, has he? Well, tell him that he’ll get it from me as well when I catch him.’

Scoot did not answer. He would not break a promise again. He wouldn’t do any silly things. He rubbed his neck where Thora had hit him. He didn’t want to be hit like that again. □



**Carole Brown Health Centre (CBHC)
Patients' Participation Group (PPG) News**
From: Tom Morris, PPG Committee

COLLECTING THE VIEWS OF PATIENTS

Key practice staff work with the PPG to make sure they are kept up to date with issues within the surgery and also to collect views and discuss any issues or concerns they may have. GPs and Managers attend the PPG meetings.

In addition to the scheduled meetings chaired by PPGs, the practice managers and clinical staff meet the PPG Chairman and Vice Chairman bi-annually to communicate practice specific issues in a 'Patient Care Group'. At this meeting, there is a full report on trends, and key points raised from complaints are addressed, significant events and compliments are discussed and access is provided to information about all areas of care provision at the surgery. From this interaction, it is possible for the PPG to provide a very clear steer on how they think the practice services should operate to meet patient needs. It also allows PPG members to increase their knowledge about the operation of the practice and thus influences the issues they want addressed.

The practice has also undertaken surveys with a virtual Patients Reference Group (vPRG) regarding various issues to do with the surgery including the presentation of the surgery premises and facilities, availability and access to appointments and their views on the care that they receive. The results of these surveys are then actioned via various in-practice team meetings.

There is a well-used comments book on the reception desk. Comments from this are scrutinised by the practice's Clinical Governance team as well as by the Customer Services Champions. The PPG welcomes comments, either written or oral, from patients regarding the service they receive from the practice □



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The Sandringham Newsletter

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



The weather was much kinder this spring than it was last year, so the normal events of the natural calendar seemed to happen at their usual time. Ducklings appeared on the lakes in the Gardens, swallows returned to barns and sheds locally to start building nests, at least one cuckoo was calling regularly in Sandringham Park and the wild rhododendrons which line so many of the local roads turned the area into a blaze of purple.

In the Gardens, sweet peas and dahlias were planted out, having been started off under glass. The mild weather in April and since accelerated the growth rate of both weeds and grass, so hoeing and mowing are taking up a lot of the gardeners' time.

The vegetable patch in the Walled Garden is also growing well. It supplied the Visitor Centre Restaurant with fresh herbs and pea shoots all winter; now beans, courgettes and pumpkins have been sown and gardeners were able to cut rhubarb for some weeks for use in all kinds of desserts.

Farm staff are looking ahead and getting prepared for harvest in July and August; the grain driers have been cleaned, combine harvesters have been overhauled, and all the farm tracks are being checked for potholes needing filling.

The Farm Manager is planning to set up field trials later this year of various methods for controlling thistles in organic crops as these weeds have caused some difficulties for the Farm over the last few years. These trials are being supported by the Soil Association and sponsored by the Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation.

In the Gardens, bedding plants have been planted out in the North Garden and in the Walled Garden. Rainfall just as they were planted was helpful, although it has been very dry since, and hoses and sprinklers have started to make their appearance around the Gardens. Lake water is used for sprinklers rather than mains water, so the gardeners have to be thrifty with their use in order not to deplete the lakes too much.

Sandringham Park was the venue for the horse driving trials at the end of June. This year's trials also featured the World Para-Driving Championships, with disabled competitors from eight different countries tackling dressage, marathon and obstacles, and cone-driving over four days. Entry is free to the public every day and the skill and precision of drivers and horses is always something worth seeing.

Once the driving trials were over, preparations in the Park for the Flower Show on 30th July began, and the next few weeks were busy ones at the Visitor Centre, too. Full details are on the Events Calendar of this website, but there will be two car rallies, three brass band concerts, two sponsored walks and a fundraising charity cycle ride all taking place in and around the Visitor Centre. □



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A Walk on the Great Wall of China

by Stephen Martyn

Now is time to go on long journey. Old Chinese proverb says that to be truly a hero, you must walk on the Great Wall of China. But first, you must get to China. Confucius recommends British Airways!

And so it was, in late April, that Margaret and I found ourselves on a BA 747 drifting over the snowy Mongolian steppes, beautifully bathed in early morning sunshine. We'd passed St Petersburg during the night, lights twinkling below, managed to get a few minutes of fitful sleep and now it was time for breakfast. The cabin crew approach, "something to drink?" "Well, it is Margaret's birthday, so how about a Buck's Fizz," I venture. "Ooh really a

birthday, well let's break out some champagne!" A few very convivial hours later we totter off the plane, into the teeming crowds of Beijing airport. Our China adventure had begun.

The whole reason of this trip was not just to see China but to visit the Great Wall. In response to my "what would you like to do on your birthday?" enquiry, the answer was not the expected one. A nice meal at a local pub, or a trip to London to see a show? . . . well, another time perhaps.

"What I really want to do on my birthday is walk on the Great Wall of China!" Hmmm, well we've never been there, so why not? Much research later, we found a tour with *Explore* titled aptly, *Walk the Great Wall*. Ten days on the longest man made structure in the world, over 5000kms. stretching from the Yellow Sea in the East to Mongolia in the West. And yes, we could be there, sort of, on the big birthday. Well in Beijing anyway, where the Wall is only a few miles away.



To find ourselves in China in April was quite a surprise, and an even bigger one awaited us. There were only two people booked on this tour, not the twenty-two that we'd guessed, so we have a guide and a driver all to ourselves. With a cry of "Nee-how", which seems to be the universal Chinese greeting, we are bundled into a gleaming black Peugeot and swept away into the city.

The metropolis of Beijing must rank as the largest city that I've ever visited. Mile after mile of high rise apartments, necklaced with no less than six ring roads, lead into a city centre thronging with cars, three wheelers (both with and without roof), motorcycles and, surprisingly, just the occasional bicycle. The streets hum with activity - designer shops side by side with food stalls, trolley buses packed to the gunwales with commuters, and neon signs blazing incomprehensible messages in Chinese script. There are many long queues - for the Metro, for the museums and, longest of all, to visit Mao's tomb. But it's clean, street sweepers everywhere, with long bristle brushes and face-masks against the notorious smog.



Over two days we do the sights. Tiananmen Square, the largest in the world, throngs with visitors of all nationalities, but they are all around the periphery of the square. The centre is reserved only for parades, overseen by those party members who are in the inner circle. There are many uniforms to be seen. Who are they - police, security, army? All part of the inscrutable face of the world's most populated country, where even to this day there are events which cannot be spoken off. The tanks, the rioting students, "oh, ha-ha, that was all a long time ago". You soon learn that when a Chinese laughs, it doesn't necessarily mean that anything is funny.

But we're here for the Wall, and early on a fine Sunday morning the black Peugeot hurries us East out of the city. Past the wheezing buses, the puttering motorbikes, the scurrying pedestrians, all on duty seven days a week. The Chinese dragon never

sleeps, take time off when you can, there's work to be done.

And so at last we stood on the Great Wall. On a rather chilly and blustery day, on the outskirts of a sprawling industrial town, we looked down from a watchtower at the sea. Yes, the sea. This is definitely one end of the Wall, where it meets the Yellow Sea at Shanhaiguan. There's a party atmosphere, it's a Chinese tourist hotspot, with many loud voices and clicking of cameras. Margaret and I are the subject of curiosity, not many Westerners make it out here, 300 kms from Beijing. We are politely herded next to a couple with smiling Mongolian faces, as cameras record the moment Mr and Mrs Chu met two strange "big noses" on a day out at the Great Wall.



From the sea we travel inland, day by day we visit a new piece of this historic structure. Although some parts of the wall date back over a thousand years, most of it was built in the 16th and 17th Centuries, by Ming and Qing emperors with money to burn and an ample supply of forced labour to turn their dreams into reality. Although the general belief is that the emperors built the Wall to keep out marauding hordes, in reality they probably built it more as a symbol of power and status. They certainly built it to impress, as it clings to the crests of the rolling landscape, snaking across the land, watchtower after watchtower taking your eye away into infinity.

Actually, despite the huge quoted length of the Wall, only a relatively few kilometres actually remain in any sort of walkable condition. From Shanhaiguan we climb into the nearby hills and walk on a ruined section little more than a pile of stones peppered with the remains of towers. We overlook a small village and the sound of strident music floats up to us. A funeral, we are told. Hopefully not for a Wall walker, although you certainly need to be fairly fit here. The word steep is hardly enough to convey the roller coaster of plunging descents, often with huge steps, followed by lung-bursting climbs up to the next summit. And the next, and the next. But those views into the distance are worth all the effort, this is one spectacular landscape.

I could tell you of many more places. Panjiakou with a speedboat ride to see the wall where it plunges into a flooded valley. Louwenyu, a ruined section with a man tending his vegetable patch right in the centre of what had been an old watchtower. Jinshaling, where we arrived on May Day, along with half of China, where every watchtower had little stalls selling postcards, Snicker bars and bottled water, and where the first price is at least twice what, after haggling, you'll end up paying. And it goes on.

But to experience China you must go there. The people are friendly, curious but polite. Even the man we met in Beijing who engaged us in a long conversation, in excellent English, before inviting us to have tea with him. Only later did we realise that we were going to be doing the paying, at a vastly inflated price. "Ha-ha, I think he was a fake" says our guide later, after we'd made our escape. But China is so cheap that even when they're overcharging you it doesn't come to too much. We had a lengthy taxi ride in Beijing, from the Forbidden City back to our hotel. I thought it might bankrupt us for the rest of the tour, but it was just 15 yuan, about £1.60.

It was a fascinating visit to a country of huge contrasts between old and new. Motorways,

modern cars, high speed trains, high speed internet. But don't try to log onto Facebook, or it'll be "connection lost". The infrastructure can provide you with a 220mph train, but not safe drinking water. The party grandees have their own, well hidden, agenda. As do the Chinese people, of course, when you ask them about the Communist system. They smile and say "I think Communism is okay, ha-ha-ha . . . as long as you make sure to behave yourself!" □



Dersingham in May incorporating Open C

This year, during surprisingly good weather for the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, 17 homes (including 2 studios, plus stalls, refreshments and Jazz entertainment at St Nicholas Court, The Church and Hall; also



Gardens, Art Studio Trail and Village Fair

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Focus on The MAD group of the Dersingham Evening WI by Maggie Guest



I recall knitting a dish cloth at junior school and even managed one sweater but recently I discovered a frenzy of clicking knitting needles, colourful balls of wool and assorted knitted garments at the local WI's MAD. group. This is the 2nd year of the MAD group which was formed in response to the WI National Chairman's call to 'Make A Difference'. The dozen or so members meet once a month in different homes. They started the first year by knitting squares that were turned into colourful blankets which in turn were given to our local Day Centre and the Purfleet Trust. They were well received by both groups.

Following on from this successful first year blanket operation, the group has become affiliated with Norfolk Knitters which is a charity set up in Norwich in 2009 to provide knitted items to many charities and good causes in Norfolk and elsewhere. They recently sent hundreds of Trauma Teddies (these are knitted teddies sent to parts of the world where there is trauma) to children in Syria, they support Domestic Abuse centres, Homeless Shelters and Premature Baby units among many others. There is a group in Kings Lynn which has regular meetings. Being linked with them means discounted wool can be bought, ideas exchanged and items left with them for distribution.

I invited myself along to Brenda's home to observe the activities of our MAD group while they went about the business of wielding their needles and hooks. Present that day were Brenda, Stephanie, Gilly, Christine, Olive, Margaret, Geraldine, Julie and Ann. Usually 10 to 12 people attend but some people knit at home and give the proceeds of their labour to the group to go to charity. I felt a bit like David Attenborough observing the habits of a new colony of creatures! A quiet, active atmosphere pervaded as I sat observing them while they worked towards producing an assortment of garments. *'Oh look at this wool.'*

'What can we do with this?'

'That would make a blanket thing'

'Don't think it would be any good for a baby'

'Why don't you try a cushion cover with it?'

'Oh yes that would be pretty'

'Do we want to knit two strands together?'

'Oh I don't know, maybe this one and that one together would be better'

A decision seemed to have been made by the group as the room went back to a quiet chatter and the inevitable clicking of needles. *'It's nice to knit for something, you don't always want to keep things yourself'* Julie tells me. She loves the chatter and companionship, *'I can knit and knit to my heart's content at home but there is no one to listen to or talk to.'*

Brenda and Julie went off to make tea in the kitchen. Julie soon emerged with plates, excited that cake was on the menu. The cake arrived freshly made with homemade lemon curd inside. Cake recipes and jam making were discussed.....well it is the WI !!! Tea, cake and biscuits were enjoyed and the conversation moved on to the possibility of a keep fit group before clearing away to resume the 'job in hand'.

My eye was attracted to Christine's knitting, *'Christine, what are you knitting in that bright orange?'* Christine replied that it was to be a cream and orange child's jumper and proudly showed me the contents of a plastic bag which were baby cardigans and jumpers for children. She told me what a positive thing the MAD group is with the companionship and sending the produce of the group to good causes.

The conversation then went to shopping trips, especially *wool buying!* Brenda then became concerned that she had run out of wool for a baby blanket but she was soon





told 'Crochet round the edges.' Problem solved!

Margaret was busy all afternoon sewing stunningly pretty squares together that she had crocheted to make into a blanket. 'What should I do with this Stephanie?' Stephanie soon made an appropriate suggestion which was accepted. Geraldine is learning to crochet with Gilly as her main teacher but everyone seemed to be helping where they could. Olive gets 10/10 for concentration.

Pretty pastel colours flowed and long needles moved working towards a baby blanket. Lovely!

They teach each other things. Very interactive. Luckily generous people in the village do donate unwanted wool. Technical terms abound – double, treble, turning crochet borders, anchor with double crochet, needle sizes! Stephanie has a big book of patterns and is in charge of buying all the wool. Patterns are searched through and commented on. 'Can I borrow this one?'

'Oh look at this...who wants a hat like a Christmas Pudding?' 'Oh, I love this one'

Items kept coming out of books. Gilly, who had been busy all afternoon crocheting a bright coloured blanket, when she wasn't helping Geraldine, told me that she loves coming to the MAD group as it is so relaxing. I couldn't agree more.

I left, my ears ringing with the talk of colours, jumpers, blankets, teddies, cardigans, clicking needles and the general amiable chatter. What a wonderful, friendly, purposeful, buzzy and busy group. I really enjoyed my afternoon with them - and the lovely cake too!!

If you have any spare wool, do send it along or ring Stephanie 01485 298135 ☐



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Back to Front (part deux)

by David Bingham



Welcome back to the Western Front. We were last here in the spring of 1918 when my grandfather, Wilfred Scott, was about to face the German onslaught on the Allied trenches known as the 'Ludendorff Offensive' and my grandmother, Angèle Losson, was heading south in a long straggling line of civilian evacuees. The German attack took place as expected and was initially successful in punching holes through the Allied lines in a number of places – although they didn't manage to break through the position defended by my grandfather's regiment at the Labourse salient. The Germans had prepared well for the attacks and had even created replicas of the Allied trenches in which to practice their assault tactics. They failed to consolidate their initial gains, mainly due to stretched supply lines preventing men and equipment reaching the frontline troops. The Allies counterattacked – with French and American troops – in what became known as the Second Battle of the Marne in July and August of 1918. This counterattack was successful and the Germans realised that the end was in sight and sought an armistice from the Allies.

My grandmother's recollections of life in the tail end of La Belle Époque were always vivid and she had fond memories of her father showing her how to plant vegetables in the garden (I worked out that she was describing a scene in great detail that must have taken place sometime around 1910). She also told me about life in her family home and the cafe they ran. She would talk about the tongue lashing her grandmother gave to her uncles when they came home with a blood soaked sack containing the remains of the family cockerel - the runner up in a cock fight. This way of life came to an abrupt end with the outbreak of war when the family cafe was initially on the German side of the lines. My grandmother owned some ornate porcelain pipes left behind by German



troops for safe keeping after they had been drinking in the cafe and two decorative artillery shell cases given to her as gifts by a British soldier later in the war. The shell cases are examples of 'trench art' and my grandmother always kept them well polished but they are now tarnished. She didn't have any bad memories of either the British or the German soldiers – to her they were just young men who would rather have been somewhere else. She spoke of the washing station the British army set up in the backyard of the cafe and how everyone in the village followed a firing-squad, which had been detailed to shoot a deserter - begging them not to do it.

My grandmother was evacuated to the small town of Rochechouart in the Limousin. A place far from the fighting where life went on as it had always done under the hot summer sun. I've been there and it is still an out of the way corner that would still be recognisable to my grandmother. It was here that my grandfather travelled on a borrowed motorcycle to collect her at the end of the war. They called the house they built in England 'Labourse' and the old photo shows my grandmother and my mother in the garden sometime in the mid 1920s. Along with the chickens they had bee hives, an apple and pear orchard, soft fruit bushes, a strawberry bed and a large vegetable garden. My grandmother lived life in a French style – waking early and shopping for fresh produce in markets or butchers, bakers, fishmongers and greengrocers (never supermarkets). She was also a great cook and I was brought up on the cuisine of the Artois. But her real passion wasn't gardening or cooking - it was football. She was a lifelong 'Stags' fan and could be found at every home game come rain or shine in her favourite seat in the Bishop's Street Stand. I would often join her there and she really got into the spirit of things - kicking her legs out beneath her travel blanket as if she was actually on the pitch playing. We also went to away games together on

the supporters' club coach. She showed no fear as she cut a swathe through the Leeds United fans at Elland Road with the point of her umbrella and remained unflinching as a barrage of house bricks was hurled at our coach as we left Stockport County's ground - I hate to think what they would have done if we had won. She followed her team through thick and thin (it was mostly thin). The only really memorable game was in the fifth round of the FA cup on a cold February night in 1969 when we trounced West Ham 3-0 at home. The core of 'The Hammers' team was made up of the World Cup winning trio of Martin Peters, Bobby More and Geoff Hurst with rising stars Harry Rednapp and Trevor Brooking lending a hand. I doubt my grandmother showed as much glee on Armistice Day as she did when Sharkey slotted in the third goal! My grandmother didn't quite see the century out but came close and remained as sharp as a tack until the end.

No one in the family died in the First World War and their names aren't engraved on any headstones in France or village war memorials in England. But shockwaves from the conflict changed everyone's lives. Going through the cellar door at 'Labourse' once more brought me face to face with my ancestors who were around in the inter war years. The photograph of my Great Uncle Ernest in uniform reminded me of his early death from tuberculosis, which was probably brought on by the conditions he endured in the trenches. My grandparent's wedding photograph has been slashed in two and the image of my grandmother was probably consigned to the fire. Granddad Scott looks rather sad standing alone with a flower in his buttonhole. Great Uncle George's bride has received the same treatment and all that is left are the tips of her fingers resting on his shoulder. She was Irish and Great Uncle George met her when he was stationed in Dublin – he married her and never came home. I presume the brides were damned for being foreign and



catholic – my grandmother said she wasn't welcomed when she first arrived in England. There is also a photo of my Great Aunt Margaret as a young girl. She was a lovely lady who always gave me half-a-crown and told me to buy an ice cream when she saw me in the street – rather embarrassingly she continued to do this when she saw me in the bus queue on the way home from work. She lived alone with a budgie called Billy who was allowed the freedom to fly around the house. The war graves of France may hold the remains of the husband she never met. The lack of men following the war worked in favour of her brother, my Great Uncle Walter, who did manage to find a wife despite his reputation of being 'careful' with money. Able bodied men were in short supply after the war and this would have been made worse by soldiers who had their heads turned by a comely foreign ankle. And as for my Granddad Scott, he was taken ill while serving in the Home Guard during the Second World War. You had to pay to see a doctor in those days so he decided not to bother in the belief that the pain wouldn't last for long. It didn't. □

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A 6x6 grid of 36 photographs capturing various activities at a community festival. The images show people of all ages enjoying the day. Key scenes include: a band performing on a stage; a person performing a handstand; a police officer sitting with a family; children in costumes (including a bee, a clown, and Superman); a food stand advertising 'BIG BBQ' and 'HOG ROAST'; a baby in a pink hat; and people playing on a wooden structure. The background is consistently a green lawn with trees and festival decorations.

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Dersingham Library News



What will you be reading this summer? The next village read runs throughout July and August. We'll be comparing the two bestselling novels of J K Rowling since the end of the Harry Potter series:

The Casual Vacancy (When Barry Fairbrother dies unexpectedly in his early 40s, the little town of Pagford is left in shock. The empty seat left by Barry on the parish council soon becomes the catalyst for the biggest war the town has ever seen. Who will triumph in an election fraught with passion, duplicity and unexpected revelations?)

Also **The Cuckoo's Calling** (When a troubled model falls to her death from a snow-covered Mayfair balcony, it is assumed that she has committed suicide. However, her brother has his doubts, and calls in private investigator Cormoran Strike to look into the case. Strike is a war veteran - wounded both physically and psychologically - and his life is in disarray. The case gives him a financial lifeline, but it comes at a personal cost: the more he delves into the young model's complex world, the darker things get - and the closer he gets to terrible danger. A gripping, elegant mystery steeped in the atmosphere of London from the hushed streets of Mayfair to the backstreet pubs of the East End to the bustle of Soho) which she wrote under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith. Another book under the same pseudonym, **'The Silkworm'** is out in hardback this summer. Request it for 60p!

Mythical Maze Summer Reading events (All events are free but it's advisable to book!)

Mythical Maze Beast Quest Morning Wednesday 6th August 10.30-11.30am

Create your own Beast quest stories, make your own Beast Quest shield and more. Places are limited so please call the library to book.

Speedstacking morning Thursday 7th August 10.30-11.30am

Amazing Mazes Wednesday 13th August 10.30-11.30am

Learn the story of Theseus and the Minotaur and make your very own Minotaur!

Activities for families with children under 5 with Hunstanton Children's Centre

Thursday 14th August from 2-3pm & Thursday 28th August from 2-3pm

Mythical Maze Percy Jackson morning Wednesday 20th August 10.30-11.30am

Find out about gods and monsters of the Ancient world, hieroglyphics and more!

Dragonese Wednesday 27th August 10.30-11.30am

Learn about Viking myths and legends, make a Viking shield and learn the Viking alphabet!

Speedstacking morning

Thursday 28th August 10.30-11.30am

Norfolk's First World War Archaeology - a talk - Tuesday 16th September 7pm

A talk by Claire Bradshaw, Community Archaeologist from Norfolk Historic Environment Service. Tickets are £2 from the Library

Macmillan Coffee Morning on Thursday 25th September from 10.30am-1pm. Enjoy a cake and a cuppa and help us raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. You can also browse and borrow our range of Macmillan Cancer Care guides. We'll also have a health trainer to offer advice, and a nurse from the Macmillan cancer support unit at the QEH.

Jennifer our Pre-School Story Time volunteer will be continuing our Thursday afternoon story times throughout the summer. Join her from **2-2.30pm every Thursday.**

We will be running another **Surf's Up** course in the autumn. This is a lottery funded computer course for beginners for people over 60. If anyone is interested in taking part, or wants to find out more about what's involved, just give me a ring at the library.

If you have any difficulties or enquiries regarding any of the above, or to book tickets for any events please don't hesitate to give me a call on 01485 540181. Happy reading!

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

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Village Voice Live

The History of Aviation—Tuesday 6th May

Today there is just one operational airbase in Norfolk at Marham. Yet there used to be thirty seven airfields here in use during and after the two world wars. Sedgford, Bircham Newton, Great Massingham, Downham Market, Watton, Swanton Morley are just to name a few. (Even here in Dersingham one of the fields at the top of the village was designated a satellite air field in the event that Bircham Newton was too badly damaged for planes to land.) The R.A.F. gave up their base at Horsham St. Faith as it was considered their modern craft were too noisy for the area. It became Norwich Airport! Unlike other parts of the country many of the runways of these disused airfields can still be seen courtesy of Mr. Bernard Matthews. He used them as the bases for his turkey sheds. These were just some of the fascinating facts that Stephen Pope included in his talk. He started from the first hot air balloon flights from Norwich in March 1784. One made it as far as Loddon but another poor aviator was blown out to sea and had a very wet landing. So Mr. Pope took us through the development of aircraft in World War 1. He recounted the horror of the Zeppelin raids and described some of the attacks that were undertaken. We were all amazed at the picture of one of the four enormous bombers that were built at Norwich. It was so cumbersome that tractors had to be bought to move it and it was a wonder it could ever get off the ground. The plan was for them to bomb Berlin but the end of the war came and they were never put to the test. We learnt of the building of the ill fated airship R101 by Boulton and Paul at Norwich and that it was flown over here to Sandringham for the King to see before it flew to India. (This event was remembered by Mr. Cliff Riches and he recalled that she dipped in salute as she passed over and that as she flew over Lynn friends told him they were splashed with oil and any washing still hung out was soiled.) Mr. Pope went on to speak of the

events of World War 2 and recounted many facts concerning the brave exploits of the airmen from these bases. Five V.C.s were won by pilots from this area alone. It was fascinating to see the development of the aircraft from the ones of string, paper and glue that could barely make it across the channel to the sleek aerodynamic fighters and bombers that we are all so familiar with. It was a most interesting talk and for the aircraft buffs in the audience a regular feast. *CLIO*

Flight of the Falcon—Tuesday 3rd June

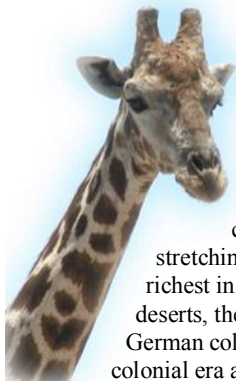


The prospect of a talk about and demonstration of birds of prey, with indoor flying drew a crowd of over 70 including at least three of school age. Head of Section Mike Willis at Fens Falconry, ably assisted by volunteer Amy certainly didn't disappoint with his enthusiastic and detailed knowledge, his ability to confidently respond to ongoing questioning throughout. Most importantly though, we were introduced to two Kestrels (different sub species), a Lanner Falcon, and the star of the show: 'Ra', a young Tawny Owl, who was encouraged to fly across the hall over the heads of a delighted audience to be finally rewarded with two whole mice to swallow!

Fens Falconry is based at Wisbech, where they are available for Events and Experience Days as well as taking their services and birds countrywide. Further details from: fensfalconry.co.uk

Brucie

Spectacular Namibia—Tuesday 1st July



Walter Blaney provided the audience with a guide to a tour of Namibia which he undertook four years ago. He briefly described the geography of the country, its deserts and central plateau, its colonial history under German control from 1884 to 1915, then passing to South African control, during which time the native population suffered under the apartheid regime, before gaining independent status in 1990.

We then followed Walter's journey, in words and pictures, from the capital Windhoek, east to the Kalahari Desert, west to the Namib Desert stretching along the Atlantic coastline and finally north to an area of the country richest in wildlife. The pictures depicted the vast areas of the dry country covered by deserts, the sparse and sometimes poisonous vegetation, and the vernacular and German colonial architecture, the native people from the tribes who pre-date the colonial era and of the wildlife. Think of most of African animals you have heard of and there was probably a photograph, mainly taken from the safety of the tour coach, with many seen in close proximity around a waterhole - at least until a change in the direction of the wind and a lion is detected.

As Village Voice Live regulars have become accustomed to, Walter provided and entertaining and insightful talk, excellently illustrated, which was fully appreciated. *Whiffler* □

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Rotary Matters by Phil Newell

We are pleased to announce that **Associate Membership** is now available in the Rotary Club of Hunstanton & District. It is likely to appeal to persons who want to do something for Rotary but may be very busy and limited in the amount of time they can spare.

Associate members can attend any of our activities and events including Club committee meetings. These are where we discuss the running of the Club, the charities and people we will support, Community events, Vocational Services (such as the awards we give to school pupils for showing 'Service above Self' and mock interviews given to 15 yr old pupils) and International Services with Foundation (eg. disaster fund support and Rotary grants for deserving causes).

Associate Membership could appeal to a person who would have great difficulty attending weekly lunchtime meetings but could occasionally come to one of the other meetings or events that we arrange. For those with more time to spare, then full membership, of course, is encouraged. More details of associate membership, which is a new category of membership, can be obtained from one of the Rotarians listed below. Already we have several people interested in this type of membership.

Hall Farm, Norton Hill,

Snettisham is once again providing the thrill of riding on the Light Railway on three weekends, by courtesy of Mr. M. Schumann. Our Rotary Club members will be there on Saturday and Sunday, **July 26th and 27th 1.0 to 5.0 pm.** As well as the stunning 1 km ride through tunnel and viaducts, meadow and woodland, there are side stalls and pony rides. There are various games, competitions, a tombola, bric-a-brac and a kiddies' roundabout. On the Saturday the Hunstanton Concert Band will be playing and on the Sunday there will be a Folk Fiddle player. Inner Wheel will again be providing their excellent refreshments. All money collected is going to the 'Norfolk Hospice', 'Riding for the Disabled' and 'Keeping abreast' charities.

We are always happy to answer questions about Rotary from members of the public. If you are interested in either full or associate membership then a 'phone call to one of the following will explain more: Club President (2014-15) Peter Atterbury, tel 534820 or Past President Phil Newell, tel 533864. You can also see our website: www.hunstanton-rotary.org.uk. □



Sandringham Bowls Club

The Sandringham Bowls Club is situated at the West Newton Social Club opposite West Newton Church. There is an active programme of league games, roll ups and weekend fixtures. In order to enrol, applicants join the social club at the same time as joining the Bowls Club. The atmosphere is friendly, and new members are made welcome. Fees are modest. For further information contact the Chairman: Bernie Amos, 01485 540089,

the Secretary: Tony Parsons, 01485 544984, or the Treasurer: Trevor Riches: 01485 543706 □



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News from St Cecilia's Church

by Patricia Nevin

We are still collecting for the Food Banks in Hunstanton and King's Lynn which provide help to those in very real need in the local area. There is a collection point at both churches. We also have a 'Fair Trade' stall in the church meeting room at St Cecilia's after Mass on the first Sunday of each month. Please give this your full support.



The annual 'strawberry fair' event was another success, raising in excess of £860 towards the Restoration & Development fund. There was a small get together at St Cecilia's for a visit from Fr James Fyfe, our former Parish Priest. Fr James is now known as Dom Robert and is a member of the Benedictine community at Downside Abbey near Bath. It was very nice to see him again and looking so well. A parish outing to visit Fr Henry's former parish at Gorleston was also on the social calendar in July. A great opportunity to meet some of Fr Henry's former parishioners and to take part in a Mass at his former church. A lunchtime barbecue on Saturday 9th August is the next parish social occasion, at the parish church, Hunstanton.

Look out for our parish social events during the year which will be advertised on the website and in the weekly bulletins. 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 usually held at St Theresa's Convent, 27 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, but will be in the church during the summer months instead, except on Wednesday when it is usually at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. These are subject to change so 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 office telephone number is 01485 534675.

You can contact the Parish Priest, Fr Peter Rollings on 01553 772220.

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org **Email:** parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org □



Gardening with Disabilities



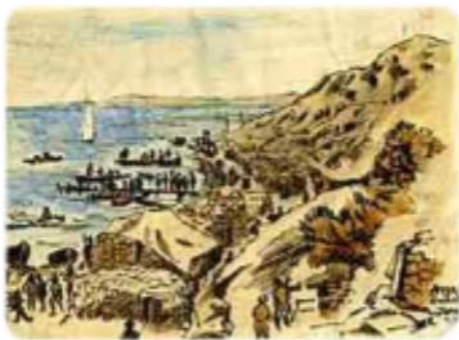
We are a support group encouraging and enabling people to work in their own gardens. Our usual venue is the conservatory at **Park House Hotel** on the **third Friday** of each month from **2 – 4pm**.

At our June meeting, our garden adviser Marianne Charles gave an enthusiastic talk and demonstration on summer jobs in her own garden including taking of cuttings and advised on propagating by other methods. This is the charity's 20th year and Marianne wrote an article about Gardening with Disabilities that was published in the Royal Horticultural Society's 'Grassroots' magazine spring edition. The society will celebrate this occasion, with an archive display and afternoon tea in a member's garden on **August 15th**. Future Events:

19th September - Making autumn jobs in the garden easier by Marianne Charles.

17th of October - Visit to Collisons Cut Flowers.

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



From a Sketch by Major L.F.S. Hore

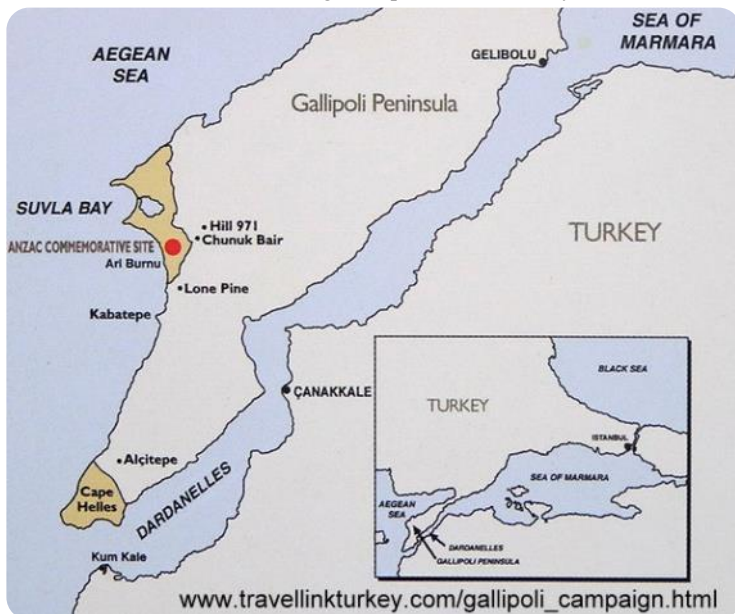
Gallipoli and the People of Sandringham and Dersingham

compiled and edited by Allan Coleby

Of all the events that occurred in the First World War, none has had more impact on our local population than the Dardanelles campaign on the Gallipoli peninsula during 1915. When local people recall the factual accounts passed down by their forbears (usually grandparents but occasionally parents), Gallipoli is mentioned more than any other series of battles.

Living in a flat on The Green in Dersingham is John Crowe, President of the Gallipoli and Dardanelles International Association. He divides his time between The Green and living in his flat in London. He arranges the commemorative service of the Gallipoli Association in September of each year. This used to take place in West Newton Church, but for the last three years, the number of attendees has become so great that it has had to be moved to St Nicholas Church, Dersingham. The centenary commemoration of the Gallipoli campaign will be held next year in St Nicholas Church. People come to the service from as far away as Australia and New Zealand, the 'Anzacs' having been prominent in many of the battles.

The strategic importance of this campaign can be seen from a map of the area. The Dardanelles is a narrow strait of water leading from the Aegean Sea, east of Greece, to a small inland sea called the Marmara Denizi. Cannakale is on the east bank of the southern end of the strait, and Gallipoli is on the west bank at the north end. To the north of the Marmara Denizi is another narrow channel, the Bosphorus, with Istanbul on the west bank and Uskudar on the east. Through the Bosphorus is the Black Sea, with the Russian fleet at Yalta and Sevastapol in the Crimea and, to the north west, at Odessa. Russia was an invaluable ally of Britain and France for three years of the war, but, if there was no exit from the Black Sea, through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles into the Aegean and Mediterranean seas, the Russian fleet was iced up for most of the year in the frozen northern port of Archangel.



Initially, the Royal Navy tried to sail through the Dardanelles during 1915 on 28th January, 19th February, 25th February and 18th March, but the Turks defended it so effectively that three battleships were sunk, and a sea attack was abandoned. Attempted landings at Cape Helles, at the south west tip of the peninsula, were successfully repelled, though the 29th Division, along with the

Anzacs, gained a foothold on 25th April. Another major assault at Suvla Bay on 6th August, in which John Crowe's father Robert was wounded, gained some ground, but a series of battles with the Turks produced a stalemate until the British, Australian and New Zealand forces withdrew in December 1915, and finally evacuated on 9th January 1916.

There were 265,000 Allied casualties, including 46,000 deaths. The Turkish losses were even higher. The campaign failed because of poor leadership, faulty tactics and inadequate equipment. Winston Churchill, as First Sea Lord, was sacked, and eventually Asquith was replaced as Prime Minister in December 1916 by David Lloyd George.

Captain Frank Beck



Captain Frank Beck

The commander of most of our local men in the campaign was Frank Beck, who was the Land Agent for the Sandringham Estate, as had been his father, Edmund. In 1908, he formed the Sandringham Company of Volunteers ('E' Company, 5th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment). This consisted of grooms, gardeners, farm labourers and household staff employed on the Sandringham Estate. In 1914, the British Army included many such volunteer companies, often called 'Pals', each from specific local areas round the country.

The 5th Battalion, Norfolk regiment, were part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force which was sent to Gallipoli in 1915. At that time, Frank Beck was 54, and King George asked him not to go, but he was determined, and led the company in the attack on Anafarta on 12th August 1915. Frank and two of his nephews were among the 22 officers and 350 men killed on that day.

The despatch of the Expeditionary Force commander, General Sir Ian Hamilton, states: 'The Norfolks were on the right of the line and were less strongly opposed than the rest of the brigade. Their commander, Colonel Sir H. Procter-Bauchamp, a bold, self-confident officer, eagerly pressed forward, followed by the best part of the battalion. The fighting grew hotter and the ground more wooded and broken. At this stage, many men were wounded, or grew exhausted with thirst, but the Colonel kept pushing on, driving the enemy before them. They charged into the forest and were lost to sight and sound.'

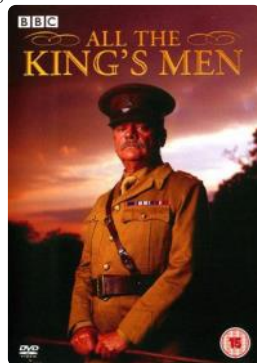
They may have been massacred in the wood by a large number of enemy snipers positioned in the trees. In September 1919, the Graves Registration unit in Gallipoli recorded 180 bodies, found scattered over an area of one square mile, 800 yards behind the Turkish front line. This makes it uncertain whether they were killed in battle or after they had surrendered.

George V granted Beck house (though that was not its name at the time), where Frank had lived in Chapel Road, to the Beck family out of gratitude and in recognition of their suffering. After the war, his widow and her daughter and son-in-law, Mr and Mrs Isherwood, lived there.

Frank Beck's watch was recovered by the War Graves Registration unit, and given to the family. He and 18 other men who died at Suvla Bay are commemorated on the Sandringham War memorial cross, which stands between the church and the modern visitors' centre. The 1999 film, 'All the King's Men', depicts the formation of the Sandringham Company, its fate in the war, and Beck's role, with Beck being portrayed by David Jason. Beck is also commemorated by a plaque on the wall inside Sandringham Church, on the lychgate War Memorial at West Newton Church and on a window inside the church. His widow, Mary Plumpton Beck, is commemorated on a plaque inside West Newton Church and also on a plaque inside St Nicholas Church, Dersingham.



Robert Crowe
EDP 17/09/2013



Gill Handley's Grandfather

At present living on Mountbatten Road are John and Gill Handley. Gill's grandfather won the VC during the Gallipoli campaign. L/Cpl Walter Parker served in the Royal Marines Light Infantry, and was in charge of his battalion stretcher-bearers.

During the night of 30th April – 1st May 1915, a message asking for ammunition, water and medical supplies was received from an isolated fire trench at Gaba Tepe beach. When some NCOs and men set off with the water and ammunition, they asked for a stretcher-bearer. Because it was known that several men had already been killed in a previous attempt to take help to this fire trench, the high degree of mortal danger was obvious. Nevertheless, L/Cpl Parker volunteered.

The trench could be reached only by crossing an area of open countryside 400 yards wide, which was continually swept by Turkish rifle and machine gun fire. All the water and ammunition carriers were killed, but L/Cpl Parker went on alone. He reached the trench, in spite of having been shot himself, and gave assistance to the wounded. He showed, said the citation in the London Gazette of 22nd June 1917, 'extreme courage and remained cool and collected.' The trench then had to be evacuated and 'he helped to remove and attend the wounded, although he himself was seriously wounded in several places.' Finally, they reached safety.

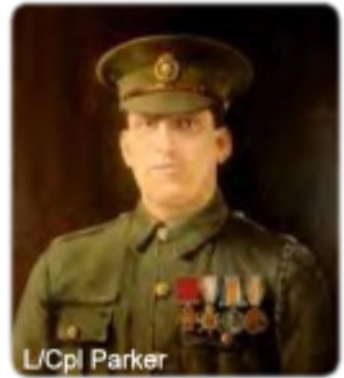
An article in the 'Nottingham Evening Post' of 23rd June 1917, added more detail: 'To reach his objective, he had to pass an open space upon which, day and night, Turkish machine guns were ceaselessly firing. He was suddenly confronted by an Australian officer, who threatened that if he did not go back, he would shoot him, but notwithstanding this, he proceeded....He remained with the troops throughout the night, during which the Turks made a desperate charge, and Parker was shot again in several places. Crawling to the top of the hill almost exhausted, he was ultimately carried to safety by the stretcher-bearers of his own division.' He was brought back to Britain in a hospital ship. 'Later, however, he was seized with illness, which resulted in brain fever, and this left his sight badly affected. He received his discharge 17th June 1916. Cpl Parker has received a number of letters from officers congratulating him on that night's work, but he declares that he was only doing his duty.'

An article in the 'Hampshire County Times' for 12th October 1917 says that Cpl W.R. Parker, VC, RMLI was presented with a handsome marble and gilt clock, together with a cheque and a gold regimental brooch for Mrs Parker. The inscription on the clock stated that it was 'presented to Cpl. WR Parker, by the Portsmouth Division RMLI (all ranks) as a mark of appreciation of his gallant conduct at Gallipoli, 1915.' The medal itself has been given to the Royal Marines Museum at Southsea, Hampshire.

Linda Benerfer's Grandfathers

Living on West Hall Road is Linda Benerfer, who was married for over forty years to Freddie Benerfer, manager of the Royal fruit farm at Sandringham.

Both Linda's Grandfathers were at Gallipoli in 1915, and survived. Frederick Woodhouse lived in West Newton and worked as a gardener at Appleton House. He was in the Expeditionary Force which was sent to Gallipoli, although on the day of the great battle of 12th August, he had been detailed to act as Quartermaster and so had to stay at base camp. He was later sent to Mesopotamia and saw out the war there, though he came home with dysentery and asthma.



When he returned, he ran West Newton Post Office, and died in 1959.

William Jakeman was born in Centre Vale and worked as a gardener on the Sandringham estate. He was sent to Gallipoli with the Sandringham Company as Sergeant Jakeman. On 12th August, he had been detailed to act as a sentry/sniper, and had gone on ahead. He took up a position in the wood in question, and sent word for the Company not to advance as far as the wood because he could see the large numbers of Turkish soldiers gathering there. What is not known is whether the message reached the Company, because they did advance into the wood, and Sergeant Jakeman saw much of the killing that took place, and fought valiantly to defend his own position. Later, he was sent to France, where he fought on the western front. After the war, he returned to the Sandringham estate and worked in the Royal gardens until he retired.

Nancy Newell's Father

Nancy lives in Orchard Close now, but was born in Scotland. Her father, Hugh Campbell McNaught, left school at age 14, added a year to his age, and enlisted as a fifteen-year-old.

He was in the Royal Flying Corps, which until 1918 was a unit in the army, and travelled through France to the war in the Mediterranean. He fought in Italy and Greece, but spent most of his time fighting the Turks in Malta. There were very few planes in those early, pioneering days, and they were mostly used for transport rather than combat. He arrived home safely in 1918 and, at one of the railway stations in London, he met one of his former teachers, who had himself enlisted and fought in France. He, of course, knew Hugh's real age, and could not believe that an eighteen-year-old could, at that age, have survived four years of the Great War, an era of the most barbaric and remorseless slaughter in recent history.



Hugh Campbell McNaught

A Shell-shocked Soldier

There were the heroes. There were also those for whom the conflict and the degree of suffering were overwhelming. Sometimes, when they returned to their home, they had no-one to look after them, and they could not cope with everyday living. They remained broken in mind and body for the rest of their lives.

One such soldier was Arthur Dowdy, remembered by Bill Playford, whose Grandfather ran the bakery in Manor Road at that time. He spent much of his time wandering around near the corner of Heath Road and Manor Road, constantly clapping his hands. He used to live in a pumping station in Sandringham woods, which pumped water for Wolferton, Sandringham and West Newton. He ate whatever he could scrounge or steal, like the occasional loaf of bread from Bill's Grandfather's bakery cart. He was suffering from shell-shock – one of the millions of casualties in a period of the most savage and diabolical devastation in European history. □

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Dersingham Bog News

With Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden

The weather over the spring and beginning of the summer has been particularly good with lots of warm weather for plants, insects, birds and humans to enjoy.

The months of late May, June, July and August are the best times of year to come and see one of the key species at Dersingham Bog NNR. Visitors to the reserve in the evenings will normally hear this nocturnal creature before they see it. This bird is of course the Nightjar with its distinct song known also known as churring. The song to those who haven't heard is unlike many others but can be best described as a very loud grasshopper with an electronic hint to it.

The Nightjar is a heathland specialist but also nests in the forestry areas of the Brecks near Thetford. Dersingham Bog has a nationally important population of Nightjar and on average the reserve can hold between 14 and 20 churring males. The population of Nightjar in Britain is quite small with not very much known about them. This year staff at Dersingham have teamed up with staff from the British Trust for ornithology to begin a monitoring project on Nightjars and their use of different habitats. This is being done using the latest GPS technology and attaching it to the birds. Using a GPS logger, not much bigger than a 50 pence piece, up to 400 points can be logged giving us a detailed look at how the birds feed and forage across the site. The same process is happening in the Brecks and will allow us to compare two very different habitats. This work has never been done before with GPS tags making it a nationally important bit of research and the hope is the results will be used by managers of sites with Nightjar across the country to manage their sites to maintain the population of these secretive birds.

We are also running two guided walks to try and see Nightjar and Glow-Worm on the reserve and hopefully get up close and personal with the nocturnal residents of Dersingham Bog NNR. The dates are below:

Wednesday 30th July - Creatures of the Night (8pm)

Wednesday 6th August - Creatures of the Night (8pm)

If you would like to come along please Contact Kate Garner on **01485 543044**. This event is free of charge, however availability is limited therefore booking is essential.

This time of year the Volunteer team spend their time maintaining and repairing a lot of the access and infrastructure on the reserve. This can involve removing and repairing the posts around the edge of the car parks to checking and repairing the perimeter fences. The volunteer team have also recently replaced the footpath marker posts through the reserve. Some 60 posts were cut, painted and installed across the three way-marked paths. Volunteers also maintain the car parks by strimming around them periodically and removing any litter that is left.



We are looking to expand our weekend volunteering team and as such we are looking for volunteers to help us with a variety of tasks on weekends. We normally run work parties on Sundays throughout the year from 10am to 2.30. These are very informal and also a great chance to meet other people from the local area. If anyone is interested in volunteering with us on a weekend please drop me an email, (see below)

I hope that some of you will come out and enjoy the reserve during the summer and I hope to see some of you on The Creatures of the Night walk.

Email: Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk □

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Dersingham Methodist Church by Elizabeth Batstone



One of the pleasures of living in this village is to experience the support and friendship of the community; this we did at our recent flower festival and church anniversary. We were delighted that children from Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School opened the festival on Thursday and Friday mornings, their singing and happy faces impressed us all. Many of you came to study the flower arrangements, purchase items from the stalls and enjoy the variety of food on sale. We raised, after expenses, just over £2,158 and from that presented £500 to Tapping House. Thank you for helping us to support them.

Saturday Coffee mornings:

26th July, to raise funds for Missions in Britain and Overseas. **27th September**, for King's Lynn Food Bank and Church funds. **25th October**, for the Alzheimers Society and Church funds.

The Methodist Church year starts on **1st September** so we will be entering into a new year and at the same time we will welcome our new minister and his wife, Rev Stephen and Jill Oliver. Steve is currently the superintendent of the Thetford Circuit and on moving will live in Heacham. He will also be the minister for Heacham, Hunstanton, Snettisham, Stanhoe and Burnham Market. We look forward to getting to know them and working with them.

Weekly services continue at 10.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m., as do our weekly activities – bowls; lunches; needles and pins; jigsaw club; Bible fellowship. There is always a welcome to you for all of these. □



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR DOG OWNERS Overflowing Dog Bins!

It has been pointed out to the Parish Council that a number of dog bins have been filled to **overflowing** and filled bags have been left by the side of the bins. Dog owners are reminded that leaving filled bags on the ground by the bins is committing a **fineable litter offence**. The bins are emptied weekly by the Borough Council and operatives are not allowed to clear waste other than that inside the bins. If the bin is full you can either take it to another less full bin or take it home, double bag it and put it in your own black bin. The dog bins in Dersingham are provided for dog owners to use when out with their dogs. Waste collected from your own garden should also be double bagged and put in your own black bins. □

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The Daily Doings of Mrs Dolittle (a.k.a Valerie Anckorn)



Details are given below for my forthcoming August sale in aid of rescuing the *Bile Bears of China*. Bears that have spent their whole lives confined in small cages in which they can barely move, with a rusty tube thrust into their defenceless bodies in order to continually extract their bile – day in and day out – believed by the Chinese to be medicinally beneficial to humankind. The charity, Animals Asia, have been working hard to end this inhumane practice and to close down the Bear Farms, already having rescued many bears, so I am hoping to make enough money to send them a sizable cheque, with the help of you and the kind people of Dersingham.

**Charity Sale to be held in Mrs Dolittle's front garden at
2 Manorside, Dersingham PE31 6LE (facing Manor Road)**

Sunday 10th August, from 10.30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For sale: aromatic and ornamental candles, candleholders, pottery, jewellery, bric-a-brac and all sorts of interesting stuff – suitable for gifts, including copies of my book 'The Magician's Daughter' and all at knock down prices. Please do come and have a look and bring your purses. I shall be running a raffle with nice prizes too. If I can arrange it, there will be a demonstration of candle making.



This morning I climbed from my bed and, whilst in a state of dishabille, my dog's frantic barking caused me to peek through my (luckily) drawn curtains, where I spied the rippling muscles of a bevy of builders on the lawn. This wasn't an unexpected occurrence, for I had been waiting for them, fully dressed and made up, from 7.30 a.m. for the past week. On the only occasion I had failed to apply a ton of powder and paints, as well as my best crinoline, there they were, ready for action. They were all staring inside my shed. In horror. The contents had to be hurriedly ferried out in order to start the insulation work within.

To my extreme embarrassment the lawn at the moment is now completely covered with a morass of my 'treasures'. I use the word 'morass' advisedly as it has poured with rain ever since, and if there is anything salvageable and not disintegrated or covered in a mud slick despite polythene covering, I shall be very surprised—I suppose the exercise will eliminate even more junk! The reason for all this is because I am now aware that for me the grim reaper lurketh. Not that I have any terminal problem, other than old age creeping along very nicely. If I live to be 90, then I only have 15 years left to achieve the remainder of my aims in life so not a lot of time, really, to pack in all those things I have wanted to do for most of my life! The shed is to be my creative workplace. What luxury!

Regarding my moans about the library – in a letter to the editor, one of the Knit and Natter ladies suggests I go along and chat with them – I will one of these days and thank you for the invitation – I still relish the pride I felt on knitting myself a pair of gloves when I was aged around six in the primary school – we were taught useful skills in those days. Oh, and by the way, I have discovered that there are still some 'quiet hours' in the library, so I really mustn't moan any more!

I have vivid memories, aged five, in Kent, wandering down the lane to spend a few pennies with my delegated coupons on sweets, when rumbling along the main road came a huge convoy of (to me) massive sized tanks. I was all on my own, with nobody else in sight. I don't remember being frightened, so I must have realised that they were 'ours' and I stood and watched them, hundreds of them, passing by me. They must have been on their way to Dover and the D Day rescue operations. I didn't realise then that I was witnessing an important part of our history. □



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Tuesday 29th July 2014, 7.30pm: for an illustrated talk entitled:

Birding in Extremadura, Spain

Chris Mills runs the bird-tour company, Norfolk Birding, and is based locally at Hunstanton. Chris has been birding and photographing wildlife for 30 years. Birding has taken him to many wonderful places, both at home and abroad. One of his regular and favourite destinations is Extremadura in Spain. Chris will entertain us with his photography of the birds of this beautiful, unspoilt area of Spain.

Also on **Tuesday 26th August 2014, 7.30pm** for an illustrated talk entitled:

Saving the Spoon-billed Sandpiper

We welcome Dr Debbie Pain, Wildfowl & Wetland Trust's (WWT) Director of Conservation, who will talk about the amazing international project attempting to save the Spoon-billed Sandpiper from extinction. Fewer than 100 pairs remain in the wild. The project has made two expeditions to Far East Russia. Also, a small flock is now under specialist care at WWT's headquarters in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire.

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



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St Nicholas Church News from Pauline Martin



We are at the time of writing this preparing for our Flower Festival – “Into the Rainbow”. Thank you to all, we have worked so tirelessly to make this Festival successful, the many people behind the scenes making sure everything happens and, of course, the wonderful ladies of the Flower Club and Yvonne from the Flower Shop without whom there would be no Flower Festival.

The next “Messy Church” in the Church Hall will be on **Wednesday July 23rd & August 27th at 3.30pm**, for more information on these please contact the Revd Julie Boyd on 540055.

Every 3 months we have a “Charity Lunch”, we had one in June and the money went to the Scouts & Guides “Raise the Roof”. On **Sunday September 7th at 12.30pm** in the Church Hall we will be raising funds for Mission Without Borders to help support families in need in the Ukraine. Tickets for this will be available at our Coffee Mornings in August/September.

Our Coffee Mornings continue the 1st Friday of the month, and provide stalls with fresh bread, vegetables, jewellery, hand-crafted cards, homemade cakes, savouries, nearly new clothes, and our second-hand book shop. With freshly brewed Free Trade coffee served in a wonderful friendly atmosphere. If you have now been yet, come along for a cuppa and a chat.

A note for the men, we have a Men’s Group which meets each month in the Church Hall where they have Speakers come and talk on various topics, anyone is very welcome to join them, they meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10.30am, for more details contact Edgar Cooper 540865. □



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Random Jottings

by Tony Bubb



In company with many others, I enjoy going on the Dersingham Walking Group's walks whenever I can. Annoyingly, they do sometimes clash with Borough Council meetings but neither party seems to want to change their dates, so the Borough always gets me. Still, on the walks I do manage, there is always something interesting to see and the opportunity for a good chat.

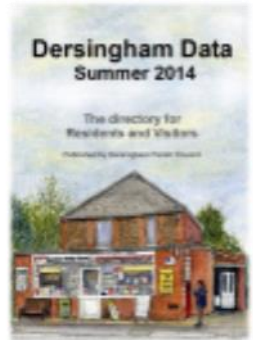
If you have not tried a walk yet perhaps you might give it a try. We are not intrepid, heavily equipped types on a route march, just folk out for a nice walk. Typical of our regulars is your esteemed editor, seen here relaxing at the halfway stop, when we refresh ourselves (this position is not obligatory).



I was watching BBC's Look East the other evening and in a rare moment when they were not featuring football (why do they assume that when they say Norwich you are supposed to know they mean the football team?) I spotted a piece on the Shorelands Wildlife Gardens so, having a spare day, we went and had a look. Newly opened, it is attached to the Blacksmiths Cottage Nursery near Dickleborough. Here mainly birds, but there are some pigs, marmosets, meerkats and deer, are kept in very attractive, 2 acre surroundings. Some of the 500 exotic inmates have the run of the place and are very tame. One of their aims at the gardens is the breeding of endangered species so your entry fee is put to good use. With a good coffee shop (we shared our lunch with a nest of Blackbirds), art gallery and perennial plant nursery it makes for a great trip out.



I have the pleasure of editing Village Voice's sister publication Dersingham Data, a new edition of which should be with you anytime now. This village directory relies on you out there updating the entries. So if your club for making wire wool thongs for remote South American tribes changes its treasurer, don't wait



until next year, send in the correction now. Indeed, if you feel we have omitted a useful piece of information, don't hold back. We will also publish these in village voice for you.

Strange how people you know well don't tell you things you would love to know. I have just found out that the London office my father worked in all his working life was designed by Edwin Lutyens. I always thought it looked a bit special and now I know why. □



John Lambert's

Memories of the 2nd World War Years (No 4)



When the Americans came into the war it was late 1941, after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour.

There was quite a lot stationed at Martlesham and there were always two on sentry duty at one time. Their food was brought up to them and as there wasn't any rationing for the Americans there was no limit to the amount of food they had. Their sandwiches contained a weird mixture of fillings; they once gave me a sandwich filled with fish and jam, yuck!

The hot meals came in containers, piping hot; there was no slumming for them. They once gave me one of their desserts: fish and custard!

They were very generous though. When they were off duty they would ask my mother, "Are there any jobs you want doing, Mam?"

Because my father worked on the farms he was exempt from military service but he would work all hours. When it was harvest time the Government introduced double summertime so when it was time to put the clocks forward an hour they actually went forward two hours. Dad would quite often be working until 11.00 o'clock at night. □

ART 21



Do readers remember the beautifully decorated Christmas tree at St. Nicholas Church last Christmas which featured small paintings on easels for sale? Well these were produced by the talented art group "ART 21" who meet regularly at [The Scout Hut](#) on Mondays. There are 11 local artists who paint in various media and they are holding this year's annual exhibition at the new

[Thornham Village Hall](#).

We will be open from **10-5pm** daily on **Friday 8th** until **Sunday 10th August**.

Around 70 works will be on show from miniatures to large canvasses. All work is for sale. We would love to see our friends and neighbours from Dersingham.

Jill Ilett



Norfolk Wildlife Trust West Norfolk Members Group
invites you to

A Wildlife Fayre at West Barsham Hall
(West Barsham, NR21 9NP)

on Wednesday 6th August, 2.00pm – 5.30pm

by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Soames

Explore the 10 acre garden with lake, bog garden, sunken garden & more with Wildlife stalls, moth traps revealed, quiz and games for the family.

Cost: £3.50, accompanied under 12's free. Tea and cakes on sale.

Also to an illustrated talk by Tim Turner entitled

Wader Ringing on the Wash

at Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street

on Thursday 25th September – 7.30pm

Cost : £2.00 members / £2.50 visitors

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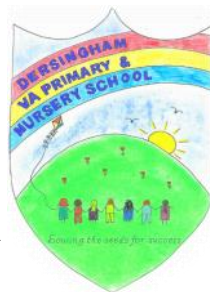
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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School



Well as promised in the Spring edition, here at school we have hurtled into summer at break neck pace! World Cup madness is upon us with staff and children joining in the fun of choosing a team to support. Unfortunately our support for England was short lived! This has given rise to many opportunities to discover the diversity in other cultures and we kicked off, (excuse the pun), with a Road to Brazil World Cup dance extravaganza. The children experienced music and learnt dances from the countries participating in the World Cup, then put on an amazing closing ceremony performance for the school.

Our Year 6 children have been working extremely hard on their SATs and as a reward they had a whole week dedicated to exciting activities to broaden their experiences. They had a day at the snow dome, a Legoland fun filled trip, a picnic in the woods, a multi-sport day and to cap it off, a sensational camp out in the school grounds. They also had to work tirelessly as a team to raise funds, putting on fairs and baking cakes to sell throughout the year.



In fact all our classes have now participated in educational visits to support their learning in school and raise their aspirations. Hobbiton and Wonderland had an adventure in London, learning about our iconic land marks on a Thames Cruise. Narnia and Enchanted Forest visited an explosive 'Energy Show' at the Cambridge Science Museum and finally Dinosaurs experienced a seaside holiday from the past when they visited the Poppy Line and travelled on a steam train.

At the Infant site, the children have make the most of the beautiful weather, exploring the fabulous grounds and generally getting in touch with nature! Reception had a fabulous day when dressed in their finest clothes for a special wedding between their beloved class bears. They are looking forward to their transition to the main site at the end of the month, where they will start their new classes before the summer break.

We had a lovely surprise when Sainsbury's came to present the school and our two senior Student Council representatives with £200 for our new class reading corners. They raised funds during St Georges Day when they dressed in red and white and have been donating to our school since 2008. A big thank you to all staff at the Hardwick branch!

Our sporting success has continued, with the cricket team winning a tremendous regional show down, to go forward to the finals in Norwich, where they progressed to the quarter finals. Our up and coming World Cup School Games day is causing huge excitement and then it will be only a matter of days before we are packing up ready for the summer holidays!



Sue Picton □

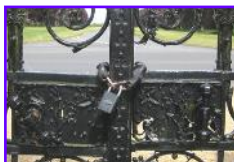
Answers to Puzzles

Word Wall:

1. Birds of Prey: KITE, MERLIN, FALCON, HOBBY
2. Horses: ROCKING, CLOTHES, RACE, CART
3. Deadly Sins: ANGER, AVARICE, PRIDE, SLOTH
4. U.S. Rep Presidents: MADISON, MONROE, LINCOLN, GRANT

Where is it? What is it?

Padlock around The Norfolk Gates, Sandringham
(as viewed from inside).



Solution to Sudoku No 37

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

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.

Issue	Copy deadline	Publication date
No 90	Wednesday 3rd September	Monday 22nd September
No 91	Wednesday 5th November	Monday 24th November
No 92	Wednesday 14th January 2015	Monday 2nd February 2015

The amount of space available for articles is governed by the both the physical limitations of the publication as well as the revenue received from advertising. You are advised to submit items (articles and adverts) well in advance of the deadline to secure a space.

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 start at £20 for an eighth page, £30 for a quarter, £55 for a half and £108 for a full page. (Prices inc. VAT).

To include an advertisement in the next issue, all details together with completed application form and payment should be with the Parish Office:
Dersingham Parish Council, 4a Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP
by mid-day on Wednesday 3rd September 2014

Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

E-mail — villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

Articles for Publication in the next issue of Village Voice

must reach The Editor, % 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 3rd September for publication on Monday 22nd September**. (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 and commercial printing requires 300 dots (pixels) to the inch (about 118 per centimetre).

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 may be made available. Please enquire.

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

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

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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday August 5th

The Merchant Houses & Families of Georgian Lynn

with King's Lynn's
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Dr Paul Richards

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

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday September 2nd

Norfolk: A Living Landscape



Andrew Woodford

will be looking at some of the key habitats found in Norfolk, highlighting the work the NWT does to manage and maintain them, and look at some of the reserves and species which can be found there.



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