

Number 90

October 2014

# Village Voice

## The Dersingham Magazine

gathering in our news and views

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## Editor's Notes

This summer I ticked off two of the things on my list of visits I'd always thought I must make one day. The first of these was to the Birdfair ([birdfair.org.uk](http://birdfair.org.uk)), held annually at Rutland Water, when I dragged along my predecessor and ongoing feature writer Tony (or rather he responded to my hint that he should drive us there!). I'll leave him to describe our experience in his jottings, along with some facts you may not want to know about door numbers!

The next was whilst camping with our son and family in Thetford Forest when we paid a visit to Grimes Graves. So many of us have passed the sign, but how many have actually been? Described as *the only Neolithic flint mine open to visitors in Britain, this grassy lunar landscape of 400 pits was first named Grim's Graves by the Anglo-Saxons. It was not until one of them was excavated in 1870 that they were identified as flint mines dug over 5,000 years ago* ([english-heritage.org.uk](http://english-heritage.org.uk)). Although a little blustery on the day we went, the undulating spaciousness would be a great place for a family picnic on a fine day and the compact Visitors Centre is very informative. Our visit culminated with a 30ft climb down a step ladder to the one completely excavated pit, inevitably having to observe all the statutory health and safety regulations, which excluded our under-five-year-old grandson much to his displeasure!

On that same camping trip, our son introduced us to the delights of *Geocaching*. For those unfamiliar with the term, *geocaching* is basically a worldwide game of



hiding and seeking for treasure, utilising GPS technology to pinpoint and register the location of hidden boxes (typically *Tupperware* containers) containing a logbook to sign and small items of "treasure" to play *swapsies* with, a great encouragement to (adult supervised) children. Full details can be found at the worldwide site [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) where free basic membership can be obtained. After that, a visit to [geocaching.co.uk](http://geocaching.co.uk) is perhaps more informative. A GPS device or smartphone with downloaded *app* such as the free *c:geo* that we used greatly enhances the experience. And yes, there are plenty of hidden geocaches around here too, but you'll need to register first to find out where for yourself, as we *geocachers* are warned to beware of giving away secrets to *Muggles*, a term borrowed from *Harry Potter*, in this context referring to curious *non-geocaching* onlookers!

This issue includes the last of our current features on the local impact of WW1 compiled for us again by Allan Coleby, though no doubt there might be some future follow up. Also, we bid a final farewell to the Sandringham Squirrels in the last episode of Allan's four-year saga, which since my time as editor has been further enhanced by Jeanne Ockenden's stylish illustrations. Is there anyone to step into the breach with a tale aimed at children in the 4 to 84 age range I wonder?

As soon as I've packed this issue off to the printers, I'll be preparing for this year's Norfolk Churches Trust cycle ride on Saturday 13th September when I'm hoping to ride from Dersingham to Cromer, largely following the official coastal cycle route but stopping off to visit between 25 and 30 churches along the way. You could sponsor me for this (retrospectively) if you wish by texting the message BYKE63 £1 to 70070, or by visiting [justgiving.co.uk/norfolkchurchestrust](http://justgiving.co.uk/norfolkchurchestrust) and following the links to my webpage. I'm also preparing for and looking forward to taking part in the *Dersingham Seniors Club's* Harvest Festival on Friday 19th September, which will also probably be history by the time you read this. Life here is never dull! Have a great Autumn.

Steve Davis—[editor@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:editor@dersingham.org.uk) □



## Dear Village Voice

Please email ([editor@dersingham.org.uk](mailto: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.



**D**ick Melton's letter regarding the Norwich Gates was very interesting and perhaps readers may like to see a picture postcard of them as they were originally installed. I believe that my grandfather, Fred Linford, did some of the gold leaf work, though I cannot verify this. I would imagine that it proved too expensive to maintain, or perhaps WW2 had something to do with the change to black.

**Doreen Linford**



**O**ne realises how the years have passed when the young contributor, proof-reader and editor of the last issue of Village Voice are all happy to refer to the 'NAFFI'! The organisation concerned is the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes, the initial letters of which, as you will see, form 'NAAFI'.

Although not quite able to claim that I patronised the organisation in the War (First or Second!), I well recall what a godsend it was to us during our National Service. I particularly remember the monotonous (and terrifying) days of basic training when we spent the day 'square-bashing' followed by a couple of hours kit-cleaning, boot-bulling, 'pulling through' our rifles and polishing the floor. Probably, the only thing that kept us going was the trip to the NAAFI about 9.00pm for a cup of tea (3d, I think) and a chorus of our own words (thankfully now forgotten) to accompany Harry Belafonte's 'Island in the Sun' on the juke-box. Then it was 'lights out' and a sound sleep till Reveille at 6.00am the next morning when it started all over again!

Ah, those were the days - you youngsters don't know what you missed!

**Keith Starks**

*I suppose it's no use me pleading that though I knew something looked wrong when I saw NAFFI, I Googled it to check and the online Free Dictionary ([acronyms.thefreedictionary.com/NAFFI](http://acronyms.thefreedictionary.com/NAFFI)) actually yielded the correct definition so I didn't think any more about it at the time. Had I looked further in my Google search I might have also noticed it saying "Did you mean NAAFI?" Ed.*

**T**he other day I sat talking to an old mate of mine from Dersingham when he said to me, 'What's the date today?' 'Oh,' I said, 'it is the first day of August.' 'Oh, is it?' he said, 'Well as from the first of August the people from the village of Dersingham are allowed to cut the bracken on the Shut-up Common.' He then said, 'I will tell you a little story'.

Dan Grief had cut his bracken and put it in a heap ready to take away. He put a notice beside it on a chalkboard that read, 'These bracks belong to Dan Grief.'

Then along came Floffy Bunn, who was a trustee of the Common and village rights, and she wrote on the board, 'Dan Grief may have these bracks. [signed] F Bunn.'

That's the way things were in those good old days.

**Dick Melton, Sunny Hunny**



It was good to read about Dersingham Village Parkour in the August edition, giving me an insight into village life of some of our younger residents. I also noted the ‘don’t try this at home’ warning from the Editor below the article. It was a shame that there wasn’t a similar warning under the article reminiscing about the destruction of house martin nests on a shop back in the early 1950s. Since 1954, all birds, their nests and eggs are legally protected. More recently the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird and to damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. The Act allows for fines up to £5,000 and/or a 6 month prison sentence for every bird, egg or nest destroyed. If readers are concerned about droppings from house martins then they could fix a shelf under the nests to catch the droppings if they are above windows or doors. You can even buy artificial nests from the RSPB for £13.99!

House Martins are familiar birds and a welcome sight to many people. Sadly their numbers have fallen significantly over the last 40 years and they are now of conservation concern in Britain and elsewhere in Europe. It seems that there are only just over half a million pairs in the UK, so every nest matters. Despite adult birds weighing in at less than 20 grams, they are well-travelled compared to many of us, flying thousands of miles from their wintering grounds in southern Africa, over the Sahara desert, to nest in this country. Once they find the most suitable building, they are extremely faithful to their breeding sites, with most birds returning the following year to the colony where they were raised. Each nest takes up to ten days to build, and over 1000 beak-sized pellets of mud. They feed on flying insects, especially flies and aphids (so are good for the gardener!). They stay longer than other migrants because they often raise two, and sometimes three broods of chicks, so they are still here in England until October.

More information on house martins, including advice on how to encourage them to nest on your house, can be found on the RSPB website at [rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/h/housemartin](http://rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/h/housemartin).

**Sue Rees**

*I think, or at least I hope, readers would not take Jack Neale's tale that was set some 64 years ago as being in any way indicative of what would be acceptable to us now, but Sue is of course quite right to draw the matter to our attention and provide the helpful information. Ed.*

Through the good offices of the Village Voice may we, on behalf of the congregation of Anmer Church, express our thanks to the many residents of Dersingham and surrounding villages who supported our Flower Festival over the Bank Holiday weekend.

In spite of a typically wet August Bank Holiday Monday, the Church always appeared to be full of people both admiring the floral arrangements and attempting the challenging quiz of “Name that Tune”, with each arrangements depicting a well-known tune with a colour in the title, such as: *Red Sails in the Sunset, Purple Rain, Lily the Pink, Green Door*. The winner was Mrs Isla Harrison.

The cream teas and fresh cakes were firm favourites in the tea-tent where kettles were constantly on the boil, much to the anxiety of the churchwardens who feared blowing a fuse!

**N.J.Coleman & W.H.Walker, Churchwardens**

In response to the Editor’s request for photos showing Village Voice being taken on travels to remote places, here is a photo of me in Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, reading the Voice whilst seated on the *contemplating bench* used by characters from *Last of the Summer Wine* to plan their next adventure.

**Tom Burman**

*Don't you just love it when readers enter into the spirit of a challenge! Ed. □*





## Parish Council Report by Cllr Suzy Daniels

**H**opefully you have all had a very enjoyable summer. Just a brief report this edition due to the summer break and no full council meeting in August.

We currently have several vacancies so if you are interested in having a say or making a valuable contribution to Dersingham please contact the office for an application to become a Parish Councillor. 01485 541465.

### **CRIME.....ASB on the increase**

Anti social behaviour has been increasingly high during June with 17 reported incidents within the Dersingham and Gayton area. There was also an attempted burglary where two males were seen on CCTV, but had vanished on police arrival.

### **BOROUGH COUNCIL....weeds, grass and LIGHTSHOW!!**

Cllr Bubb reported that following complaints regarding overgrown weeds in West Hall Rd the Borough Council had cut them back and the pavement is now clear. The Grass had also been cut in Gelham Court. A lightshow, running until October at The Customs House in King's Lynn is definitely worth a visit, especially as the nights are pulling in.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEES....***Minutes for Full Council and Committees are available on the Dersingham Parish Council website: [dersingham.org.uk](http://dersingham.org.uk)*

**Churchyard:** A parishioner suggested that if the older part of the churchyard was cleared of loose gravestones and ornaments it could make cutting the grass easier. An extensive plan of the graves is available for viewing at the library.

**Village Centre:** Cllr Davey reported that the village survey was now completed and new members had been co-opted onto the working group. A concept design is now available for viewing and discussion in the Parish Office. An application is to be submitted to the National Lottery, where a maximum grant of £500,000 is available. Current estimations of the cost of the project are £750,000. Fundraising and research into bridging loans would be necessary. It was felt by a parishioner that the Parish Council and other parishioners should be seen to be supportive of the centre. The more support for the project the better chance of a successful outcome. What are your thoughts on the new village centre?

**Picnic Site:** Mr Bennett commented that due to travellers recently being removed from the site, after causing a lot of damage, the gates (which have been replaced) and the fire gates had to be closed. Mr Bennett requested a formal response from the Council in regards to his outlined commitments regarding access to The Drift, both pedestrian and vehicular (given reasonable prior notice), disabled width kissing gate on southern boundary and landing of a future footbridge. Amendments to the main site access have been made and approved by the Highways agency. This could be used for planning permission approval.

**Recreation Ground Re-vamp:** I am very pleased to say that the WREN funding application for phase two was successful; (see [wren.org.uk](http://wren.org.uk)). A site meeting with Playdale is arranged for early September. This phase is aimed at children between 8-14 and will include a teen shelter. A date for the installation of the new equipment will be agreed in the very near future!

**Events....Summer activities:** Although those that attended seemed to enjoy themselves, the number of participants was disappointingly low....we would love to hear your thoughts regarding the sports activities and ideas for next year would be gratefully received.

**WWI Commemorations:** Unfortunately due to bad weather this event had to be cancelled.

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

*6 Tudor Way....Application for proposed porch and toilet on ground floor ....recommend approval.*

6 Station Rd....Application for alterations to approved details including cladding and one additional window to dwelling....recommend approval

16 Station Rd....Application for extension to dwelling....recommend approval

35 Pansey Drive....Application for extension and alterations to existing dwelling....recommend approval (8 in favour, 1 abstained)

## DETERMINATIONS

Thaxters Coffee Shop...Granted

9 Onedin Close...Granted

Well, maybe not as brief as I intended, but hopefully you gained a little knowledge of the goings on over the last couple of months. Please come along to the Full Council meetings.....last Monday of each month at Dersingham Early Years site (formerly the Infants School). □

## More Trees Please!

The Environment Committee has put in a bid for free trees from the Woodland Trust and plan to plant them on the Warren. I'm sure you all know where I mean, it's between the by-pass, The Drift and Philip Nurse Road.

If successful the trees, well, they will be more like whips, will be delivered in November. I'm hoping to recruit some volunteers to help with the preparation of the land prior to planting, some men with strong boots and sharp spades would be ideal. And I'm also hoping to involve anyone else, clubs or other organisations, who would like to come and plant a few trees or just one. What can be better than planting trees to make a new



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woodland and with plenty of helpers it shouldn't be too much hard work.

If you would like to be involved, as an individual or an organisation please feel free to contact me by phone, 01485 542113 or by email, [kate.hathaway@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:kate.hathaway@dersingham.org.uk) or leave a message at the Parish Council Office in Post Office Road.

We really hope that our bid is successful and the autumn is good tree planting weather.

Parish Councillor Kate Hathaway □

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## 1st Dersingham Guides Camp at Hautbois

The start of August saw us descend upon Hautbois, GirlGuiding Anglia's Activity Centre in Coltishall for our summer camp. This year's Guiding residential theme to provide a basis for



activities was "Around the World in 80 days" so our crafts, meals, names and activities had an international flair. On 4th August we all decorated a Commemorative poppy candle holder and joined in with the National Commemorations by holding our own Lights Out ceremony.

Everyone who attended earned their Camper and World Cultures badge. *Elizabeth Wheeler* □

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Dersingham Brownies Visit NorJam 2014

Eight members of 2nd Dersingham Brownies were lucky enough to be able to join the special day visit to Norjam 2014 - the International Scout & Guide Jamboree held every four years at



the Norfolk Showground with about 4,500 Guides and Scouts camping for the week. We visited several Sub-camps and the International area, where we played games and learnt songs in other languages. A special highlight was meeting the 1st Dersingham Scouts including our eldest Brownie's brother with whom we had our photo taken. *Lynne Wheeler* □

## Dersingham Sports News

### West Norfolk Inter Village Games 2014



**F**or the second year running we took a team from Dersingham to take part in the Village Games at Lynnsport. To our amazement and delight we managed to come overall second out of the nine villages in our category.

This year we achieved individual wins in Squash, Athletics, Darts and Gymnasticators and runners up in Bowls and Fitness Triathlon. We also had teams taking part in Archery, Football, Netball, Badminton, Table Tennis and Rounders. Despite the bad weather in the morning, all the sports went ahead as planned and everyone enjoyed themselves.

We were invited as a village to progress to the county finals, but since we were not expecting to do so well many of our team already had other commitments. This is however something to be taken into consideration for next year.

Many thanks go to all the team, both competitors and team managers. Special mention as well to Sheila at the Coach and Horses who bought the new athletics tops, and to Fraser and Maria at the Post Office for their continued support.

Planning is already underway for next year so please send your contact details if you are interested in taking part next year. Email [louiserice005@aol.com](mailto:louiserice005@aol.com).

#### Netball Club

Netball Club welcomes new lady members. We are a mixed abilities group that meet up every Monday evening for practice and friendly games, fun and fitness. Only £1 per session. For more information contact Lisa Barham or email [barham33@icloud.com](mailto:barham33@icloud.com).

#### Race for Life 2014

Four ladies from the village netball club, including myself, took part in the Race for Life at Houghton Hall. Over 2,000 women either ran, jogged or walked to raise money for Cancer Research. It was a fantastic atmosphere and we all managed to finish the 5km course. We hope to take a bigger group of ladies next year so watch this space! See [raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org](http://raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org)



#### Women's Running Course

A women only running course is being held in the village from 1<sup>st</sup> October. It is a beginners course and will run for 6 weeks on a Wednesday evening 6.30 – 7.30. Places are limited but booking forms can be collected from myself, the Library, the Post Office or downloaded from the Borough Council website. It is hoped that a village running club will continue after the course has finished, so more able runners may be interested to join in at this stage. Please contact me for further details. Email [louiserice005@aol.com](mailto:louiserice005@aol.com). □



# The Rediscovered Science of Phenology

by Brian Anderson

**M**ention phenology to most people and they'll say "What, you mean bumps on the head?" Indeed phenology as a word doesn't even exist in the standard Microsoft dictionary. Let's deal first with *phrenology* (which is what people presume you meant or said) - it was a largely 19th century obsession that assumed you could assess a person's intelligence and character from the shape of their skull. It certainly never justified the label of "science" and is now completely discredited.

*Phenology* is the science of studying the response of biological organisms to seasonal change, usually changes in temperature or phenomena linked to temperature, such as rainfall. The Victorians were very keen on it, inspired one imagines by a sense of curiosity. In the early 20th century it rather died out but has been revived with some urgency in the last decade or so as a tool to grasp the effects of climate change. Some stalwarts, notably at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, kept recording going continuously.

The way I became involved was serendipitous - I suppose these things often are. I was at a Butterfly Conservation conference in 1996 and met a guy called Tim Sparks who worked at the then Institute for Terrestrial Ecology at Monk's Wood. We collaborated over a couple of papers on butterfly ecology and generally kept in touch. Then in 1998 I received an email from him asking if I'd take part in a pilot study on phenological recording. When I look back over those first recording forms I'm struck by how much we were feeling our way as to *what* we should record and *how* we should record it. One early intervention I made was to note that the spring butterfly species recorded were all those that emerged after overwintering as adults. We added other species like the Whites, Orange Tip, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood that spent the winter as pupae. In general, the forms became more complicated as time went on - more species, 3rd as well as the 1st individual seen or changing. Spring was always easier than autumn. Spring involved recording budburst on trees, first leaf and full leaf - and flowering in some cases. A range of spring flowers was recorded. Birds arriving, nesting and feeding were included and a range of invertebrates and amphibians.

Autumn was, and is, a little more complicated as leaf colour change and fall are often not coordinated with fruiting dates. This year, for example, fruiting is well advanced across a range of species and yet no autumn tinting on healthy trees has occurred as of early August. The only area

**natures calendar**

**Postcode** DE31 6PN  
You can record within 10km of the postcode (within a height of 100m).  
For current addresses and grid references to postcodes, see [bng.com or streetmap.co.uk](http://bng.com or streetmap.co.uk)

**Every record counts**  
(Enter dates (example)) 25 05 14

Trees	budburst	first leaf	first flowering
Alder			
Ash	27 04 14	30 04 14	
Beech		19 04 14	
European larch		04 04 14	
Field maple			
Hornbeam	14 03 14	19 03 14	10 04 14
Oak (pedunculata)	31 03 14	04 04 14	15 04 14
Oak (petraea)		23 03 14	27 04 14
Silver birch	01 04 14	02 04 14	04 04 14
Sycamore			

Shrubs	budburst	first leaf	first flowering
Blackthorn			06 03 14
Dog rose			11 05 14
Oak	19 02 14	05 03 14	16 05 14
Spindle			10 03 14
Willow			16 01 14
Willow (gothic)			13 04 14

Grasses	first cut	first flowering
Cockfoot		
Lawn	12 03 14	
Meadow fescue		
Timothy		
Yorkshire flag		

Birds	first recorded	first nest building	first feeding young	first recorded	recorded all winter
Blackbird	27 02 14	21 04 14			
Blackthorn	26 04 14				
Blackcap					
Blue tit	29 03 14	19 04 14			
Cuckoo	17 03 14				
Crow				17 01 14	
Great tit					
House martin	24 05 14				
Robin					
Song thrush					
Spotted flycatcher					
Swallow					
Turtle dove	16 05 14				
Whistler					
Willow warbler	17 04 14				

Flowers	first flowering
Bluebell	06 04 14
Cat's foot	21 03 14
Cuckoo flower	07 04 14
Common cowslip	10 03 14
Large celandine	05 05 14
Orange poppy	17 01 14
Wood anemone	

Insects	first recorded	first mating
Antlion	09 03 14	
Bumblebee (red tailed)	21 03 14	
Common	17 03 14	
Green-striped white	07 04 14	
Healy blue	16 04 14	
Ladybird (7 spot)	03 02 14	12 03 14
Orange tip	11 04 14	
Peacock	24 02 14	
Red admiral	05 03 14	
Small tortoiseshell	02 03 14	
Small white	04 05 14	
Speckled wood	23 04 14	
Wasp (common)		

**Amphibians**

first recorded	
Fire salamander	17 03 14
Frog (common)	
Newt	

**help and guidance:**  
[naturescalendar.org.uk/survey/events](http://naturescalendar.org.uk/survey/events)

**spring 2014**



where an immediate entry can't be made on the form is the departure of birds (Redwing and Fieldfare departing in spring and Swallow, Swift and House Martin departing in autumn). Here we keep a separate record of sightings and then add the last dates just before the form is sent off!

In 2000 the Institute for Terrestrial Ecology (now renamed as the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology) established a partnership with the Woodland Trust who now administer the network as Nature's Calendar. Online and leaflet advice is given to new or inexperienced recorders in order that similar species aren't recorded in error - for instance, it's easy to confuse Wild or Cherry Plums with Blackthorn, which flowers later. The Woodland Trust also simplified the recording system over a period and now the format has been stable for some years.

So, what have we learned? At first it was clear that we were dealing with the vagaries of weather as the data were confined to just a few years. As time went on the data series began to cover enough time for some conclusions about climate to be assessed. The most obvious trend is how spring events have become earlier. Leafing and flowering now occur between a few and thirty days earlier than the historic dates (weather still has an effect though as the cold wet winter and spring of 2012-13 shows). The emergence of butterflies has been similarly affected but the arrival of migrating birds is perhaps more influenced by conditions in other parts of the world. But a long time series allows a climatic trend line to be drawn through the spikiness of the weather effects. Autumn (as mentioned above) is more complicated. You will note that I have used the expression "climate change" rather than "global warming" as, although the planet is indisputably warming, not everywhere has experienced consistent temperature rise as systems become more chaotic.

What are the likely effects on wildlife and agriculture? In the slightly more simplistic days of climate change studies we expected a warming trend and there was talk of olive groves and extensive vineyards in southern England. Sophisticated computer programs and comprehensive data have now led to a more nuanced view. Climate change has led and will lead to more extreme weather events: intense short-lived rainfall, damaging winds, heatwaves and periods of very cold weather in winter. Already we see the arrival of terrestrial and marine species we would have expected to be confined to areas further south. Some arctic and tundra species that have survived in our northern uplands since the last ice age are under threat. Alien pathogens are increasingly seen as threats to both arable and livestock farming. Some of these have arrived as a result of increased global trade but others have arrived as the climate and weather become more amenable to their requirements. In my own specialist area of butterflies, we are seeing previously southern species moving inexorably north. Some continental species like the Queen of Spain Fritillary and the continental subspecies of the Swallowtail may take up residence. Conversely, we may lose our northern mountain/tundra species like the Scotch Argus, Large Heath and Mountain Ringlet.

Now for the sales pitch - if you'd like to take part in recording (and remember this is one of the easiest biological recording tasks going), just log on to [naturescalendar.org.uk](http://naturescalendar.org.uk), email [naturescalendar@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:naturescalendar@woodlandtrust.org.uk) or write to:

*Nature's Calendar, The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham NG31 6LL* □

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## 133rd Sandringham Flower Show Success



The 133<sup>rd</sup> Sandringham Flower Show was held on a gloriously sunny day on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July. HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall arrived in a carriage at 11.00am, to open the Flower Show officially. The Royal Salute was played by the Essex Police Band, who then played at the bandstand for most of the day. Their music was cheerful and varied, with enthusiastic visitors sitting round on benches listening with pleasure.

As usual, they were interspersed with The Springwood High School Band, who regard the Flower Show as the end of the year finale. This is the last event after all the examinations have finished and the long summer holidays begin.

HRH The Prince of Wales presented The King George VI Cup for the garden winning the most points for flowers and vegetables on the Sandringham Estate. This year's winner was Mr Neville Warnes. However, hidden behind the cup-holding table was a surprise. A special presentation was then made by HRH to Mr Warnes for being an outstanding exhibitor at the Flower Show. Neville has competed for 60 years! He has won many of the Cups several times – and there is not much about gardening, or competing, that he does not know! The trophy was a beautiful glass decanter engraved on one side with his name and on the other with a sketch of a wheelbarrow, containing vegetables, flowers and implements.

Record numbers visited the Show, with many of them seeking out the eight large Show Gardens and the Horticultural Talks Marquee where, in the afternoon, TV presenters Chris Beardshaw and Alan Mason answered questions from the audience. This is always a popular event and, as I stand on duty outside the Committee Tent to help direct the public, that and being asked where the nearest loos are take pride of place in the most frequently asked questions!

The Grace Spitfire was a wonderfully evocative sight, as she flew to one side of the showground. (Last year she was rained off.) In the Main Ring, visitors watched exhibitions of high quality dressage riding by The Mane Attraction (great pun!), the Rockwood Dog Display (lots of grabbing of arms by ferocious dogs!) and a noisy, though entertaining, display by the Imps Motorcycle Display Team. The Yorkshire Marching Band marched twice to many a toe-tapping tune. There was plenty to see and do all day. Visitors went home loaded with plants and gadgets of all kinds, not to mention the obligatory ice creams which everyone seemed to be sampling. It was that kind of a summer's day.....

*Jacqueline Candy (committee member) □*

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## Dersingham Day Centre by Alice Worth



**B**y the time Village Voice goes to press again the Dersingham Day Centre will be back in business after our summer break. We started our Autumn Session on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September and, as usual, we were pleased to see all our friends again. Our Summer Session came to an end on the 25<sup>th</sup> July after we had had a busy few weeks. On the 4<sup>th</sup> June we took everyone to the United Services Club in Hunstanton. Two buses transported Members to Hunstanton and coffee was served on arrival. An excellent lunch met with everyone's approval and it was agreed that we would certainly be booking to go there again for lunch later in the year.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> June we were all delighted to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of our "Volunteers", Jeannie Gallacher, whose actual birthday was on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. We all shared a special birthday cake, made by Alison, depicting her Scottish nationality and decorated with a haggis and tartan ribbons. We wondered if Jeannie was the oldest "Volunteer" still active in Dersingham.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> July I was delighted to accept an award on behalf of the Dersingham Day Centre from the Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk in respect of the Council's Opportunity Awards, given out every two years. The framed award will be put up in the Church Hall when we return. On behalf of everyone at the Day Centre I would like to thank Councillor Tony Bubb for nominating us for the Award and for the photo and article he wrote in the August edition of Village Voice.



The Dersingham Day Centre is there for those over the age of 70 who feel they would benefit from a day out each week to socialise and enjoy the company of others. If you think you might like to come and help at the Day Centre (any time you can spare would be appreciated) do come along to the Church Hall any Wednesday between 10.30am and 3.00pm and see what we do. Being a volunteer at the Day Centre is very rewarding as well as good fun. If you are new to the area this is a good way of meeting people and making new friends, everyone is very welcome. □

## **THE DAY CENTRE'S AUTUMN FAIR**

***will be held on SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER***

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## A Village Centre for Dersingham

by Vicky Etheridge

There has been talk of having a Village Centre (AKA a Village Hall) in Dersingham for some time and momentum is growing to make this dream a reality within the next couple of years.

### Is there a need for another building?

Dersingham is a large village with a population of around 5,000 and increasing. Like most coastal areas it has an ageing population with slightly more over 55s than under, which means there is a demand for services from both ends of the spectrum – young and old. This message came out very clearly in a survey commissioned by the Parish Council last winter. Through a combination of questionnaires, meetings and talking to people at village events and activities we have gathered ideas and opinions from about 25% of households. This is what we have found out so far:

-  People of all ages think there is a need to provide more activities for young people in the village, including provision of a dedicated space for young people.
-  There is a desire for a more modern facility that can act as a focal point for the village.
-  A need to boost community spirit and put on more village wide events.
-  Provision of skills training and a space for local artists and craftspeople.
-  Other popular requests:
  - ✓ Community café.
  - ✓ Wifi / broadband / IT facilities.
  - ✓ Regular film nights.
  - ✓ Drama productions.



We also know that St Nicholas Church Hall, the largest of the halls in the village

is in need of significant repair and investment in order to continue to host the current range and level of activities. It will not be able to meet the needs of the community as it continues to grow and develop in the future.

### Can we really make it happen?

St Nicholas Parochial Church Council and Dersingham Parish Council are in discussion about handing over ownership of the Church Hall to the Parish Council. Lottery Funding is available to support the building of village halls; this is the same fund that enabled Thornham to build their fantastic new hall. The Parish Council has set up a Village Centre Working Group which has started to apply for lottery funds, draw up a business plan and look at additional fundraising.

### About the building design

The drawings on the facing page are initial architect's sketches, they are based on the feedback from the survey, how the hall is currently used, site restrictions and design constraints due to the Conservation Area.

### Do your bit, have your say

With a nod to Lord Kitchener, "Your Village Needs You!". Consultation about the need for a new hall is on-going. Fundraising ideas, offers of help to fundraise and donations are all very much welcome. Get in touch via the Parish Council Office, 01485 541564 or [clerk@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:clerk@dersingham.org.uk) and look out for future consultation events in Budgens and the Church Hall in the coming months.

### Prize Draw

The winners of the consultation prize draw are;

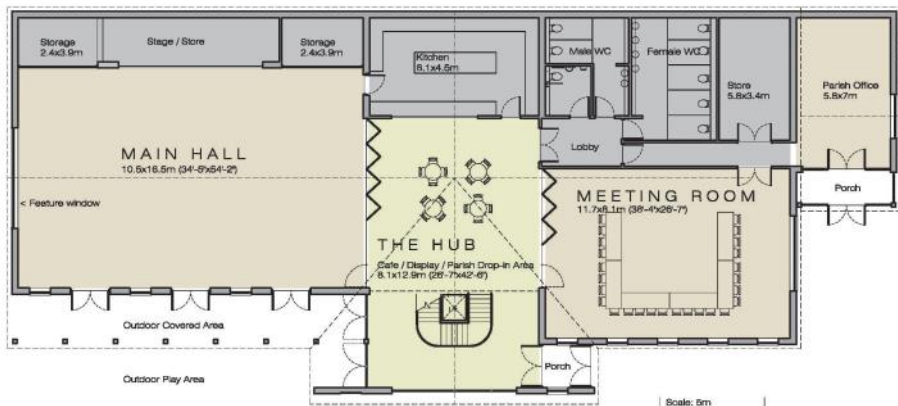
- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> prize: | £50 voucher for James Craven's Budgens |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize  | £30 voucher for a meal at The Feathers |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> prize  | £15 voucher for Thaxters               |
| 4th prize              | £15 voucher for Time Out               |

Maggie Speed  
Katie Saunders  
Nick Ware  
The Hoppers ☐

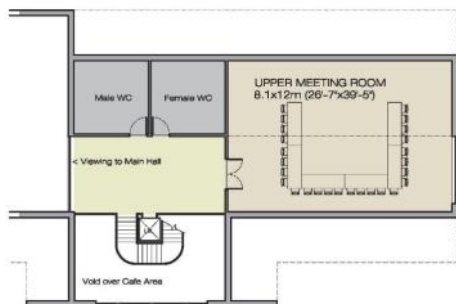




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## Snettisham RSPB Reserve Update

by Jim Scott (Site Manager)

Work on making good repairs to the reserve infrastructure after the December 2013 storm surge have been on hold through the breeding season (end of March to mid August). At the time of writing (end of August), work planned over the next couple of months includes: reinstatement of the causeway across the lagoons near the first hide (Rotary hide); demolishing and removing the badly damaged Sanctuary hide –and erection of some temporary screening overlooking the southern end of the pits; removal of remaining broken infrastructure still scattered around the site (bits of hides and boardwalk); and rebuilding of the boardwalk. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this article most or all of this work will have been completed. Decisions have yet to be made regarding long-term replacement of viewing infrastructure at the southern end of the pits.

### Breeding Season:

A reasonably good season for most species:

- 92 pairs of avocets nested in the pits and saltmarsh though, as always with this species, numbers of young raised are impossible to monitor, as chicks are taken out onto the mudflats/saltmarsh edge once hatched.
- Redshank numbers declined a little to 79 pairs (all on the saltmarsh).
- Common terns continued their recovery of the last few years, with 90 pairs nesting, fledging at least 50 young.
- Mediterranean gulls also continued to increase. These very smart looking gulls mostly nested on the saltmarsh, with a few pairs in the pits amongst the black-headed gulls. A total of 26 pairs nested this year.
- A single pair of great black-backed gulls nested in the pits for the second year running, and once again fledged three young. Last year was the first time that this species has ever been recorded nesting in Norfolk.
- A total of 2,557 pairs of black-headed gulls nested in the pits and on the saltmarsh, which continues the increasing trend of recent years.
- Ringed plovers are not faring well around much of the Norfolk coastline. Exact reasons are complicated and not fully understood, but do include factors such as increasing numbers of people visiting our beach areas during the breeding season. The birds mostly nest on the upper areas of shingle/shell beaches, and the nests and eggs are very difficult to see, so can easily be trodden on. At Snettisham reserve, signage asking visitors to stay on the path at the top of the beach helps improve the chances of the plovers nesting successfully. This year saw a slight increase in numbers to 16 pairs, and fledging success was a little higher than in recent years, at 15.

Large numbers of wading birds have already returned from their northern breeding grounds, with many more to come over the next weeks and months. Already at the end of August there have been up to 40,000 knot counted on the reserve.

Within another week or so I expect the first returning pink-footed geese—only a handful to start with, but by the time you will be reading this in October, it is likely that numbers will have built up to many hundreds or the low thousands. The highest numbers occur from mid November onwards into January, which I'm sure anyone who lives in the Snettisham/Dersingham area knows very well—with flyovers of tens of thousand of geese a regular feature of our winters. □

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**S**uch a lot has happened behind the scenes, whilst we have been on our summer break! As you can see, we now have a logo and thanks to our webmaster, Stephen Kent, we also have a brand new website: [www.westnorfolksingers.org.uk](http://www.westnorfolksingers.org.uk)

The West Norfolk Singers meet on Wednesday evenings from 19:30 to 21:00 at Heacham Methodist Church. We are a friendly, mixed voice choir and always welcome new members. So if you are looking for something different, or if you have recently moved to the area and would like to make new friends, this could be for you. We sing both religious and secular music and no auditions are necessary, but the ability to read music is very helpful.

Our Musical Director is Nigel Wickens, who is an accomplished professional singer and also teaches singing at Peterhouse, Cambridge. William Moss is our accompanist and was Head of Music at City of Ely and Downham Market Colleges. He is currently organist at Long Sutton Parish Church. During the last year, we performed Christmas Concerts at Heacham Methodist Church and St Faith's Church, Gaywood. Our Spring Concerts took place at Stanhoe Parish Church and Long Sutton Parish Church. We have the following future concerts arranged:

*Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 7.p.m. at Heacham St Mary's Church*  
*Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 2.30 p.m. at Heacham Methodist Church*  
*Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 at 7.p.m. at St Faith's Church, Gaywood*  
*Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham*



If you are not a singer, you may still like to support us by becoming a patron. We try to keep costs to a minimum but one expense over which we have no control is the cost of music scores.

By becoming a patron, you can really help us. For an annual contribution of £20 (or more if you wish), you will receive a complimentary ticket for our Christmas and Spring concerts and your name will be included on our concert programmes.

Quite a few members live in Dersingham, so sorting out a lift or car sharing is easily arranged. If you would like any further information about the West Norfolk Singers, please have a look at our website or contact me on 01485 542960. *Heather Titcomb (Chair)* □

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## Old Picture Corner—Then and Now from Tony Bubb

**T**his hand coloured view of Centre Vale, from around 1920, highlights the necessity of seeing the view before getting to work with the paints. The artist was seemingly unaware that the cottages were constructed of bricks all of the same colour. The neatly fenced front gardens had little in the way of planting compared with today and there are generally many more trees around now. No cars, for sale boards, TV aerials and dishes, power and telephone cables spoil this image, but I wonder how many were sold of this rather limited appeal picture. □





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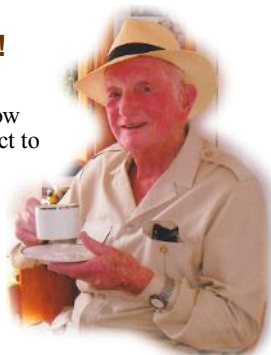
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## The Christmas Part that went on and on and ON!

by Jack Neale

In about 1962 the Invicta Group, a large service & retail organisation (now defunct), for which I worked as a painter & decorator, received a contract to redecorate 4 or 5 classrooms at a school in Erith, Kent about 6 miles from our HQ at Dartford. The work was to be carried out over the Xmas holidays when the school was closed, six of us were given the job. We were fairly lightly supervised, we all knew our trade and took pride in our work, sometimes singly, in pairs, three or more according to the size of the job. Of course we had a set time for the task and were expected to complete it on time, any slackers or skivers were soon weeded out.



We arrived on site a week before Christmas, as soon as the school closed and had about 2 weeks to complete the job. Archie the foreman came with us on the first day and roughed out the order of work, explained what needed to be done and got us all going. He left as usual a copy of the specification of the work to be performed with the leading hand – in this case myself. We all worked together well, there was seldom any friction between us. About halfway through the job it was Christmas Eve and in the seasonal spirit I took in my portable tape recorder and tapes of recorded music of light classical and popular songs. It was a very efficient model with 7" reel to reel tapes and a microphone with very good quality sound reproduction. We all enjoyed 'Music while we worked', and things went with a swing. At lunchtime by common consent we went out for a few drinks at a nearby pub. Suitably refreshed and full of good cheer we returned to the schoolroom to have our lunch and brew some tea. During this break naturally I played some more music and when it finished someone started to sing and others joined in. It sounded so good I suggested they sing again while I recorded it and it just kept going. There was a piano in the classroom and one of the lads could play a bit, by then we all fancied ourselves as pop singers. There was a good mix of old Music Hall songs and a few modern ones and everyone 'let themselves go' including one or two solo items. When the tape was finished I played it back to their great delight. It was the first time they had heard their own voices and I must admit it sounded quite good. At about 3pm we concluded our extended lunch hour and started to 'square up' the various jobs we were doing but leaving a little to be doing in the knowledge that, as was traditional, Archie and the Manager would arrive with our wages and check the work and wish us all the Seasons Compliments. This duly happened and over the holiday I replayed the tape again for the benefit of my wife and daughter who enjoyed it no end.

The holiday over it was back to the job, which was satisfactory and finished on time. We told Archie about the tape and he said he would like to hear it some time. The next job was in Dartford at a small hall that was used for meetings, wedding receptions etc. It had living accommodation above occupied by the head of the cleaning department for all the offices and shops within the town. He was a nice friendly chap but his wife was a bit of a 'grump', but we were only working in the hall so had no contact. As it was near the depot it was a good opportunity for Archie to have a listen to the tape. Just after lunch one day he came over and heard it. It had just finished when the Manager suddenly appeared. He'd been phoned by 'Her Upstairs' that his men were all drunk and singing raucously down below. We explained it all to him and although he told us off mildly about wasting works time, he was really amused by the situation and I thought the matter was closed.

He must have discussed the tape with Archie because to my surprise a couple of days later he asked if he could borrow the tape, as he had a similar machine and was giving a little party at home, and thought the novelty of it would act as an ice-breaker. I was glad to oblige and, when he returned it, said they had enjoyed it and didn't realise that he employed so much talent! Quite an episode. Sadly a few years later Archie died suddenly just a few months before retiring on pension and for the last 8 years of my working life I took his place.

This is the last of my items for the Village Voice and I hope readers have enjoyed them. Comfortably ensconced at The Gables in Post Office Road and in my 100th year I can look back on these and other happenings that occurred in my life. Finally I should like to thank the Editor for encouragement and support for my efforts. □

*Many thanks for sharing your slices of life Jack—who else might feel inspired I wonder? Ed*



# puzzle corner

Answers on page 73

## Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words:

BELT	CARMINE	CURTAIN	BOX
AGATE	BERYL	MAGENTA	PIN
LAMP	PLAY	GARNET	MAKER
STICK	CERISE	ONYX	CINNABAR

Sudoku No 38 by Rob

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

## Where is it? What is it?

by Tony Bubb

*Have to confess that this one really stumped me, but no doubt many about the Village, with a more seasoned knowledge of our cultural heritage in these parts, will recognise it instantly! Ed.*





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## Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

### More about local place names

I will continue this month with the local names for prominent places around Dersingham village. First of all, Eight Mile Stone Corner at the bottom of Heath Road, so-called as from here it is eight miles to King's Lynn and eight miles to Hunstanton. This used to be a very sharp bend and then, a few years back, two young men on a motorbike were killed there when they did not take the bend and crashed into a concrete litterbin. After which the road was altered.



Now we come to the premises. Stanton's farm buildings and cottages are at the top of Dodds Hill to the east of the crossroads. If you turn right at these crossroads you come to the Sandringham Estate wood yard. On your right just before this is a gate that lets you into a drive called 'Docking Drove', so-called because the drovers from Docking would pass this way with their cattle, sheep, horses, pigs and geese on their way to the market at King's Lynn. If you go through here as far as the top of Sandringham Hill then you cross over the B1440 road and you then get onto 'Queen's Drive', sometimes known as 'Princess Drive'; this will take you through Dersingham Woods and bring you out near the A149 at the top of Folly Hill.

Pleasant Place is a row of cottages Nos 75 to 81 that are the last cottages on the left hand side going out of the village next to the Common. They were so called as it was a pleasant place to live. When you get to the George Pratt roundabout there was, until they were messed about with, two cottages here called 'Sandpit Cottages'. About 100 yards away from these cottages is the village sandpit. Also in the woods opposite this sandpit is a medium-sized house called 'The House in the Woods'; this house is accessible from off the Queen's Drive. There is also another small open cast sandpit on the fen half way between the Eight Mile Stone Corner and the Red Dyke. This sandpit was used a lot by Mr Fyfe Wilson, the coalman, to get sand for the villagers with his horse and cart. Fyfe Wilson would cart anything for anybody but his horse meant the world to him. A friend of mine asked him to fetch 10cwt of potatoes from Marsh Farm, Wolferton. Fyfe said, 'No, I can only bring you 5cwt at a time. I will not let the old horse pull 10cwt up Wolferton Hill as it is too much for him.'

### Hunstanton bandstand

Now then, the picture of the bandstand and pier at Hunstanton. Of course, this is a made up picture as the bandstand was built in the position where the yacht club stands today; it was built in 1911, paid for by public contributions to commemorate the coronation of King George the Fifth. It was demolished in 1947 and then a new bandstand was erected on The Green in 1994.

### Opening of Sandringham Estate

Tony Bubb asks when the Sandringham Estate was first open to the public. Well, some of the gardens, the grounds and the church were first open to the public as far back as 1908; then the country park that covers 600 acres was opened in 1968. When I was a boy, just after the Second World War, two ladies from Dersingham would sit either side of the Norwich Gates selling postcards of the estate. Those days people were allowed to park either side of the avenue from Sandringham Hill as far as the Norwich Gates, so people would walk up to the gates, have a peek in and buy some post cards.

Then in 1977 the ground floor of the house, museum and gardens were opened on a regular basis to the public, and in the first year of being open 300,000 visitors went through the gates. And this figure has never been beaten. In 1994 the Visitors Centre was built along with the coach park, shop and restaurant.

### Folly House

Ian Skerrett writes about Folly House and the two sisters that lived there. Folly House was built around about 1875 and in the early years it was used for shooting lunches when the royalty were shooting in that area. Also gamekeepers lived there from time to time. The two Sanderson sisters were there for many years; I used to deliver meat to them for Mr Ken Milton, the butcher, from 1957 till 1960. I think at one time a Mrs Crosby lived there, then she moved to live in the house in the woods near Sandpit Cottages.



## Sundays in the forties

When I was a small boy in the nineteen forties and lived with my granny at No 3 Station Road, East Winch, there was two things about Sundays: one I looked forward to and one I did not.

First was the fact that I had to go to church at least once on a Sunday though I never wanted to go. I had to, no ifs or buts, I just had to go, like it or not.

The other thing I really looked forward to - Sunday night tea. Granny or my mother would go to Swaffham on the train on a Saturday to buy either winkles, cockles, mussels or samphire, whichever was in season. Then she would cook them up for Sunday night tea. Granny would put them in a big bowl in the middle of the table with plenty of bread (home made) spread with pork fat (there was no butter as it was on ration), salt, pepper and vinegar if we had any. Then, armed with a pin if it was winkles, we would all dive in, usually six of us.

## Outdoor life

Of late there has been a lot in the press and on the wireless about the amount of time that children spend outdoors. I was lucky as I lived in Dersingham right next to the Common, so when I was about eight years old I was allowed out with the other children in the road to play on the Common. Just on the edge of the Common next to Pleasant Place there was a grass area called 'Hoddy's Hole'; we played football and cricket on there, also a game called 'the old tin can'. This was a magical place to play; often my mother had to call me at meal times or come looking for me at bedtime.

As we got older we were allowed to venture further afield to places like the fen and the Shut-up Common. A gang of us boys built a cycle speedway track in the middle of the Shut-up Common and some remains of it are still there today hidden up amongst the bracken and the birch trees. We also used to go down the Shingle Pits swimming, or in the sea if the tide was in, and down to the pumping station to fish for eels. My father took me down the pumping station in, I believe, 1948 to see it being opened by Princess Margaret and her father King George the Sixth. Alas! All of those wonderful places down the marsh and the fen are now out of bounds. When I was twelve I had a part-time job as an errand boy for Parkers Stores delivering groceries around the village. I also worked for a little higgler (smallholder) on the land, but all the time I was outside in the fresh air.

But the thing I liked most from being outdoors was standing on Senters Corner or sitting on a bench on the Common with some of the old boys from the village telling us their tales from long ago. One old boy used to lean over the school wall and tell us many tales about Dersingham years back, especially about the ghost of Snoring Lodge Wood. We called him 'Uncle Two Foot'. How many people can remember him? Even now in my seventy-fifth year I am out on my bike twice a day biking around the town, along the cliffs and around the Downs, but I always finish up sitting on a bench having a good muddle with a gang of old boys. And if it's a good evening we sit there watching the sun till it goes down in the west over the sea, and if you are very quiet you can hear the sun sizzle when it hits the sea.

That's all for now; have a good harvest hawkey! □

## Haycorns and Woozles for Blustery Days by Heather Wells

It is possible to walk round and round in circles in Sandringham Country Park before getting your bearings. But, help is at hand - a local landmark!

Who is responsible? Who removed the original beaded doorknob and replaced it with a nail? This magical doorway must have been a special find to so many people.

Have any readers come across it and could they describe exactly how to get there? □





## Dersingham Walking Group

**W**elcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides regular guided walks round the local countryside. There are lots of autumn treats in the coming programme, with the prospect of lovely woodland colours, an amble along the beach, and our annual “cream tea” walk to look forward to. Note that if you want a cream tea, it must be pre-booked before October 1st. Contact Stephen Martyn or John Ross, phone numbers below.

The walks are free, just turn up on the day wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. Dogs are welcome, provided they're well behaved. The length is shown for each walk but they usually take a couple of hours or so, with a stop halfway. Why not get some fresh air and exercise, you'll be in good company!

### Details of our next walks are:

#### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2.00pm

**Starting point:** Unique car park Castle Rising. Grid ref: TF 667 247

A walk round Castle Rising, ending with a cream tea at the Unique Tea-shop!

Tea must be pre-booked by 1<sup>st</sup> October. Length of walk: 4 miles

**Leader:** John Ross 01485 543844

#### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 1.30pm (earlier start once the clocks go back)

**Starting point:** Car park behind the Dogotel, off the A148 at Harpley Dams.

Grid ref: TF 772 255 Length of walk: 5.5 miles

A walk round the picturesque villages of Houghton and Harpley.

**Leader:** Elizabeth Fiddick  
01485 540940

#### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 1.30pm

**Starting point:** The map-board opposite the car park halfway up Heath Rd. Dersingham, where we will set off for an autumn woodland walk.

Grid ref: TF 687 297 Length of walk: 4.2 miles

**Leader:** Cliff Jordan 01485 541115

#### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 1.30pm

**Starting point:** Hunstanton lighthouse. Grid ref: TF 676 420

A beach and dunes circuit from Hunstanton to Holme. Length of walk: 4 miles

**Leader:** Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138

You can always see the full walks programme on the parish council website.

[www.dersingham.org.uk/announcements](http://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](mailto:stephenmartyn@gmail.com) □



Roydon Common Walk  
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## David “Sheepy” Powell Memorial Bench

**O**n behalf of our family, I would like to offer our gratitude and thanks to the friends of our late son, David “Sheepy” Powell, who organised a memorial bench in the grounds of Dersingham Social Club. Our special thanks go to Dersingham Social Club who kindly allowed the bench to be sited there and for putting on a marvellous buffet following the unveiling. David’s good friend, Jason, built the bench himself, as a tribute to his friend and it is wonderful to know that it will last many, many years. Thanks also to all the Dersingham people who supported raising funds for the bench as well as arranging the annual David Powell Memorial Pool Tournament in March, which has so far raised hundreds of pounds for “Help for Heroes”, a charity David supported.

Above all, we have been touched by the support and genuine warmth shown by the people of Dersingham, since David was tragically taken from us nearly two years ago. We have been comforted by all of the kind words from people whose lives he had touched- we had no idea of the amount of friends he had, or how popular he was in the village and beyond.

It has been a great inspiration to us to get to know better all of David’s friends (and their families), who are a credit to our village and

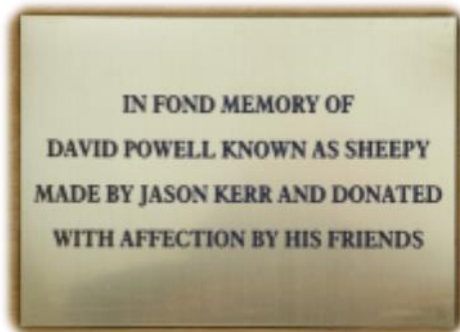


represent a positive face of young people today.

On a final note, we recently had family visit us from the USA to see the bench and to spend some time in Dersingham. Their comments were “*What a lovely place to live – we really envy your lifestyle here*”.

That just about sums it up!

*David Powell (Snr) □*



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## **Carole Brown Health Centre (CBHC) Patients' Participation Group (PPG) News**

**From: Tom Morris, PPG Committee**



### **Farewell to Graham Dickerson.**

**I**n December this year, the Managing Partner of Vida Healthcare will retire from the practice and move onto pastures new. He will be sadly missed for all his efforts on our behalf over the last 12 years or so.

Graham was instrumental in the recovery of our medical and nursing services in Dersingham as part of Vida Healthcare in 2003 after it had been through a particularly bad patch caused by a shortage of GPs.

Until then, the Dersingham Surgery had been part of the Heacham Group

Practice and had lost two GPs through ill-health and the sad death of Dr Carole Brown.

Following consultation with the PPG and others, it was agreed that the surgery in Saxon Way was inadequate for Dersingham's growing population and that new premises were required. It was Graham's drive and determination that resulted in the current Carole Brown Health Centre being built and equipped to a standard that is the envy of other practices in the country. We are indeed fortunate to have such excellent medical and nursing facilities in the village.

We wish Graham well in whatever activities he undertakes in future and thank him for his hard work on our behalf.

### **Annual General Meeting.**

At the PPG AGM, the Chairman (Mrs Vanessa Blythe) welcomed members old and new and stated that she felt it had been a good year for the surgery all round. Speakers had included Penny Bussey speaking on dementia, Alison Thorne, from the library (books now available in the surgery) and Dr De with a good report from the surgery. The Patients' Survey had produced favourable results and representatives from the PPG committee continue to attend bi-annual meetings, with the practice, of the Patient Care Group and monthly meetings of the West Norfolk Patients Partnership Group. The Treasurer (Mrs Dee Morris) presented the accounts and reported that the PPG had funded £2,200 worth of equipment during the year. Additional funds are available to support the acquisition of equipment and services that will benefit patients of the surgery. In the absence of any volunteers – surprise, surprise – the committee agreed to continue in their roles for an additional year!

**Next PPG Meeting.** 7.00pm on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014. □





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## The Sandringham Newsletter

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



June and July were very busy months at the Visitor Centre, with the warm and sunny weather attracting many people to the Country Park. Five car rallies, three sponsored walks and the Park House Cycle Together event, as well as six brass band concerts, all provided lots for people to see in addition to the House, Museum and Gardens.

The weather also included some heavy showers with the sunshine, providing ideal conditions for plants to grow, and Sandringham's gardeners were weeding and mowing more or less non-stop throughout July. Some areas of grass in the further parts of the gardens are left unmown each year to allow wild flowers to grow and seed, and once again this year clusters of spotted orchids appeared among the long grass in several places, and seem to be growing in larger numbers than in previous years.

In August, the grass slowed down a bit which enabled gardeners to stop mowing and attend to other jobs, particularly trimming the yew and box hedges at the entrance and in the North Garden, as well as wall shrubs like cotoneaster and pyracantha. They also kept the Visitor Centre Restaurant supplied with vegetables from the "veg patch" all month.

Two of the miniature cars from the collection of Royal vehicles in the Museum are being lent again this year, not long after their return from Paris in an exhibition of children's toys and games there. This time the miniature Aston Martin made for the Duke of York and the miniature Citroen made for The Queen have gone to Buckingham Palace for their summer exhibition, "Royal Childhood". Spanning more than 250 years, the exhibition brings together objects from the Royal Collection, the Royal Archives and the private collections of members of the Royal Family, as well as previously unseen photographs and film footage, and runs until the end of September.

On the farm, time was spent as always before the harvest cleaning and fumigating grain dryers, servicing the combine harvesters and grain trailers and checking the farm roads and gateways to try to make sure no time is taken up with having to solve avoidable problems once the harvest gets under way.

Flower Show day this year was warm and sunny, in contrast to last year's cool, grey drizzle. It was a very busy day as always, with thousands of people taking in the display gardens, the competition entries and all the trade stands. A particular highlight was the spectacular aerobatic display over the showground by the Grace Spitfire – the sound of a Spitfire seemed to stop people in their tracks all across the Show.

Just before the Flower Show, Estate staff were delighted to welcome BBC Radio 4's "Gardeners' Question Time" team to the Visitor Centre. Bob Flowerdew, Pippa Greenwood and Anne Swinbank, with chairman Eric Robson, answered questions about plants including strawberries, cobnuts, agapanthus and alstromeria; in addition Chris Beardshaw took a walk in the Gardens with Sandringham's Head Gardener, discussing among other things the making of really good compost heaps. The audience for the recording included members of Dersingham and Snettisham gardening clubs as well as Sandringham staff and pensioners.

Three large events took place in Sandringham Park after the Flower Show: first, the August Art, Crafts and Sculpture Fair. Next on 30th August the Marie Curie Cancer Walk Ten invited people to walk a 10km route and finish with a picnic and fireworks display at 10pm. Then on 13th and 14th September the Game Fair and Country Show returned to Sandringham: anybody with an interest in shooting, fishing, falconry, horses, dogs, archery, vintage vehicles, crafts, food and drink, or just shopping, could find something to interest and entertain them at this enormous show.□





# Sandringham Squirrels—the final episode

written by Allan Coleby, illustrated by Jeanne Ockenden

## Girl squirrels

Ella

Eve

Cassie

Thora

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

## Boy squirrels

Scoot

Chip

Barney

Gus

## Ella, Eve and the boy squirrels

‘Eve, do you remember that time when Mum showed us how to build a nest, and we practised building our own, that time we saw the birds with strange beaks, and Mum told us they were crossbills?’ asked Ella.

‘Yes. I do,’ said Eve. ‘It was the end of winter, and the days were getting longer. Mum said we couldn’t spend another winter in her nest, so we would have to make our own.’

‘Well, the days are getting shorter again,’ went on Ella, ‘and the nights are colder. I suppose we had better start building for the winter, so we can keep warm.’

‘Yes. Let’s go and get some material from old birds’ nests, like we did before.’

So, with this agreed, off they went.

They couldn’t find one of the small, round, mossy nests that Ella had once found in a bramble, and so they had to make do with a last year’s blackbird’s nest where the cup shape was made of hard, dry mud and the sides were woven grass and straw. They found some more moss and bark from a birch tree to put over the top and round, so that in the end they had a fairly round nest. They lodged it near the top of a beech tree where there had once been a crow’s nest. It looked as if neither the crow nor its family was coming back now, but the old nest still seemed big and strongly built. All the old twigs made a good base for the new nest.

The two sisters felt hungry after their nest-building, so they decided to go and see if they could find any food on the bird tables in the gardens of the bungalows at the edge of the wood past the gorse bushes. Just as they were about to set off, Barney suddenly appeared.

‘I’ve seen you and Ella making that high nest, Eve,’ said Barney. ‘Will you show it to me?’

Now Eve quite liked Barney because he was always in a cheerful mood. He was big and strong and always seemed to favour Eve, looking after her if there was trouble, or if anyone was after her. But she was hungry now and didn’t want to be bothered with Barney, so she shook her head and walked off with Ella. Barney started following, and Eve remembered that Thora had told her and Ella never to tell Barney where the bird tables were.

She started to run and Barney ran after her. Suddenly, about four or five other boy squirrels, who had been hiding in some bracken, joined in the chase and Eve had about six boy squirrels chasing her. Barney did not like this and turned on the others. He shrieked at them and tried to grab them to bite them. They were frightened and so was Eve, but then they all ran off except for



Barney, and Eve was glad that he was walking along with her.

The trouble was that the boys then all ran after Ella, who was walking a little way off. Ella noticed that her friend, Chip, was with them, but she panicked and ran past the chestnut trees and the pine trees to the clearing where the birch trees were. When she reached the birch trees, Ella was feeling frightened because of the noise all the boys were making.

Beyond the birch trees was a pond and Ella jumped in. She was a good swimmer, like many squirrels, and thought she could get away from the boys by swimming across the pond. She swam and swam as fast as she could. Finally, she reached the other edge, but as she climbed out, she looked straight into the smiling face of Chip.

‘How did you get here?’ she gasped.

‘When you jumped in, I ran round the back of the bramble bushes, and I could see you would have to come out at this point,’ he said, still smiling. ‘Come on, I’ll pull you out.’

Ella was glad he was helping her, because all the others, who had swum across, were reaching the edge.

‘They won’t come after you when they can see you are with me,’ he said.

‘No,’ said Ella. ‘I think I’ll stay with you. Have you seen Scoot?’

‘I saw him and Cassie building a nest together this morning,’ said Chip. ‘He was telling Cassie how your mum had built one, and he said he had fetched all the moss.’

‘Isn’t it funny?’ said Ella. ‘We all seem to be going off with our friends. It’s as if we don’t need Mum any more.’

Ella and Chip stopped talking and were quiet for a while as they walked along. Ella thought how happy she was and how nice it was to be alone with Chip.

‘I’ll tell you something, Chip,’ said Ella, a little awkwardly, because she was wanting to talk to Chip on his own about something she had been thinking about for a while. ‘I get tired of some of the young squirrels, like Barney and Gus, that we go around with. What do you say if we go right away from the woods around here, and find a new place where we can have a new life, just the two of us?’

‘Don’t know about that,’ said Chip, slowly, not feeling as adventurous as Ella was. ‘I’ve only ever lived in this wood. Do you know another one? Have you got anywhere in mind?’

‘Well, Cassie was telling me that she had met two squirrels who had come from a place across the main road, where all the traffic goes whizzing by. She says that there’s a big area of open heath and the wood is beyond that. These two squirrels had left it because there were not many other squirrels and they felt a bit lonely. That sounds just right for us. We can soon build a new nest for the winter, and I’ll leave the one I helped to make for Eve and Barney to live in.’

‘Let’s go and talk to Cassie and Scoot, then,’ said Chip. ‘I’m a bit worried about that main road, because you can hear traffic on it all the time. But if we really make our minds up, and if Scoot and Cassie come, too, I think we could do it.’

‘Yes,’ said Ella. ‘Come on, Chip. A new place, a new life, and a new family of our own.’

‘Yes. Come on. Let’s go.’ □





## WW1: Dersingham and Sandringham in Perspective

compiled and edited by Allan Coleby

In her article, '*Darkening Skies*' (VV88), Elizabeth Fiddick said that the difference between WW1 and previous wars was that the war 'was to come right into villages and towns.' One aspect of this was the Zeppelin raids of 1915 and 1916. Another aspect was the recruitment of 'Pals' Companies from local populations, such as the Sandringham Company, the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Norfolk Regiment. Our local area had much in common with the rest of the country, but in other ways was unusual: it was a typical agriculture-based rural economy, but was set beside the country home of the Head of State.

With a population of 1499 at the 1911 census, Dersingham would have reflected the social and economic conditions of the time. In 1914, there were 200,000 farm workers in East Anglia: for men, the average age expectancy was 52, and the average farm worker's wage was £50 per year. Attendance at school was compulsory until the age of twelve, though many boys were employed by the age of ten. Employment for girls was as domestic servants, nurses, or shop assistants.

Britain had a very small army of less than 200,000 in 1914. More than half of these men were sent across the Channel within days of the declaration of war, as the British Expeditionary Force. They confronted the Germans, as they emerged from neutral Belgium, and were overwhelmed. Kitchener was appointed to increase recruitment, which he did with large posters, playing on the emotions of masculine pride, self-respect, defence of family, and patriotism. Many men enlisted for adventure, but others, in view of the widespread poverty, joined up just to get fed.

A million men were recruited by Christmas, and tens of thousands were soon being slaughtered defending Paris at the River Marne and the retreat from Mons. This stopped the German advance on Paris, but soon the war on the western front had settled to trench warfare. A line of trenches stretched from the Ypres area of Belgium to the Swiss border, and for four years there was carnage on an epic scale. At the Battle of the Somme, on the first day alone, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, 20,000 were killed and 40,000 injured. At Passchendaele in 1917, 80,000 were killed, and 230,000 injured.



In Dersingham, the war memorials in St. Nicholas Church and at the traffic lights (known as Linford's Corner) each show that almost fifty men were killed (i.e. over 3% of the population) and a further 122 served at home and overseas (over 8%). Thus, in this small village of 1500 people,



over 170 saw active military service, over 11%, which is a very high percentage of the population. However, the villages of Dersingham and West Newton and Sandringham are partly intermixed, and if we take figures for the whole area, the total of those who served and did not return is harrowing. From the very small village of West Newton, sixteen men were killed. At Sandringham, the 'War Service Roll of Honour of the Members of the Royal Households and Estates' lists 90 men who were killed and 161 who were wounded. Of the 90, 33 were from Sandringham (the 77 names on the memorial opposite the visitors' centre include workers other than those at Sandringham). From these figures, it is not possible to quantify the vast amount of human suffering, but they show that from this small corner of England, the sacrifice was enormous. They correspond to the global context of British and British Empire armed forces deaths of 908,000 out of an estimated total strength of 3.22 million.



Dersingham memorials are unusual in that most villages and towns restrict themselves to one memorial, whereas in Dersingham there are four. St Nicholas Church has two, one in the churchyard and then a Roll of Honour inside the Church, and there is a large, stone memorial at the traffic lights. There is also an elaborate marble plaque in the Foresters' Hall, listing twenty names 'in honour of our fallen members.' In addition, there are individual plaques, one for John Whitehouse in St Nicholas, one for John George Hooks in the Methodist Church, one for Frank Beck inside Sandringham Church (and a window in the north aisle of West Newton Church) and two for Mary Plumpton Beck, Frank's widow, in St Nicholas Church and in West Newton Church.

Memorials in most towns and villages throughout Britain use the dates 1914–18, and this set of dates is used in Remembrance services each November, and is favoured by the British Legion. Dersingham is unusual in that all its memorials except one use 1914–1919, and this is true of Sandringham. The one exception is in St Nicholas Churchyard, which has 1914–18, whereas that inside the Church has 1914–19. Which set of dates is correct? The word 'armistice' is correctly used in Remembrance services because it means 'ceasefire' or 'temporary cessation of hostilities'. This is what happened in November 1918. Russia had stopped fighting after the Revolution of 1917. Turkey and Bulgaria had been defeated by Italy and their Middle Eastern territories had been conquered by Allenby, assisted by Lawrence of Arabia.



Austria-Hungary had collapsed because of internal revolution, and after the Germans' big push in March 1918, which was defeated by Field-marsals Haig and Foch, President Wilson ordered that America would enter the war, with its huge numbers of men and equipment. When Haig counter-attacked, he found that the German army was exhausted and near starvation because of the British blockade of the Baltic ports, the navy having won the battle against the 'U' boats. Indeed, there were food riots and peace marches in Germany. The German generals refused to turn the army on the people, which the Kaiser wanted, but instead they forced Wilhelm to flee to Holland, and Hindenburg and General Ludendorff asked the Allies for an armistice. Therefore, what was signed at 5 a.m. in Foch's railway carriage at Compiegne, to be effective from 11 a.m. on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, was a ceasefire which applied to the war in Europe. A war is ended by agreement on the terms of a formally drawn up peace treaty. This was signed at the Treaty of Versailles on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1919, 5 years to the day after the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo, though the Germans did not admit guilt or defeat, and withdrew their forces only as far as Germany's western border. Therefore, legally, the correct date is 1914–19, although Germany could not have resumed fighting after November 1918, and there is strong emotional attachment to the armistice signing, and the symmetry of the time and date, 11am on 11/11/1918. Between November 1918 and June 1919, there were small pockets of fighting other than in Europe, and many men who had been wounded in Europe died of their injuries during that time, and should be commemorated.

The various memorials were very quickly put in place. Dersingham Parish Council agreed to the erection of its memorial at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1919, five months before the war officially ended. The original intention was to have a figure of a marching soldier at the top of it. He would have been pointing along Station Road to the station, the soldiers' last point of contact before setting off for the war. Eventually, only the stone column was produced, but it is unusual in that it commemorates, in addition to the fallen, all those who served overseas and at home. The names were originally carved in the stone, but this became worn, and the names are now in silver lettering inlaid in shiny granite, which is set into the original stone column. It was paid for by the villagers, and Doreen Linford says that her grandparents, who owned the shop opposite it, helped collect the money. The site of the memorial is known by many villagers as Linford's Corner.

So, what was gained by the allied victory in the villages and the country as a whole? From the poverty and deprivation described at the start, which we in NW Norfolk shared with the rest of the country, there was an uphill struggle fired by the courage and determination of the general

population. The general public had been appalled by the atrocities committed in Belgium, shocked by the Zeppelin raids, horrified by the sinking of the *Lusitania*, where nearly 1200 civilians died after being torpedoed on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1915. Stories of the gigantic scale of the slaughter in the trenches reached the population daily. Britain imported two thirds of its food in 1914, and the German ‘U’ boats attacked all merchant shipping in order to starve Britain into submission. Morale was at a low ebb. Government policy to improve it was risky. A short film showed the terror and the sacrifices made in the Battle of the Somme in July 1916, and in six weeks it was shown to millions of people. This portrayal of the ‘darkest hour’ might have produced widespread depression, but in fact it stimulated a great upsurge in the war effort. People grew their own food on allotments, which became very popular: even King George cultivated vegetables in the herbaceous borders of Buckingham Palace. Then in January 1917 rationing was introduced. It was a great success and it stopped the long queues for food which had become common. A new convoy system protected shipping, and rationing enabled survival. The invention of the tank also raised morale.

Eventually, after the armistice, the poor and the working class were much better fed and cared for. People could afford eggs and meat, not only bread and vegetables. There was universal suffrage for men and most women. Women were emancipated from domestic toil by the prospects of other jobs: many had worked as land girls and in munitions during the war. Education became free for all. NW Norfolk shared in all these social and economic changes, and how richly they were deserved, by those who fought abroad and those who served at home in numerous capacities. Sandringham, of course, had a unique role in the country. One reason for the increasing strength and stability of the country through the war years was that the Sandringham community, like so many others, played its role to the highest standards, from the men of the Sandringham Company who fought and died, workers who kept the estate functioning, to the Royal family and the King himself. George V had to stay in London during most of the war, but Queen Mary stayed in York Cottage at Sandringham, while Queen Alexandra, widow of Edward VII, lived in ‘The big house’.

Queen Victoria’s children had married into ten European states and, at the beginning of the twentieth century, the whole of Europe was governed by a network of royal families, all of whom were inter-related. Their ministers had formed an equivalent network of alliances between France, Britain, Russia, Germany & Austria, Turkey, Italy, Persia and Palestine. When these alliances clashed because of conflicts of interest, war broke out. It can be seen as a tangled chain of encounters between the egotisms of the leaders of these countries. Apart from France, the three nations controlling the major armies and most of the conduct of the war in Europe, were Germany, Britain and Russia. Their respective Heads of State were Kaiser Wilhelm II, King George V and Tsar Nicholas II, and these men were first cousins. If we compare the qualities of these three Heads of State, George is way ahead of the others in terms of stability, wisdom and judgment. The leaders of Russia and Germany were, by contrast, autocratic, despotic and oppressive.

The Tsar’s theory of government was infantile: ‘I do what I wish, and what I wish is good....The people are plain mortals, while I am God’s anointed.’ The Kaiser’s conception of how the country’s politics should work was: ‘The Kaiser led; the German nation



followed.’ He said that he and the army were made for each other. He appreciated its pomp and its hierarchy – with himself at the summit. There was an uprising in Petrograd in 1905, and after the

Russian troops had fired into the crowd in the square behind the Winter Palace, Wilhelm congratulated Nicholas: he thought the two autocratic rulers had policies in common. The Tsar was imperious and arrogant, while the Kaiser was clinically unstable, consumed with hatred for Britain and his mother because of his withered arm, a disability caused by British doctors at his birth.

George, by contrast, never wanted to be King, and was so only because his elder brother, Albert Victor, died of pneumonia at Sandringham in 1892. He was the ‘Sailor King’, trained at Dartmouth, and commander of a torpedo boat by the age of 24. He had sailed to Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India and Canada, showing a concern for all the inhabitants. He was most concerned about the situation in Ireland, and convened and chaired a meeting of all parties at Buckingham Palace. He was ably supported by Queen Mary – an intelligent, serious, practical person, who had a steadying influence on all those around her. They both did their bit for the war effort. George led the voluntary food rationing scheme and grew his own vegetables. He ordered that all heating in the Palace should be switched off, and that no-one in the Royal household should drink wine with meals, but just sugar in boiled water. George and Mary made more than 450 visits to military camps and over 300 visits to hospitals, including those at Babingley and West Newton. They toured many factories producing war supplies, including Savage’s in King’s Lynn, when it started making planes instead of fairground rides.

Both George and Mary preferred living in York Cottage at Sandringham, with its modest size



and small rooms, rather than in Sandringham House. When Lady Warrener made a snide remark about George’s German connections at a dinner at the Palace in May 1917, George overheard it, and within a few weeks had changed the family name to Windsor. Mary collected iron fencing for munitions factories. She also encouraged local schoolchildren to collect conkers from the Sandringham estate, because they contained acetone, a component of cordite, used to fire shells, and so 3,000 tons of conkers were sent to the munitions factory in Alexandra dock in King’s Lynn.

George was also physically courageous. Amid the carnage and in mortal danger, he visited the western front on horseback to rally the troops on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1915, and again in early March 1918, during the all-out German offensive when, before the Americans arrived, if they had broken through, the Germans would have won the war and destroyed the monarchy. Above all, George saw that autocracy was outmoded in Europe, and that he had to be a compliant, constitutional Head of Government, outside and above party politics. At Sandringham, he lived the life of a country squire, and he loved to go shooting and to collect stamps! What he had was abundant British common sense – he was ‘wholly and impregably English,’ wrote Mary to her Aunt Augusta. When the armistice was announced on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, the crowds flocked not to Downing Street but to Buckingham Palace. What a contrast to the Tsar and the Kaiser! Britain undoubtedly had the best Head of State.

The memory of all the lives given and courageous actions taken must live on through our respect, reverence and observance to succeeding generations. Our memorials exist, and all the memories kept alive because they are our heritage, part of our collective experience. In Dersingham, we are very grateful to Valerie Brundle, John Houston and Kurtis Green for all their time and effort helping to maintain our War Memorial and surrounding gardens at “Linford’s Corner”. If we do not remember, we lose part of our humanity. We are who we are, what we are and where we are because of the sacrifices made by these men and women in the Great War and the subsequent World War. Their memory must never die. □







# LILY

## LIVING INDEPENDENTLY IN LATER YEARS

**L**iving Independently in Later Years (**LILY**) is an online directory for West Norfolk that brings together information about a wide range of activities, services, advice and guidance, primarily for the over 65s, providing an easy-to-access, easy-to-use reference and signposting guide.

LILY is arranged into 10 simple-to-search categories and there are useful filters and quick links that make finding information quick and easy. Whether you're looking for a club or activity close by, perhaps you want travel or mobility advice, or maybe you need tips for managing your money, then LILY can help. If you're concerned about staying safe, worried about having a fall, or if you're at home caring for someone LILY can help you to find the advice and help you may need.

If you don't have a computer you can still access all the information in the LILY directory by calling **01553 616200** and speaking to a member of the Council's Customer Services team. An advisor will search the directory on your behalf and give you all the relevant information. If required, this information can then be sent to you, or to a relative, friend or carer, by post or email.

Organisers of regular activities, such as clubs or support groups, or community services for older people living in the region, can have details included in the LILY directory. Just email [asklily@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:asklily@west-norfolk.gov.uk) or call **01553 616200** with details.

If you're over 65 and you want to know what's going on in the area or if you need signposting to specialist services, simply Ask LILY at [www.asklily.org.uk](http://www.asklily.org.uk) or call **01553 616200**

The LILY directory is a West Norfolk Partnership project, led by the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

*Joanne Mawson – Project Officer* □

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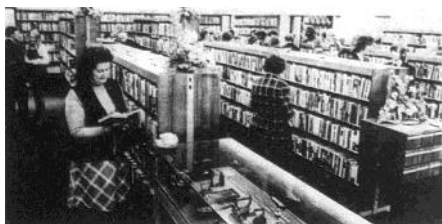
## Dersingham Library's 40th Birthday

It's our 40th birthday at the end of September and I have been looking back through the archives and have the original article from the Lynn News from 4th October 1974 which recorded the original opening event.

Alison Thorne



### Dersingham gets its Own Library



*The first branch library to be built in Norfolk since local government reorganisation was officially opened at Dersingham on Thursday.*

*A Norfolk authoress, Miss Iris Butler - whose works include Rule of Three, The Viceroy's Wife and The Eldest Brother - declared the library open.*

*Describing herself as "a compulsive book reader," she said that the county library service in Norfolk*

*was "exceedingly impressive." Of the new building Miss Butler said "The library has a harmonious atmosphere of beauty and silence in which to work." She added that she was enormously impressed, particularly with the lighting which she found most restful. She spoke to the guests of the problems which face writers in these days of soaring inflation. She said: "It is most difficult for an author to make a living out of writing unless he is successful. Young writers will have to do other jobs because they cannot live by writing alone."*

*In the opening remarks, Commander M B Cheyne, chairman of the county library committee, said that although there had been an increase in the county rate at least the village of Dersingham now had something to show for the money.*



*Mr G W Pratt, chairman of Dersingham Parish Council, welcomed the new branch and said that another page had now been written into the history of the village. Proposing a vote of thanks, Mrs M A L Clifton Brown stressed how much of an asset the building would be to the old folk living in the grouped homes scheme which surrounds the branch library. She hoped that borrowers as they come and go would stop and have a chat with the old people. In fact this was envisaged in the site location.*

*A bouquet was presented to Miss Butler by nine year old Debra Claxton.*

*Among others at the opening were Mr W J Hayden, chairman of the County Council; Mr D PMortlock, county librarian; Mr Raymond Wilson, divisional librarian; and Mr B Johnson, project architect. The red brick and pantiled building occupies a floor area of 266 square metres and has been designed to blend into the village scene.*

*The largest unit is the adult lending library which has a reference room and a junior library opening off it to one side. The library has a shelf stock of 14,000 books and the librarian is Miss Mary Power, who is branch librarian at Hunstanton. The builders were Rogers (Hunstanton) Ltd.*

**Latest statistics:** As of today the library has a stock of 18,000 books, issues 74,000 books a year, and has 3,878 borrowers.

We will be combining our 40th birthday celebrations by hosting a Macmillan Coffee morning on **Thursday 25th September 10am -1pm**

Visitors can enjoy a cake and a cuppa and help raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. They can also browse and borrow our range of Macmillan Cancer Care guides and speak to a Macmillan nurse. To mark the library's 40th birthday we will be remembering the books, news, entertainment and fashions of 1974. All are welcome!

If anyone was there on our opening day in 1974, please get in touch! □

## The Dersingham “Christmas” Art Trail 15th—16th November



**D**ersingham is a village with plenty of talented people. Among them you'll find the members of the Dersingham Art Trail, who represent some of the many artists and craft-workers in our village. The Art Trail is now in its third year and aims to promote village artists and give visitors and locals alike the opportunity to visit them in their studios.

During Art Trail open events you can follow the Trail round local studios, see artists at work, have a chat, and yes you may find something to take home with you too, even if it's only a small print or a greetings card. You'll be visiting artists in their homes, where they'll be pleased to welcome you and probably have the kettle on!

The next opening of the Art Trail is a special Christmas Art Fair weekend, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November. There are now seven participating studios which will all be open from 10am until 4pm each day. A free map is available from Dersingham Pottery, Chapel Rd. or you can view the map and more comprehensive information about each Trail member's work at

**[DersinghamArtTrail.org](http://DersinghamArtTrail.org)**

Below is the location and brief description of each studio. So put the dates in your diaries and do take this great opportunity to support your local artists. We all look forward to seeing you!

**Jo Halpin Jones, 14 Post Office Rd. Dersingham, PE31 6HP**

Photographs from Jo's travels both locally and around the world. Photo restoration and tuition in Photoshop. Photographic prints and cards.

**Stephen Martyn. The Birches, 2 Alexandra Close, Station Rd. Dersingham, PE31 6YU**

From his garden studio Steve produces atmospheric landscape paintings of Norfolk and around the world. Watercolour, ink, and oils, plus prints and cards. Commissions welcomed. Tuition available in watercolour and drawing.

**June Mullarkey. Dersingham Pottery, 48 Chapel Rd. Dersingham, PE31 6PN**

Celebrating over forty years of pottery in Dersingham, June produces domestic pots and larger one-off exhibition pieces. June Mullarkey potter, Ben Mullarkey paintings, Siobhán Williams photography. The pottery is regularly open on most days.

**Michael Smith. 17 Old Hall Drive, Dersingham, PE31 6JT**

After a long career in art tuition Mike moved from Leicester to Dersingham in 2003 and has been painting scenes of the North Norfolk coast ever since. Original paintings and cards.

**Marty Griffin. Hollydrive, The Drift, Ingoldisthorpe, PE31 6NW**

Marty's paintings are loaded with detail and accurately observed and rendered, in watercolour, ink, and acrylic. Landscapes and a variety of unusual subjects. Original paintings and cards. Commissions welcomed.



**Liz Stockley. 30 Doddshill Rd, Dersingham, PE31 6LW**

When Liz started writing books for her grandchildren she decided to try illustrating them herself and discovered the pleasure of painting. Original watercolours and collage.

**Carole Brookfield. 30 Doddshill Rd, Dersingham, PE31 6LW**

Also showing in Liz Stockley's studio will be new Trail member Carole Brookfield. Carole loves this corner of Norfolk and she paints in watercolour, acrylic and oils.

**Hannah Walton—Studio location to be confirmed.**

Another new Trail member, Hannah paints and draws the local landscape, particularly boats and woodland scenes. She works in both watercolour and drawing media.

*Other village artists interested in participating in future Art Trail events should contact the Trail coordinator Stephen Martyn on 01485 541333. Outside the dates mentioned above visitors are welcome at artists' studios but please contact them first.* □



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## Village Voice Live

### The Merchant Houses and Families of Georgian Lynn

Tuesday 5th August



**D**r Paul Richards delighted the audience in a well filled village hall with a fascinating insight into King's Lynn during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. He reminded us that it is three hundred years since a German national from Hanover who spoke no English was crowned King George I. Using maps and slides Dr Richards took us into Lynn along Nelson Street, Queen Street, King St and into Tuesday Market Place revealing the wonderful Georgian houses still standing today. He showed us the river at that time full of sailing ships, traders and whalers that thronged the quayside. At one time 200 ships could be seen loading and unloading in the port in one day. As each ship could have as many as fifty crew the

town was full of sailors so it was little wonder there were so many public houses. There were sixteen in Queen Street and King Street alone. Dr Richards dispelled the idea that coach travel was romantic as it is so often depicted on our Christmas cards. True that at this time roads had greatly improved and coaches were better sprung, but it was not unknown for those who had to travel on top during winter to need help to get down and be carried into the Inn to thaw out. Indeed some unfortunate travellers perished during the journey. Those inside did not fare much better having to share the small space with those who smoked and endure the smell emanating from the packs of fish that were often picked up. One coach had to stop every few miles to allow the passengers to alight and be sick. Dr Richards introduced us to wealthy merchant families like the Bagges, who built the splendid houses such as Clifton House with its distinctive barley sugar twisted columns. We admired their portraits until Doctor Richards pointed out that their huge wigs fashionable at the time were generally quite lice ridden. We finished in Tuesday Market Place on the occasion of the greatest feast held in the town to celebrate the defeat of Napoleon. The square was full of the townsfolk who had to bring their own plate and fork to enjoy the food provided by the rich merchants. The Bagge family apparently provided the most puddings. Finally, we looked at the small cottages in True's Yard still built in Georgian style but where six rooms accommodated over fifty people, unlike the rich merchants' houses where just five people could have up to thirty rooms. We were all reminded what an interesting and attractive town we have in King's Lynn and it was astounding to be told, after having admired so many of the historic houses, that in the past there were plans to demolish many of them to make way for office blocks and a multi storey car-park! We are fortunate indeed to have someone like Paul Richards who can bring the past alive for us with such enthusiasm and humour.

*CLIO*

## Norfolk—A Living Landscape

Tuesday 1st September



**T**his talk, on behalf of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, was presented by volunteer Andrew Woodford who started by telling us of the founding of the trust. Indeed, this was England's first such trust when a group bought Cley Marshes. From its beginning in the 1920's it has grown and now has

around 50 sites under its wing. Andrew, who hails from Scotland, knew his subject and put it across with great enthusiasm. Accompanied by some excellent photography, he guided us through the various habitats available in Norfolk for our great range of wildlife although I thought his picture of a red deer looked distinctly roe-ish. There seems to be a good appetite for nature at these evenings and Andrew kept us well fed.

*Dumpling* □

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### Dersingham Evening WI by Maggie Guest



Our membership numbers have risen to the mid seventies. Visitors are most welcome and may come to a couple of meetings or activities before joining. We have an excellent pair of meet and greet members, Diane and Jean, to welcome visitors, so if

any readers fancy coming along on the third Wednesday of each month (not August) to St Cecilia's Church at 7.15pm they will be made most welcome, or try a coffee morning!

We tried a new venture this year by having a 'mini garden walk'. This proved very popular with almost half of the members attending. An impressive turn out!! The chosen members'



gardens that were close to each other were Stephanie's in Valley Rise, Roma's in Silver Drive, Joan's and Pat's in Station Road, Diane's and Maggie's at Brenda Collison Close. The gardens were varied. Stephanie's recently revamped garden now has no lawn but raised vegetable beds, flower borders and pots with flowers. Very different and no lawn to mow! Roma has a pretty garden and again she grows many of her vegetables. Joan has a lovely long established garden and Pat is a real garden enthusiast putting me at least to shame!

Pretty and smart with a wonderful stock of flowers and veg. Diane's garden had the added attraction of chickens and she enjoys eggs from them. We finished the browse and general nose about at Maggie's where tables, chairs and parasols were out ready for all to have tea or a cold drink and biscuits. The sun had most certainly 'got his hat on' that day so drinks in the shade and a great deal of talking over the drinks was the order of the day. An added treat was that Janet Nowell put a display of contemporary embroidery in Maggie's house. Thank you Janet. Most of us had never seen that sort of work before and questions were plentiful. Another very talented member. A most enjoyable afternoon and we must do it again. Typical women enjoying other homes and the two 'Ts' (Tea and Talk)!

Hardworking Olive and Shirley, who run the lunch and dining club, arranged a day out to Huntingdon where members enjoyed a cruise on the river with lunch on board. That proved to be a very jolly day trip in good weather. Eating out with friends is always to be recommended and some of the Sunday lunch group and Dining group have been to the 'The Pearl River', 'The Duck', 'The Orange Tree', 'Briarfields', 'The Rathskeller', 'The Crown' and 'The George' amongst others. These meals out are wonderful for all but especially our widow members who get to enjoy company when they eat.

Some members, encouraged by Antje, went to Shorelands Wildlife garden, near Diss. Another day out involved members going to Spalding and Springfields on a coach which was run by Ingoldisthorpe WI. Well that had to be enjoyed with boat rides, shops and eating out....again!

Some 'deluded' members (me included) took themselves to see *The Searchers*. The Corn Exchange was awash with grey haired people singing and clapping along to an equally mature group of musicians but it was great fun for those of us who can remember that far back. A real 'feel-good' evening and we left with tunes such as '*Sweets for my Sweet*', '*Don't Throw Your Love Away*' and '*Needles and Pins*' tumbling round our heads and wondering where the time has gone and why had it gone so quickly. A more sobering trip was to see the film 'Oh What a Lovely War'. Oh well, variety is the spice of life.

The Craft Group continues to be active and I fully intend to invite myself with my notepad and camera to one or two sessions.

What of our Walking Group? A good crowd of us took the bus to as near the beach at Heacham as we could and walked along the sea front, with a warm headwind blowing, to Hunstanton where



we sought refuge at 'The Waterside' and enjoyed lunch there before catching the bus back.

One of our guest speakers came from Sedgford Archaeological Dig. Such an interesting



project to enjoy over the years as more history is uncovered. This resulted in a group of us going to the site and having a private guided tour, after lunch. How lucky is that? Most interesting to see the progress they have made since last year. Thank you Wendy for arranging the day.

Another speaker we had was from 'East Coast Truckers'. They do massive charity work helping disabled children. Such a wonderful group of men to give so much time raising

money and being hands-on with the children. I am pleased to report we were all so moved by the talk and slides, between us we gave them a healthy spontaneous donation. Very moving and humbling to see what they do. We are full of admiration for them.

Diann and Margaret have had successful coffee mornings and Stephanie broke with tradition and held a tea party instead of a coffee morning. All have raised money for our funds and been most enjoyable, sociable events.

We sometimes have invites for a few members to visit other WIs. Four of us went to Snettisham one evening then eight of us went to Watlington for a Bollywood evening. Some of us dressed in a 'sort' of Indian fashion for the event. Wendy went the whole way wearing a sari she had bought abroad. There was a young Indian lady who did an excellent job of teaching us some Bollywood dancing moves. This was great fun and most enjoyable. We were also treated to an outside caterer who produced Indian food for us.

Now I must tell you about our recent contribution to The Purfleet Trust. We had been bringing in offerings to help those less fortunate than us every month but decided some six months or so ago to stop the constant dribble and have one day to make a **BIG** effort donating items. The day chosen was 16<sup>th</sup> July and true to form the WI members came to the meeting with lots of them bringing a food produce or knitted items. Angie from The Purfleet Trust was delighted with all the produce and knitting she got to take to the less fortunate and we were pleased to have helped.



The same evening as the Purfleet Trust donation we were treated to Rachel Duffield, not only telling us the life story of Marie Lloyd but dressed up in costume and singing. Wow! She was very good indeed and so our summer break started with us all on a high from the lovely evening and looking forward to more interesting evenings and activities during the Autumn. □

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## Random Jottings

by Tony Bubb



It has concerned me for a long time that there are properties without visible numbers, not just in Dersingham but everywhere. When the ambulance needs to find you in the dark with the rain lashing, why would you not want to display your house number clearly? It was with interest, then, that I discovered that there is a legal requirement to have a visible number. I refer to the “Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847, sections 64 & 65,” which is still in force. Section 64 requires that the Borough Council shall provide numbering for all buildings and section 65 requires that all occupiers number their buildings with the numbers that the Council requires and approves of, and also requires (a very popular word requires, in such documents) the renewal of numbers obliterated or defaced. Failure to do this, especially after receiving a notice from the Council requiring them to do so, can result in a fine, currently of £200. I understand that, following the publication of this information in South Wootton, a good many houses got fresh numbers applied. It was largely for the benefit of the emergency services that this reminder was put out as they do not seem to use house names at all.

I was invited to attend the recent Rutland Birdfair with our esteemed editor. A bright and pleasant day found us negotiating a long, unmade track to one of the many well filled car parks at the event which takes place annually at the western end of Rutland Water. It is on a big site but the 8 huge and many smaller marquees soon fill the space. We first encountered the Art tent which was filled with works in many medias but, unsurprisingly, mainly depicting birds. Prices were on the high side but then I suppose that it is not cheap to exhibit there. Other marquees held optical equipment (about a third), holiday companies vying to whisk you away to exotic places to glimpse rare species (about half), and the rest was a mixture of books, bird feeding kit, a bit of bird watching clothing and various organisations of the wildlife persuasion. The catering was quite well

organised and the lecture tents were doing good business with the likes of Chris Packham, Simon King and Johnny Kingdom giving talks. It was an interesting show but a few hours were quite sufficient and we left wondering why anyone would buy the 3 day tickets that were on sale to what was really a huge retail experience. Would we go again - probably not, though glad to have been.



There has been a bit of correspondence lately in the local press about the viability of the visitor boat pontoon located on Lynn's south quay. This is the first full season for boats to visit the facility and though it has not been very busy, those that have come have been pleased. I took this picture a few Saturdays ago when there were seven craft tied up. Word of mouth will bring greater usage in the years to come both by sea going and inland boats. □





## Rotary Matters by Phil Newell & Rene Rooth

We are pleased to report in the Dersingham Village Voice that our light railway event held at Norton Hill, Hall Farm, Snettisham and organised by Rotarian Maggie Ponder was very successful. The owner, Mr M. Schumann again opened up his light railway on three weekends during the summer and all proceeds go to charity. This year the charities being supported were The Norfolk Hospice, The W. Norfolk branch of Riding for the Disabled Association and Keeping Abreast. All three charities had numerous stalls and entertainments. The pony rides proved a great attraction. Our new Rotary Associate members were a great help as were several volunteers. Inner Wheel provided their usual excellent refreshments. This year for the first time we were entertained by the Hunstanton Concert Band on Saturday and Rig a Jig Jig on the Sunday. The trains ran all afternoon, through the woodland, past the teddy bears' picnic, through the tunnels and over the viaduct – a most exciting ride! A record

amount was made for charity, helped by the event starting an hour earlier than on past occasions. A presentation to the three charity organisers will be made nearer Christmas, when the total amount made will be announced.

This was a wonderful family outing and made so successful because everyone worked together, and the Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs were most grateful to Mr Schumann for the opportunity to make money for charity.



People were leaving smiling and happy, showing how successful the event had been.

The Club is delighted to report that we now have six Associate Members who have joined recently. These are Jeffrey Dillon from Dersingham, Roger and Jean Raven, Malcolm and Patricia Diggins from Heacham and David Scotney from Hunstanton. They are already taking a very active part in the Club's activities and events.

On Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> we held our annual Kite Festival in conjunction with the RNLI. The weather turned out to be blustery, ideal for the kites. Rotarian Nigel Corley reported an excellent attendance and we are pleased to say that numerous charities will benefit from the proceeds of the event.

Record numbers of people entered through the gates and were thrilled by many events, particularly the classic car display, the arts and craft stalls and the Dog show. Inner Wheel again provided excellent food, also making a good profit which will aid their charity work. The RNLI gave excellent marketing. Our thanks go to all the volunteer helpers and all those who gave such good support to make the event a success.

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. The Club's website is [www.hunstanton-rotary.org.uk](http://www.hunstanton-rotary.org.uk) □





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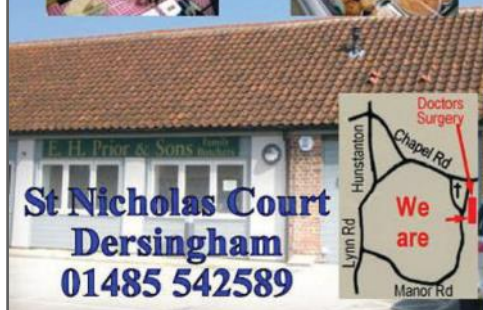
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## News from St Cecilia's Church

by Patricia Nevin

Our annual parish barbecue in the grounds of the parish church was held at lunch time on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August. We were very lucky to have sunny weather in the midst of a wet weekend. It was well attended and, as well as the delicious food and drinks, there was a raffle, tombola and bric-a-brac stalls. £514 was raised towards the Restoration and Development Fund for work which is needed on the parish church in Hunstanton.

Our next fundraiser will be the parish sponsored walk after Mass on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October. We have a 'Fair Trade' stall in the church meeting room at St Cecilia's after Mass on the first

Sunday of each month. Your regular support for this very worthy cause is appreciated.

Watch for our parish social events during the year which will be advertised on the website and in the weekly bulletins and church notice boards. 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 will be in the

parish church during the summer months, except on Wednesday when it is usually at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. This is 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** or email [parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org](mailto:parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org)  
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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**. The July meeting was our annual flower show. The plants made a colourful display and would have been a credit to any society. Best in show was won by Jennifer Purple for her arrangement of three blue hydrangea blooms. She was presented with a hand decorated bowl made by another member. Our August meeting celebrated our 20th anniversary with a visit to a member's garden for afternoon tea.

**Future events: 17th October**

a visit to Collison cut flowers.

**21st November**

a talk by John Walker from Taylor's bulbs.

Change of venue for this meeting to Dersingham Church Hall.

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

## Dersingham Bog News

With Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden

In recent weeks the heather has been at its finest with the pink and purple flowers glistening in the sun. This time of year sees many bees and insects feeding and hawking over the heather in search of pollen and nectar and a walk around the site can often be accompanied by the low hum of these insects.

The summer weather has been fairly good at Dersingham Bog but changed during August when the remnants of hurricane Bertha moved through the country. Since then the weather has been very changeable with days of high winds and showers. This has made it difficult to fit in the remaining butterfly and dragonfly surveys of the year but thankfully we are not too far behind schedule.

This year the bird breeding season has been quite different to previous years. The season started in late January with the first singing Woodlark and by May many of the young tits in the nesting boxes had already fledged. This is some four weeks earlier than the last couple of years. Towards the end of August the Nightjar begin their long journey back to sub Saharan Africa after spending the summer months breeding at the reserve. This year the numbers of “churring” males were up significantly with at least 18 confirmed territories and a further 6 probable territories. This is an increase on the last couple of years. Unfortunately although there were high numbers of males on the site the amount of females on site seemed decidedly low. This could be due to many factors but could be related to the weather and how this affects the birds migratory patterns. The males arrive back on site first and set up territory with the females arriving slightly later and it may be that some of the females didn't return this year. Stonechats, small Robin like birds, have had a good year on the site and have increased from two pairs in 2013 to at least four pairs this year. Stonechats are particularly susceptible to cold winters so it is great to see them doing so well this year. Most of the nesting attempts were successful but a few nests failed early on in the season.



September sees the start of the annual programme of scrub management on the reserve. Each year on rotation we remove some of the scrub off the site to prevent the birch and pine trees from shading out the heather plants. This involves using a strimmer with a circular cutting blade to cut through the small trees and then remove them off site. Most areas are cleared every few years which allows a variation in the ages of the scrub in different areas of the reserve. Once the trees are cut they are then piled up and chipped using a low ground pressure chipper. This allows us to remove the nutrients from the site. Heathlands have very low nutrient soils and the heather plants thrive in this so any added nutrients slows the

growth of the heather and allows the birch and pine seedlings to outcompete the heather.

The Black Galloway cattle have also been helping us manage the reserve and have been keeping the grasses in check. By eating the grasses the cattle are stopping the heath from becoming too grass dominated. The grass gives the heath some diversity in terms of habitat types but too much of this can cause the heather to be outcompeted.

Volunteers play a key role in managing the site throughout the winter and join us on our weekend volunteer days. These run one Sunday a month throughout the year depending on the weather. We are always looking for new volunteers and it is a good chance to get out in the fresh air and make a difference at Dersingham Bog NNR. It's also a good opportunity to meet new people. The work parties run from 10am and normally finish around 2.30pm. If anyone is interested in joining us please get in contact via my email. As summer finishes and autumn arrives on the reserve the pinks and purples of the heather in bloom will make way for the beautiful greys and browns as the heather sets seed.

Email: [thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk) □

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fill the shoeboxes are school supplies, hygiene items, simple toys and hats, scarves and gloves. From September 14<sup>th</sup> there will be information, leaflets and donation envelopes available at the back of St. Nicholas' church, the shoe shop, library, Post Office and Budgens. If you want more information, please contact **Carolyn Brock on 540214** or look online at

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



**B**rrrr! I'm writing this, still in August, and it's a cold, cold morning. Autumn to me seems to have begun earlier this year and the summer season shorter— but then, I had spent so much time organising my bear charity day that I lost a lot of my summer. The charity day dawned as Hurricane Bertha blew her way across the oceans to our shores, bringing with her tempest and storms - which I suppose are one and the same

thing - and they all congregated in my front garden as I was putting out all the goodies for sale. The rain lashed down and I was soon like a drowned rat, and far from presenting myself in a good light to visitors, well, I'm afraid I didn't!

However, despite the awful weather, people turned up and supported the bear charity. I can only say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who did not let the stormy weather daunt them, and also to the lovely lady, whose name, if I remember correctly, was Audrey, who brought along, prior to the occasion, boxes of her treasured china collection, which she really did not want to part with, in order to go on the bric-a-brac stall and make some money for the



bears. And this they did, so thank you very much Audrey for your kindness – your treasures all went to good homes. Also many thanks to people who have donated money – I have been very touched by your generosity.

As I write, I am still waiting for some last minute donations to arrive, but so far the day brought in about £350.00 for Animals Asia, and this will go towards treats to the rescued bears, who for the first time in their lives, are playing outside and have their own dens to retreat into. Their characters and personalities have

emerged after living their whole lives in tiny cages where they couldn't even turn around, and at last they are having fun and sunshine. There are still bears to rescue, and bile farms to be closed down, but the Chinese Government is beginning to see the light and realise that milking bears for their bile is not the way forward for medicine, and that herbal remedies will do the same thing.

I take my hat off to people whose lives are a constant battle with their beliefs and the charities they run. I wore myself out for a few weeks getting my small sale together, and now I can get back to normality – but imagine how difficult it must be for people on the spot of a crisis, working hard towards the cause, day in and day out, trying to raise money at the same time as giving aid... Human angels, I guess we could call them.

However, I have decided that my way forward to continue helping this charity is to open my art studio and workshop for one day a week – I have chosen Fridays – where anyone can wander in and see my artwork, pottery and candles and buy any if they wish. Anything sold will aid the bear fund. So, if you fancy something unique to get for Christmas presents, what better, for instance, than a hand painted Norfolk sunset candle (no two the same)?

I had some fun in July doing a flower arrangement for the Dersingham Flower Festival. As you probably know, the theme was colours of the rainbow, each person doing an arrangement and given a colour to work with, and mine was purple and cerise with an added theme of 'Turkish Delight'. I immediately thought of silken cushions





and dancing girls, and took along purple satin drapes and cerise cushions, but it wasn't until my arrangement was completed that it transpired it was the confection Turkish delight that I was supposed to be portraying! I think I would still have imagined dancing girls and satin cushions. Not a lot of hope for me, is there! There were some wonderful arrangements for visitors to see.

I followed on just recently, doing another arrangement for the Old Hunstanton Flower Festival, and the theme there was 'My favourite book'. As it happened, my favourite is a very old book, getting on for 200 years old, that was my grandfather's as a child, called Arabian Nights, full of the most exquisite black and white drawings, which I think probably influenced my own style of drawing and even my house decor. Of course, this arrangement involved a lot of silken cushions, brass jugs, circular brass platters, Turkish delight, a sultan's hat (I made a lovely one by covering a fez with sequinned material, and using plumbers' lagging to make the plump bit around the bottom of the fez), lots of peacock feathers – you name it, I had it, and had great fun arranging it all. It was lovely to work with beautiful flowers, and when I glanced around I noticed the rapt faces of all the people who were doing an arrangement – all were so engrossed in their 'artwork' and enjoying every moment. The entry next to mine was unusual. It was a portrayal of Great Expectations, and had a full sized convict complete with ball and chain, standing in a 'graveyard' full of green and white flowers. It's great to see how people's imagination can conjure up such tableaux.—Well, that's it until next time.



**NOTE:** *Open studio for art, pottery and candles on Fridays from 10:30am to 4pm at Candlesticks, 2 Manorside Dersingham. It might be best to phone first - 01485 543280 (between 9:30am and 4pm) in case, for whatever reason, I can't open on that day.* □



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## The Winds of Change

by David Bingham

**T**o the best of my knowledge, Berney Arms in east Norfolk is the only pub you can actually get to by train. The station is a request stop on some of the services from Norwich to Great Yarmouth and consists of nothing more than a short platform and a wooden hut set in a vast expanse of grazing marsh. The pub isn't even visible from the station and is only open during the summer months.

I travelled to Berney Arms by train early on a warm day this spring. I wasn't visiting the pub but had arranged to meet the RSPB's archaeologist, Robin Standring, to discuss opening up Berney Mill to the public for its owner—English Heritage. I had to push through a herd of curious cows gathered by the gate at the station. They often do this so if you are frightened of cows don't go there or you will find yourself sitting in the wooden hut on the platform for four hours waiting for the train home. The cows are grazing the Berney Marsh RSPB reserve and are doing an excellent job in maintaining a sward height that is ideal for breeding waders and wintering wildfowl. While walking across the grazing marsh I disturbed a small flock of whimbrel, close relatives of curlew, which were resting during their long migration to their northern breeding grounds.



The mill is large and impressive and has all its sails in place. It didn't take long to decide that opening the mill on specific days during the year wouldn't be an onerous task because it is in shipshape condition and was clearly a visitor attraction in the recent past. Robin described how its use had changed over its working life from a flour mill, to a mill for grinding rocks for brick making and finally to a drainage pump. The addition of a large prop driven paddle wheel helped to drain Berney Marshes for agriculture. The view from the top of the mill is impressive and a sweep around the horizon revealed sixteen other remnants of windmills, most of them were actually former wind pumps but a few would have been flour mills. The marshes are also dotted with modern wind pumps used by the RSPB to maintain water levels for the breeding waders and grazing cattle. Berney Marshes is an important site for wildlife and an amazing cultural landscape - forming part of the Broadlands grazing marshes. From the top of Berney Mill the wind turbines out on Scroby Sands were just visible on the far horizon. Opinions differ on this latest use for the power of the wind but seen from my vantage point, high above the Norfolk marshes, the

windmills, wind pumps and wind turbines appeared to be linked through a common ancestry that made the latest technology appear less visually jarring. This is particularly true when thinking about what could be lost to sea level rise in this corner of Norfolk.

We finished early so I spent some time out on the marshes with Robin locating sites, with a GPS device, that Norfolk Archaeological Services had designated as old salt workings. There wasn't much to see on the ground at Berney Marshes. A scattering of raised features known as 'red hills' can be found on the salt marshes around the coast of East Anglia – particularly in Essex. These are the remains of salt making hearths that were used from the Bronze Age to Anglo Saxon times. Salt water was evaporated in settling pools and the final stage involved baking the residue in clay hearths. The climate is warm enough in southern Europe to enable the whole process to be carried out by evaporation. I've visited abandoned salt workings in the Vendee and around the Mediterranean. They are excellent places to go searching for wildlife and I've never been asked to leave – I guess the locals don't understand why anyone would want to go nosing around the desolate sun baked pools.

I did learn something new during my time with Robin. He mentioned that the land now under the North Lynn Industrial Estate was formally the site of massive early medieval salt workings. The notion that people are doing their physical jerks in the gym, or buying a new Audi in the posh showroom, on land where peasants once toiled to produce something we use without a second thought gave me a fresh perspective on this part of King's Lynn. The whole landscape starts to make sense when viewed from the perspective of time. Driving down the long slope from the Knights Hill roundabout is a journey through what was once productive woodland where a good proportion of the timber would have been used to fire the salt making hearths. Reffley Wood is a surviving fragment of this woodland. The road flattens out and runs past the industrial estate where the large drainage channel to your left is a reminder of the drained salt marsh that once stood here and the generations who worked to extract the salt from the earth. □



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## Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

Invite you to  
The Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham.  
(Access and parking from Sporle Road) on

**Tuesday 30th September 2014, 7.30pm** for an illustrated talk:

### Farmland Birds

Nicholas Watts is probably best known for his Vine House Farm business, one of the country's leading suppliers of wild bird food. Nicholas has received an MBE for his services to farming and conservation as well as a host of other conservation awards. Who better than Nicholas to talk about Farmland Birds?

**Tuesday 28th October 2014, 7.30pm** for an illustrated talk:

### The Colorado Chicken Run

NarVOS stalwart, Allan Hale, will regale the audience with a presentation of his trip to see all of Colorado's Grouse and Prairie Chickens, as well as much sought after species such as Brown-capped Rosy Finches and Pine Grosbeak.

**Tuesday 25th November 2014, 7.30pm** for an illustrated talk:

### History of Cley and its Management

The Cley Nature Reserve on the North Norfolk Coast is one of the most famous reserves in the country and the Bishop family is nearly as well known as the reserve itself. Bernard Bishop has been the reserve warden for forty years and is the third generation of his family to work at Cley.

**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

The Bishop of Lynn, the Right Reverend Jonathan Meyrick, was back again this year to officiate at the Confirmation of 4 people during an evening Eucharist Service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August, with friends and families joining them. Below is a picture of the Bishop with Phill Butler from St Mary's Snettisham, Vicky Clarey, Kelly & Andy Stevenson from St Nicholas Church Dersingham who were confirmed.



### Special Sunday Services during October/November

#### 12<sup>th</sup> October – 10.30am Harvest Festival Service

Again this year we would appreciate if people could bring tinned or dried goods for the Harvest Service as we will, as in previous years, be giving the items to a local Women's Refuge, alongside our normal fruit and vegetables. Our Church is decorated on the Saturday before the Service with fruit and vegetables donated by Thaxter's and Budgen's for which we thank them for their support.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> November – 3pm Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

We warmly invite you to join us at St. Nicholas Church to remember and give thanks to God for those we love but see no longer. The service will consist of prayers and hymns with a time of commemoration when the names of the departed will be read out and especially prayed for.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> November – 10.30am Remembrance Service

Our usual service with the uniformed Branches of the British Legion, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies etc. There will be a cup of tea or coffee after the service in the Church Hall provided by the members of the Mothers' Union. □



## John Lambert's Memories of the 2nd World War Years (No 5)

As the war rolled on into 1944, there were 3 significant things that happened to us. Firstly, the Americans threw a huge party for all the children in the villages which surrounded Martlesham Airfield. We were allowed to go onto the airfield and sit in the cockpits of some of the aircraft. Then we went into a large hangar where they had laid on an enormous spread of food and drinks. Most of us had never seen food like this in our lifetime and this was also my initiation into drinking Coca Cola. I drank three bottles during the party which subsequently made me violently ill during the night; I have never touched it since! There was also heaps of bananas and other things we hadn't seen for four years.

The second major thing to happen was obviously D-Day, the 6th June; it was so dramatic it will remain in my memory until the day I die. There was an air of expectancy and excitement. People knew something was going to happen, but we didn't know what. The Americans were digging big holes in the fields around us, my father told me to keep an eye on where they were digging so that after they had gone we could go and see what they had buried. I dug up tins of spam and corned beef and dad dug up tins of 25 cigars which he saved until Christmas. It didn't bear thinking about that the British were issued with ration books with coupons inside which we had to use for everything, but the Americans could afford to bury all this!

On the day of the 6th June all you could hear were many aircraft warming up and then it all started. The aircraft were taking off towing a glider full of troops, the sky was black with them. I remember one of the aircraft's tow-ropes broke, the glider just landed in a field near to us; the troops jumped out then went back to the airfield to start again; the rest is history.

The third thing that happened in 1944 was that we lost our cat. The soldiers used to come to our house to ask if they could have a bucket of water from our well. Our lean-to shed was a path's width away from the well and our cat was always lying on the roof of this lean-to. The well had two horizontal lids and this particular day as the soldiers lifted the two lids, at exactly the same time the cat jumped off the roof to greet them and went straight down the well shaft. Well shafts in Suffolk vary a lot in depth but ours was 80ft deep! We peered down the shaft with a torch and saw the cat swimming around in the water. We put a linen basket on the chain, sent it down hoping the cat would get into it but every time we started to winch it up the cat would jump out. Unfortunately, it drowned in the end.

One of the more abiding memories I have of the war was when a 21 year old pilot brought a mortally stricken Lancaster Bomber back to Martlesham from a raid they had been on in Germany. Apparently all the hydraulics had been damaged and it only had two of the four engines still running. The crew couldn't jettison the bombs and only one side landing wheel would come down. Hundreds of people around Martlesham Airfield watched as the pilot brought it down as slow as possible without stalling the remaining two engines. He kept one wing as high as possible but when the bomber touched the runway the other side wingtip caught the ground causing the whole plane to swivel round and rest where there was no landing wheel. As there was a full load of bombs aboard it was a miracle that none exploded. The bomber came to a rest tilted to one side with the wing that had hit the runway broken. You could hear cheering and clapping all around the airfield.

When the war finished most towns and villages had street parties. Our party was quite amusing as the four cottages we lived in were on a steep hill. The village hall was opposite us in the sandpit and the Squire told us to get all the trestle tables and chairs out of the village hall. The mothers had cooked jam tarts, mince pies, sausage rolls and made sandwiches but when we tried to sit at the tables everything kept sliding down to one end!

The road where we lived was closed all through the war but it was now open again making it a shortcut from Woodbridge to Felixstowe. But peace at last! □



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## West Norfolk's 4<sup>th</sup> Celebrate Ability



**Friday 21st November 2014**  
**10.00am to 4.00pm**

**Downham Market Town Hall**  
**Bridge Street, Downham Market**

Featuring displays, demonstrations, information and advice on a wealth of ideas from organisations, groups and individuals in the local community to help people with disabilities and their families to be more active and lead an everyday life.

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## Dersingham Methodist Church



**O**n 1st September a new chapter for Dersingham Methodist Church begins, the beginning of a journey with our new minister, Revd Steve Oliver.

Steve and his wife Jill moved into the Manse in Heacham mid-August and have since been unpacking and discovering the area. Apart from the furniture and books they have also brought with them a dog, two cats, three chickens and a budgie! We are wondering if Steve and Jill are descendants of Noah! We know they were both born and bred in Wales, though not Welsh speaking. Over the next few weeks we will be getting to know them and hopefully through the pages of the Village Voice you will do so as well.

The summer months have not been as busy at the church although we had a very successful coffee morning at the end of July and about forty attended the August Monday lunch. We were also hosts for the 90th birthday party of the Revd David Caink, when family and friends from far and wide came to help in the celebrations. It was a lovely occasion with good food, lots of reminiscing, laughter and chatter – an excellent tribute to David and his wife Rosemary.

Our Harvest Festival celebrations are on **27th and 28th September**. The Saturday coffee morning will be raising funds for the **King's Lynn Foodbank** and Church funds and instead of usual harvest produce we will be collecting items for the Foodbank. This can be tinned goods, cereals, tea, coffee, sugar, toiletries, washing powder, baby food, baby wipes etc. As a church we have been supporting the Foodbank since its beginning and the need is growing. We are always amazed at the generosity of people, a timely reminder of sharing what we have with those who have not. The essence of Christian love. Forthcoming events:

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October** coffee morning for the Alzheimer's Society and Church Funds.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November** coffee morning for East Anglia Air Ambulance and Church Funds.

Every blessing for the coming weeks. *Elizabeth Batstone 01485 541068 pebatstone@fsmail.net* □



### Norfolk Wildlife Trust West Norfolk Members Group

invites you to

**Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street**

**Thursday 23rd October – 7.30pm**

### Lesvos Experience

An illustrated talk by Richard Brooks

**Thursday 27th November – 7.30pm**

### South-West Australia

An illustrated talk by Marion & Fred Rowe

**Cost of each event: £2.00 members / £2.50 visitors**

## Answers to Puzzles

### Word Wall:

1. Safety: BELT, CURTAIN, LAMP, PIN
2. Reds: CARMINE, CERISE, CINNABAR, MAGENTA
3. Gemstones: AGATE, BERYL, GARNET, ONYX
4. Match: BOX, PLAY, STICK, MAKER

### Where is it? What is it?

This is the tide clock on the south tower of St Margarets, the King's Lynn Minster. Originally dating from the 1680s, it faced the waterfront so that captains could judge the state of the tide for their departures. Later destroyed when the tower collapsed, this reproduction was made in the early 20th century.



### Sudoku No 38 solution

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



## 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 91	Wednesday 5th November	Monday 24th November
No 92	Wednesday 14th January 2015	Monday 2nd February 2015
No 93	Wednesday 4th March 2015	Monday 23rd March 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 5th November 2014**

Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

E-mail — [villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:editor@dersingham.org.uk) before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 5th November for publication on Monday 24th November**. (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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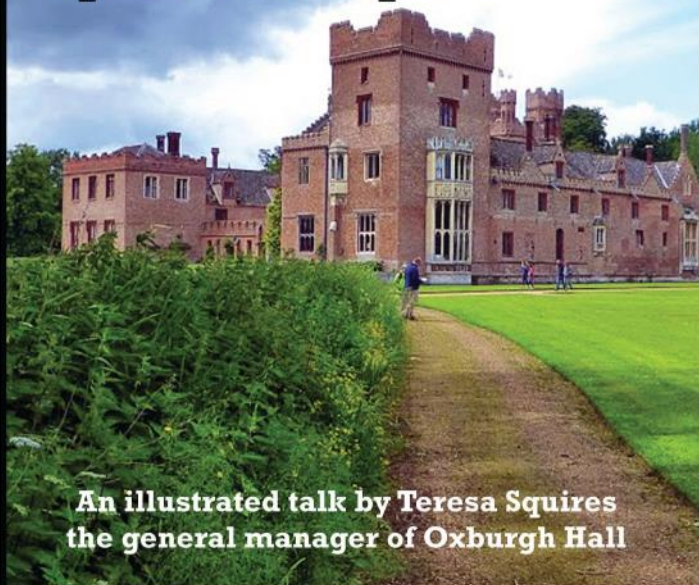
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# VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday October 7th

## Oxburgh Past & Present



**An illustrated talk by Teresa Squires  
the general manager of Oxburgh Hall**

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

# VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday November 4th

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Pateman**



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7.30 pm Admission £3.50 including refreshments & raffle