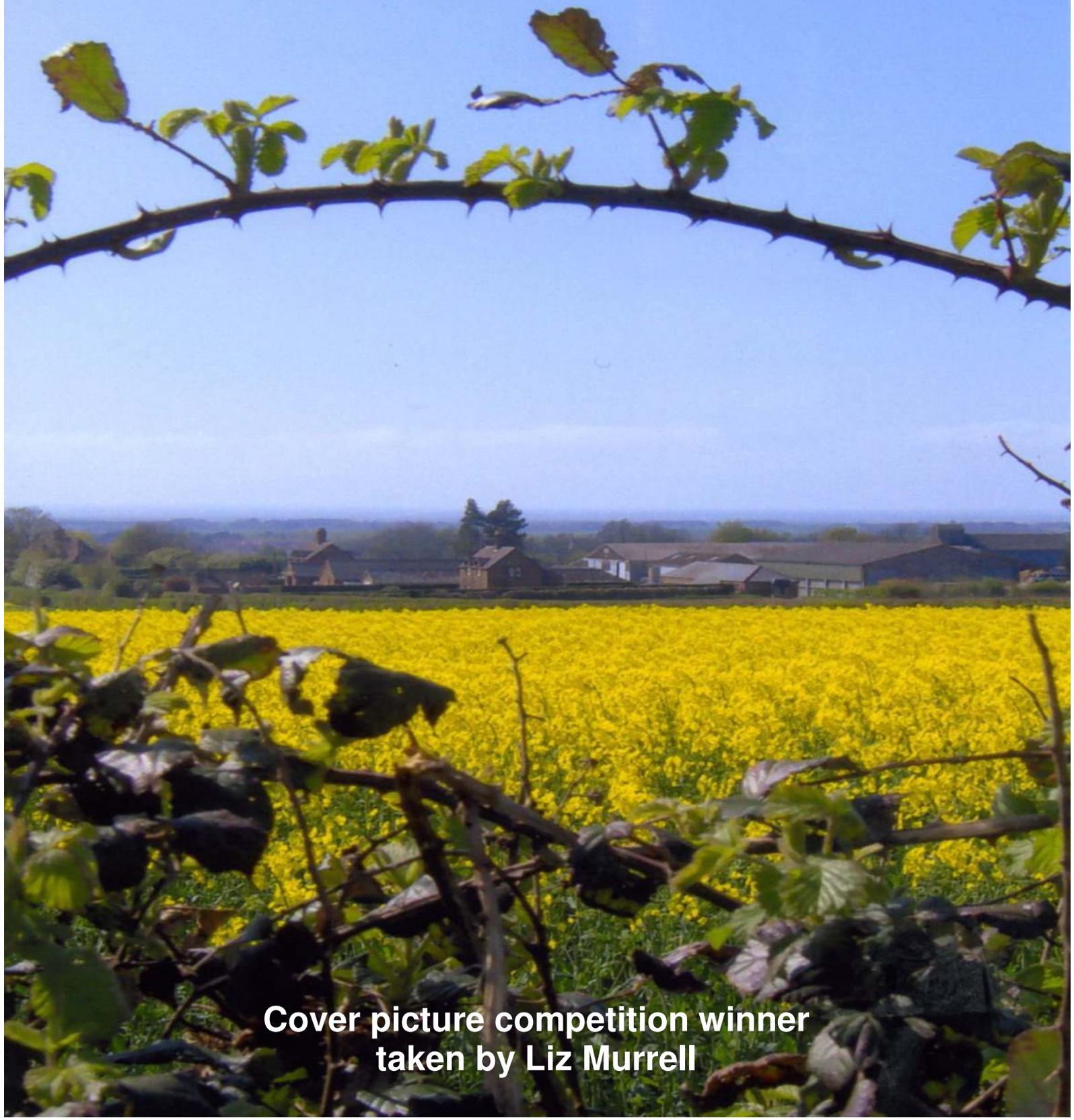


Issue 60

October 2009

Dersingham Village Voice



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taken by Liz Murrell**



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Editor's Notes

Right! That's summer done and dusted. Or is it? Most years we seem to get a very warm October and late September. It's my favourite time of the year, colourful and usually dry, a splendid time to go for walks and explore the countryside.

As usual, Keith Starkes has described a pleasant stroll for your delight, Elizabeth Fiddick has stretched her wings and strayed up the road to Snettisham for her article this time, David Bingham talks spiders and we have a salutary tale from Steve Nowell plus all the regular and some irregular items.

To be reading this you must have passed the cover with it's winning picture. The two runners up have their work on page 26. Well done to all the entrants - better luck next time if yours wasn't chosen. The trick is to really study the brief, which our judges felt the three they picked did best.

With the sad demise of "gardenwatcher" I would love to hear from anyone who would like to write a gardening column. Not so much a 'what to do' as 'this is what has happened' type of thing. I will stand back to be clear of the rush.

Not much to fill the "Whats Happening" area this time, are you saving it all up for Christmas? Please send details as soon as possible before the next deadline of 4th November to be sure of inclusion. Actually, that goes for articles and announcements too, particularly if they need to be decorated with holly and sparkly bits.

As you should all be aware, V V is published by your Parish Council and as a council we are still a bit thin on the ground. Being a member isn't too arduous but is a good way of ensuring that we live in the village that we want. If you think that nothing much ever happens, well come along and make it happen. No, change will not happen overnight, but at least we will have the broadest possible range of opinion to consider. It's also free to join and is usually a good and interesting way to spend one's spare time.

I came upon this picture of an entertaining piece of street art, I think it is in Bratislava, capital of Slovenia, and wondered (a bit tongue in cheek) if we should be doing anything similar to enhance our streets in Dersingham. Do send in any sketches and suggestions for the next issue.

Enjoy the magazine, I enjoy editing it, and please don't forget to support those who advertise herein and make the whole thing possible. □ *Tony Bubb*

PS.

We have a new e-mail address: - villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk



WHATS HAPPENING*

September

27. Coffee Morning 10 -12, Methodist Church, PO Road.

October

17. Coffee Morning 10 - 12 Methodist Church, PO Road.

November

5. Women's branch RBL Coffee Morning at The Methodist Church Hall in Post Office Road. 10 am - 12 noon. All

proceeds for the Poppy Appeal
17: Fire Station, Dodds Hill 7pm Recruiting evening

* This, and all other information, is listed in good faith. We cannot accept responsibility for inaccuracies or if an event does not take place.

y

SJP

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Dear Village Voice



Please can you help me. I am looking for an uncle, Derrick George Yallop, or possible cousins who I think live in or around Dersingham. Derrick was born in Feb 1920 and now maybe deceased so news of him or any living relatives or friends who knew him would be gratefully received.



Valerie Salmon (nee Yallop) <mailto:colin.salmon27@ntlworld.com>

No e-mail? Then get in touch with me and I will forward information for you. Ed.

I am writing to say how much we love the Dersingham Village Voice. I can't wait to read it and flip through to my favourite piece - "My Patch" by Gardenwatcher. Loved it as usual until I came to the end to learn of the death of the lovely cat. I was so sad and hope they get another cat to take his/her place.

Many thanks for such a lovely book and also the poets - Hugh Mullarkey especially for the one on page 31 - so true.

Jean Shelton

P.S. and it's free. Would be willing to pay.

I have just read an issue of Village Voice and it evoked so many wonderful memories. I would like to share some of them, just a very few.

My family lived in Dersingham for about 15 years, from 1961 until the mid 70s. I can't remember the year my parents moved to South Wootton as I had married and moved away by then. But it gives me enormous pleasure to read Village Voice and to keep up to date with the "doings" of the village, especially when I recognise names and places from my youth. I am still catching up on issues I have missed as my computer met with disaster late last year and it wasn't until May this year that the whole darned mess was sorted out and I could get online again. I digress ...

We were one of the first families, along with the Riches (Bob and June), to move onto the new estate being built down Centre Vale. West Road was more or less complete and West Hall Road was underway, though much of it still a building site and fair game to we kids - I was ten and my brother, Jeremy, six (our baby sister Elizabeth was still in nappies), but the whole of that undeveloped area was one big adventure playground to us. Rockets and space travel were regularly in the news (Yuri Gagarin) and uprooted trees quickly became rockets or other fantastical space vehicles. As the site gradually became covered in houses, we had to look further afield for our adventures. The pastures became a regular haunt, as did Jary's Wood adjacent to The Old Hall (I am cautiously optimistic that I cannot now be arrested for childhood explorations...) and of course the common, and Sandringham Woods in particular, became a haven of solitude and peace as I grew older and became a restless teenager.

Can anyone else remember The Kinks rehearsing in one of the buildings attached to The Old Hall?

Wendy Dawes was one of my earliest companions and best of friends. We must have biked hundreds of miles over the years exploring the surrounding lanes. Up Fern Hill, across the top either to Ingoldisthorpe in one direction, or passed St George's Secondary Modern (where my father taught) and on to the royal woods in the other. Or straight up Carr Pit Hill and on to Shernborne and beyond. Many happy hours were spent wandering around the bog or messing about down at the beach. Glorious days, did we but know it. There is a wonderful tribute on Youtube to the railway line between Kings Lynn and Hunstanton (in two parts). It is a must for anyone who can remember summers travelling by train to sunny Hunny (for pennies) and spending all day in the outdoor swimming pool (again, for pennies). What a tragedy when that was filled in! The lack of heating in the changing rooms (or even glass in many of the windows) "didn't do us any harm!" Heavens, I can remember school swimming trips when we would arrive at the pool, which had a giant thermometer at the entrance, and be happy if it was as high as 55F!



As well as a glimpse of the Post Office, the tribute pans across the front of Scoles butchers and imagine my surprise and delight to see the name Howlett as the proprietor. I wonder if Paul remembers helping a schoolgirl home (just round the corner) when she fainted in the butchers shop. Lol!

I remember Cliff Riches, the postman, with fondness. What a lovely tribute to him. My word that man had energy. He must have been in his fifties even then, but could jump on and off his bike with more panache than any of us youngsters; and what memories the article on the bells of St Nicholas' brought back. Wendy was a bell ringer, as was her brother Michael if memory serves, under the watchful eye of Mr Nurse who was also the gardener at St Georges. Sunday mornings would sometimes find me clambering up the twisting stone steps to watch the bell ringers before racing back down again with Wendy to get into our choir robes, just in time to join the stately procession up the nave to the choir stalls under the stern gaze of Aubrey Bell, choirmaster.

I hope to spend some time in Dersingham later in the year and perhaps wander round some of the old haunts. I know it's changed in many ways, but the essence of the place where I was happiest remains the same in all the important places.

Didn't intend to write so much. Good thing it was only a few memories, or they'd have to be serialised, ha!

Anne Bell (nee Wright)

Leaving. I don't want to leave Doddshill, neither does Peter and my two dogs. But we have to, as like most people of our age we must downsize. Unfortunately we could find nothing we liked in the village, so we are off to Snettisham.

Now I am sure the people of Snettisham are just as lovely as the people of Dersingham, but the people of Doddshill have made the last twelve years some of the happiest of my life. So I want to thank them and especially one gentleman (he must know who he is - my dog's best friend) for being so friendly and helpful to us.

Bridget M Box

Re old picture corner, August Village Voice. The garage was not Twites garage, it belonged to Jack Twaite, (*oops, Ed.*) he lived in Chapel road in the cottages set back from the road opposite the library. The garage was burnt down one night I believe in the late nineteen forties. Fred Magness who worked for Jack and lived in one of the cottages opposite the garage managed to get the cars out before it was destroyed. After he retired Fred still kept busy doing cycle repairs. With our names being similar there were problems with mail going to the wrong address and people calling at the wrong house.

Bernie Twite. Cyprus

In July 2009 Dersingham Minors had a football tournament and we hired toilets from Carter Cabin Hire Ltd, as the police had kindly asked us to, to prevent people urinating in the dyke.

It was a great day everyone enjoyed themselves and the weather . After we had cleared up on the Sunday we went back round on the Monday and discovered that both toilets hired out had been

pushed over and there was mess everywhere. This is due to mindless people thinking it was funny to knock them over on more than one occasion. After we had picked them up we went to the police station to inform them of the incident and that we will not be paying for anymore toilet hire for events in the future!



Karl Bowman

In response to Dick Melton's request for information regarding aircraft crashing in this area during the 39-45 war I know of one which crashed about seven hundred yards from where I was sleeping at home, which was Fisher End, Snettisham, now know as Cherry Tree Road. It happened in the middle of the night. I heard a loud bang but being very young at the time I was soon asleep again.

The next morning I soon found out what had caused the bang. A Handley Page Hampden bomber (Royal Air Force) flying in an easterly direction crashed on the east side of Ken Hill woods. Had the aircraft not hit the tree tops it may have travelled a few more hundred yards and crashed on the Kenside housing estate. I am not certain but I think it happened in either 1942 or 1943. Regarding the U.S. Air Force B17 aircraft which crashed in the Wash in 1944, at that time I and my pal Tom Howlett were shellfishing and had finished work for the day. We were taking a walk along the beach on a lovely afternoon.



The following is as written in my autobiography:- It was during the summer of 1944 that we were reminded that we were still at war. The Royal Air force was pounding the German cities with nighttime bombing. The United States Air Force was carrying out daylight raids with B17 and B24 Liberator aircraft, thus giving the Germans no respite. I remember the afternoon so well. The weather was perfect. Tom and I were on the beach at Snettisham. We had finished work for the day. It must have been getting on for 5 o'clock when we heard an aircraft (a B17) above us at about ten thousand feet. It had crossed the Wash and was heading east. As we looked we saw that the crew were bailing out and parachutes were opening for about a half minute. The wind was light and on shore so there was no risk of the crew being blown out to sea. The aircraft went out of sight and sound. Tom and I chatted about it as we walked back to Shepherds Port. Just as we arrived there we realised that the aircraft had circled right round to the southwest and was now very low and was flying towards us and getting lower until it went out of sight. By then it looked huge. We knew then that it had landed with undercarriage up.

We were desperate to know exactly where the aircraft had landed when one of us had a good idea. The Etna Stone and Shingle Company workers had all gone home so Tom and I climbed to the top of the shingle grader. From there we could see the aircraft. The pilot must have been pretty good as he had made a perfect landing on the mudflats and only about one hundred yards from the beach, close to the samphire grounds. It must have been a mile and a half away and yet it had looked so close. Shortly afterwards I left the beach to go home. About 7.30 in the evening there was a loud explosion. Within seconds a plume of smoke went up and I knew that the aircraft had been blown up. As there had been no sign of smoke when we had looked from the grader and two and a half hours had elapsed, the pilot would have survived the landing without injury. Only a day or two after we saw all this happening Tom and I went to the samphire grounds.

The remains of the aircraft were exactly where we expected them to be, but there was not much left to see. It must have been a very powerful explosion. The B17 has four engines and the only one that we could see had blown about one hundred yards and landed in the beach minefield but had not triggered off a mine. I do not know if the Americans had removed the other engines and other parts of the aircraft but what was left was like a small amount of scrap metal which disappeared over the next year or two. Although it was more than sixty years ago it is still as clear in my mind as if it were yesterday.

I should mention that at that time at Snettisham beach the U.S. Army Air Force had a very active gunnery school and personnel from there would have been the first at the scene of the downed aircraft.

Tom Hooker



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Dates

14th, 15th, 16th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd **November** at 6.30 am
12th, 12th, 14th, 19th, 20th and 21st **December** at 7.00 am
5th, 6th, 9th, 10th and 11th **January** at 7.00 am

Wading Bird walks

Snettisham RSPB is fortunate enough to be host to two of the best bird spectacles in Europe. The dawn flight of pink-footed geese is fantastic (see Pinkie breakfast events) but the best spectacle is the flight of up to 50 000 wading birds in front of the Snettisham beach and bird hides. This only occurs at certain times of the year and our wader spectacular events are perfectly timed to witness it

Dates

October
6th at 6.10 am, 7th at 6.45 am, 21st at 6.50 am.
November -5th at 6 am
4th January 2010 at 7.15 am
2nd February at 6.40 am,
2nd March at 5.45 am
3rd March at 6.45 am
1st April at 6.40 am

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DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP



Following a successful summer programme we are starting this one with two special walks in October. The first of these is on Thursday, the 8th when we are repeating last year's walk around Ringstead Downs and Old Hunstanton Hall (which is only open on Thursdays between 9.00am and 5.00pm).

On Wednesday, 14th Ash Murray, the Warden, will take us on a guided walk around Dersingham Bog Nature Reserve, explaining the work being done by English Nature and what they are seeking to achieve. He will also point out some of the varieties of fungi growing in the Bog.

The full programme for the last three months of the year is:

THURSDAY 8th OCTOBER

Start at 2.00pm from Old Hunstanton church car park (parking 50p per car) (map ref.L132/688 419). A 5 miles circular walk around Ringstead Downs and the Park of Old Hunstanton Hall led by Lindsey and Steve Davis (543138).

WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER

Start at 1.30pm from Dersingham Village Sign (map ref.L1 32/686 295). A 4.5 miles circular walk including a guided walk around Dersingham Bog Nature Reserve led by Ash Murray, the English Nature Warden and Keith Starks (542268).

WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER

Start at 1.30pm from the car park off the Ringstead to Bircham road (map.ref.L 132/723 405). A 5 miles circular walk around Courtyard Farm led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807).

WEDNESDAY 9th DECEMBER

Start at 1.30pm from Dersingham War Memorial (map ref.L132/686 309). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940).



Dersingham walkers in their natural environment taking refreshment.

There is **NO CHARGE** for these walks: just turn up on the day (wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear). **WELL-BEHAVED** dogs are welcome provided that they are kept at the rear of the group.

The leaders are happy to organise 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. □

Keith Starks

The Sandringham Newsletter

by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate



Harvesting is now well under way across the Estate: peas and winter barley have been harvested and spring barley, oilseed rape and wheat will be next. The laser guidance system on the combine harvesters means that they can be driven with great accuracy and very economically, so each field is covered in the shortest time and using the least amount of fuel possible. While the combines and pea viners are working in each field, Estate staff are also working with them to try to ensure that ground-nesting birds and their chicks are removed to the conservation strips around the edges for safety.

On the Fruit Farm, all the blackcurrants have now been picked – there's a video of this on the Fruit Farm page. Most of them will go for processing into Ribena, but about 50kg of the organic crop has gone up to the Visitor Centre kitchens to be used for making jam, fruit fools, cheesecakes and pies. The kitchens are also now receiving regular deliveries from the vegetable plot in the Walled Garden; beetroot, courgettes, spinach and herbs are coming every day, and onions and pumpkins will soon be ready.

One of the cars in Sandringham's Museum, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's 1961 Alvis 3-litre drophead coupe, went to the International Alvis Day at Polesden Lacey last month. This car was specially built to specifications drawn up by Mulliner, Park Ward Ltd for Prince Philip. It has a taller screen and higher roof line than usual (raised by 3 inches) with an electric folding hood in "everflex" and the fascia was leather covered rather than the standard walnut veneer. Although it had not been driven for some years, the Alvis enthusiasts were able to get it running again, and to drive it back into the Museum under its own power.



The Sawmill have invested in a new and British-made log harvester to help them keep up with the increasing demand for logs for open fires and wood-burning stoves. As fuel bills rise, more people seem to be turning to wood for heating as a cheaper and more sustainable source of fuel. The Forestry department have a continuing programme of thinning trees to create more light and space for the larger trees, and these thinnings are taken to the Sawmill where the new harvester turns them into logs of the right size for domestic use.

Gardens and Country Park staff worked hard in Sandringham Park to prepare it for the Sandringham Flower Show on 29th July. The show was attended by over 22,000 people keen to see the flower and produce entries in Cottagers' and Open Classes, and to view dozens of small and large display gardens. Perhaps the most striking garden was one designed to honour the armed forces and the "Help For Heroes" charity; it was designed by three brothers, all ex-RAF, and featured a half-buried eight-ton tank. All proceeds from the Flower Show are given to local charities.

As soon as the show was over there was a massive clear-up job done to get it ready again for the open-air classical concert with fireworks that took place on Saturday 8th August. Soprano Katherine Jenkins starred in the show, supported by the National Symphony Orchestra, and "Britain's Got Talent" star and rising prodigy Faryl Smith also sang.

The recent showery weather has made harvesting a stop-go operation across the Estate, with grain dryers once again having to work hard, but it has helped the gardeners as they haven't needed to add irrigation to their usually daily round of hoeing and mowing. Some of the grass areas in the Gardens are again being left uncut for longer this year to allow wild orchids to set seed; these have been self-seeding and increasing over the past few years as a result of this careful management.

Gardeners are also at work in the Lakes, repairing small leaks and trying to keep water lilies from being eaten by fish. The enormous grass carp in the Lakes are there because they are very good at keeping down algae and pond weed and don't usually eat water lilies, but we think other carp species are somehow slowly getting in.

English partridges have had a highly successful breeding season this year, with generally large, healthy broods. Once very common birds, English (or grey) partridges have undergone serious decline in numbers as a result of the loss of their preferred habitat – the hedgerows and headlands of arable fields which provide them with both shelter and abundant insects for food. (The English partridge's gaudy cousin, the French or red-legged partridge, introduced to this country in the 18th century, prefers open fields and farmland and is not in decline.) As a result of the work done at Sandringham and other estates to reinstate hedges and wider field margins, the English partridge population in Norfolk has stabilised and is gradually increasing. Like pheasants, they don't seem to have much road sense, so do keep an eye out at this time of year for mothers and young crossing roads and leaping out from verges.

A small selection of gifts from the Visitor Centre Gift Shop is now available to purchase online. We can also now offer admission tickets and season tickets online (very easy Christmas presents!), as well as bookings for the two holiday cottages on the Estate.

Work has begun at Double Lodges on reroofing the houses and repairing the gates. This pair of houses will be well-known to many visitors to the estate, being on the tractor and trailer tour route and near the entrance to the Caravan and Camping Club site.

We are delighted that Sandringham apple juice is now to be found on the shelves of Fortnum and Mason in London, and Fruit Farm staff spent a day there recently offering tastings to Fortnum's customers.

The Fruit Farm Manager also found time this month to arrange a visit to the organic truffiere (truffle plantation) for two Lagotto Romagnolo dogs. This Italian breed of water retriever has phenomenal scenting ability and is widely used in Italy to search for truffles but sadly they turned up nothing on this occasion, although we are confident that truffle spores are present; patience is a virtue, and Estate staff are beginning to realise why truffles are so expensive. □



Dersingham Evening WI

In July, members of Dersingham Evening W.I. were given a fascinating talk by George Rockingham who, along with many helpers, runs PACT Animal Sanctuary.

He was accompanied by Tiny Tim, a 14 year old dog who was rescued at a few weeks-old with deformed forelegs but is now a perfectly healthy and happy animal. We learned that it takes £600 per day to keep the numerous and varied animals in their care.

Members were thanked for their contribution to the local Scout Fete, and Stradsett Hall Open Day.

Many members offered help and gifts for the Macmillan Coffee morning to be held at St. Cecelia's Church, 10am -12., on the 18th September. A reminder was given of a Bottle Stall to raise funds at our September meeting. □

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Old Picture Corner - past and present

These two views show how much more trees play a part in the current village scene. Although it is still physically possible to stand where the top picture was taken, the prospect is completely obscured by vegetation. Note also that the 2 doorways to the front of the Feathers have now become windows. Less need to throw people out quickly today?



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SHORT STROLLS IN AND AROUND DERSINGHAM

7. The River Ingol and Snettisham Water Mill



This two mile circular stroll starts from the same place as the one outlined in the last edition of Village Voice, ie the lay-by on the right of the main road (B1440) as it enters Ingoldisthorpe village (1). All the paths are well-used public rights of way although not all are sign-posted.

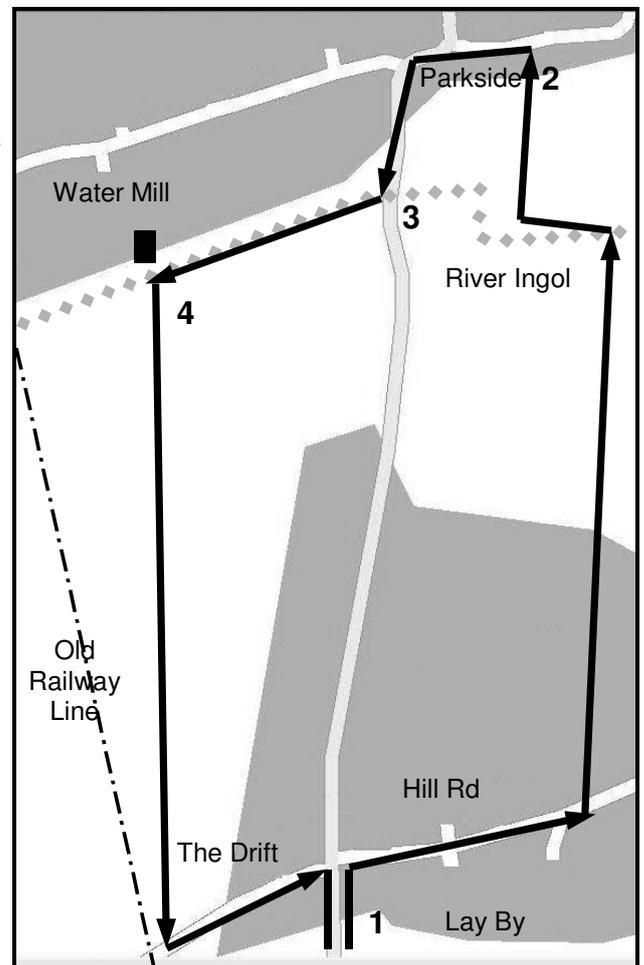
Keep on the same side of the road as the lay-by and walk on the grass to Hill Road. Turn right and follow Hill Road until you pass the last house on your left. Take the footpath on the left and follow this behind the bungalows and then diagonally across a cultivated field to a bridge over the River Ingol. Once over the bridge, turn left with an enclosure in which there are often deer on your right. Go through a metal gate and follow the path as it runs by the side of the Ingol and then turns at a right angle to cross between fields to a wooden gate leading to Park Side (2).

Turn left down Park Side and follow the pavement as it bears left at the main road. When you reach the bus shelter, cross the road and continue in the same direction till you cross the road bridge over the Ingol (3). On the far bank go through the gate on your right and take the path which runs by the side of the Ingol and then winds

away from the river till it finishes at another gate. Once through the gate our route takes us to the left but, before following this, take about thirty paces to your right to view the sad remains of Snettisham Water Mill (4) (See more about the Water Mill in the footnote.)

Turn back and follow the path straight ahead across a field, through a hedge and across another field and then behind dwellings to a metal gate leading on to The Drift. (Do not be tempted on to the old railway track as this stretch is private and you will not be able to gain access to The Drift.) Turn left to the main road and then right to follow the B1440 back to the lay-by from which the walk started.

Footnote: Snettisham Water Mill is a listed building which was built in 1800. Unfortunately, while the wrangling goes on about what might be done with it, it is being allowed to decay at an alarming rate. The insidious ivy which is now growing over the front of the building covers the inscription "This mill was erected in time of scarcity by voluntary subscription for the common benefit of the neighbourhood ADI 800". □ *Keith Starks*



LADYBIRDS RULE?

Miss Penelope Pinkerton Piggot slid gracefully out of her chair at Cutting Heads (where she was having her monthly short back and sides) until she lay motionless on the floor, staring at the ceiling with an expression of intense shock. Annabelle Anthorn, one of the three hairdressers on duty that day and who had been attending to Miss PPP, looked down in amazement with her scissors still at shoulder height ready for another snip. She was a young lady of few words and those she did utter seldom conveyed any emotion. She summarized the situation with 'Oh dear'. On the other hand Belinda Belhaven was far more expressive. "Cor blimey Annie, I reckon the silly old bat has bleedin' well snuffed it. What should we do?" Catherine Catherington, the young lady with the most commonsense, took over. "Bel, see if you can find a pulse. If you can't, try giving her the kiss of life. I'll call a Doctor". Unusually for Belinda, she did what she was told. She blew an extended breath into Miss PPP and four buttons popped off the latter's khaki shirt. No response, so Belinda tried again. Still no success.

There was a loud clatter as the mirror stand at which Miss PPP had been sitting crashed to the floor. The noise startled Annabelle out of her daydream and she immediately scanned the room. "Six-inch metal ladybird complete with wings" she said as though it was an everyday occurrence to see one. "Sorry Annie, but can you expand on that a bit?" said Catherine. "A six-inch long ladybird which looks as though it's made of metal has just gone out through the front door without opening it and it chewed its way out as quick as a flash and I reckon it's heading in the direction of the War memorial and I also reckon we ought to do something but I don't know what." "She's tellin' them bleedin' porkies again" observed Belinda. "I don't think so" said Catherine. "Look; a chunk has apparently been bitten out of the leg of the mirror stand which is why it fell down, and it looks as though there are bite marks round the edge of the mirror itself. I'll call the police." A Doctor from the Health Centre arrived and pronounced Miss PPP dead and gave the body a cursory examination. Something which the three hairdressers had not noticed was that the corpse had a rather large lump of flesh missing from the left heel. Annabelle felt she ought to try to catch the metal ladybird before it caused damage anywhere else. She got on her moped and, hunched up over the handlebars for maximum speed, headed towards the War Memorial. She didn't catch her quarry but on arriving at the Memorial saw three six-inch metal ladybirds apparently having a conference. This was surprise enough but she watched in sheer wonderment as the ladybirds went into a huddle, wriggled around, then broke away to reveal the presence of a further two of their kind. With head down, her thumb pressed firmly on the horn button, and the single headlight on full beam; she putt-putted her way back to Cutting Heads. As she arrived, she was met by two Police Community Support Officers. One took notes, extremely slowly and deliberately, as she told her story, while the other one wrote down every detail of damage including precise measurements of the injured left heel of Miss PPP.

Eventually one of the PCSO's radioed for help which arrived in the form of two Police Constables in a car. Annabelle went with them to the War Memorial where she fully expected to see at least one metal ladybird. But there were none. One of the PC's answered a call on the car radio. Apparently a 'mobile metal lump' had burst into Thaxter's Spar shop and, swiftly and efficiently, had chewed a sizeable chunk out of every glass bottle on the shelves of alcoholic drinks. When the Constables arrived the whole shop was awash; all the customers were in a state of panic; and Roger the Shop Manager lay spreadeagled in the doorway, completely motionless and with a severe wound in his left heel. The PCs had only just finished their inspection of the premises and had done all they could do to reassure the customers that everything was under control when they received another call informing them that an 'unidentified-steel blue creature about six inches long' had eaten its way through the door of the Post Office and was threatening to chew large lumps out of Fraser the Sub Postmaster. However, the thick steel door of the safe was wide open and this diverted the creature's attention away from the quaking Fraser. All that steel in one place was more than it could resist. It entered the safe. In a flash Fraser slammed shut the door of the safe and locked it. He had trapped 'the thing'. He had to inform the police but not before he had gone outside for a few moments to settle his nerves. As he mopped his brow a very loud crunching noise came from within.

He looked in and saw a pair of metallic jaws protruding from the middle of the closed door of the safe. It was time to run. He was a fit young man and reasoned that he could out-pace a mere lump of metal. But what he did not know was that the 'mere lump of metal' could fly. Fraser got as far as the Methodist Church...

The two PCs received orders from their Inspector that they should hide in the vicinity of the War Memorial and report any happenings. This instruction was well received as the most suitable place to go under-cover was Tropics Take Away and the cost of repeated servings of fish and chips could, with luck and some bribery, be claimed as 'essential expenses'. They had just got in position, hiding as best they could below the level of the window frame when, at intervals of about a minute, all five ladybirds flew in and landed at the memorial. As before, there was a low level metallic chattering noise, then the five went into a huddle; wriggled; then disbanded to reveal yet two more metal ladybirds.

Meanwhile Annabelle, Belinda and Catherine were wondering what they could do. It was clear that, despite the best of intentions, the police were not equipped to handle the situation. The army should be called in. But this could take up valuable time and with the speed at which things were happening the whole of Dersingham could be over-run with six-inch metal ladybirds by the time they got into action. The consequences of this were unthinkable. Belinda made a suggestion. "Why don't we contact that bleedin' professor bloke who comes in for a hair and beard trim every Christmas? He's a rum old bugger but I have heard tell that he's quite a clever sod and specializes in bio-mechanical engineering or something equally daft. At the same time we could get the army in just for good measure." Catherine considered what her colleague had said. "Good one" she said. "If the army could hold the ladybirds at bay and somehow stop them from multiplying, the Professor might have enough time to devise a permanent solution". Annabelle volunteered to get in touch with the army (she had quite a 'thing' about young men in uniform) while Catherine looked through the shop's records until she found the number for a Professor Stanley Stutterhorn who lived in the village. She rang him. Once the Professor had established that it was not April the First and that the lady he was talking to was not completely mentally deranged he agreed to come to the shop immediately. Investigations involving metallurgy were his forte. He interrogated the three young ladies. Annabelle, who believed in the adage 'the least said, the better' eventually managed to give the Professor a description of the metal ladybirds and what she had seen at the War Memorial. Belinda, interjecting swear words at every opportunity, largely backed up what Annabelle had said. And Catherine presented a concise summary of everything that had happened as far as she was aware. Professor Stutterhorn gave his synopsis. "We are faced with an increasing number of metallic objects, six inches long or thereabouts, which have jaws that can chew through hardened steel. According to a recent report these objects can also fly. They feed on steel, glass, and human blood. So far no-one has managed to trap one and they seem to be very hostile. It's not much to go on and I can't do anything really positive until I have the opportunity to examine one of these creatures. All I can say is that I have never come across anything like this before."

An army platoon arrived at Cutting Heads sooner than expected. After a brief conversation with all persons present the Sergeant in charge deployed a three man squad to the War Memorial with the order to destroy, by what ever means required, any six inch metal ladybirds in sight. The squad took up position in Tropics Take Away. There were no ladybirds present but in a few minutes one flew in and landed. All three men squatted in the shop doorway, aimed, and opened fire. The ladybird turned towards the doorway and started to move forwards, steadily and purposefully, with bullets ricocheting off it in all directions. The next piece of equipment to be tried was a flamethrower. Still unscathed, the ladybird continued its relentless journey towards the shop. Armour piercing ammunition and even a rocket were treated with similar contempt. The army squad and the two police constables who were still on site soon realized the seriousness of their situation. They ran out of the shop in all directions while they still had the chance. But the ladybird was intent on revenge and flew after one of the soldiers. It knocked him to the ground and...

The Sergeant, working with the Professor, set up their Operational Headquarters at Cutting Heads. The army personnel who had not been sent to the War Memorial were deployed throughout

the village to observe, but definitely not confront, any six inch metal ladybirds. One soldier was sent to do a recce in the vicinity of the Church. He arrived to the sound of a tremendous crash and a large hole appeared in the ceiling above the toilet compartment in the west end of the church. A tower bell had fallen from the belfry, straight through the ringing room, finally landing in the toilet room which it completely demolished. The soldier hid behind a column when he heard the noise of metallic footsteps clattering down the stone steps from the ringing room. Only when the noise had faded in the distance did he come out from his hiding place to examine the bell. The fitting on the top of the bell by which it was suspended had been almost completely chewed away. The soldier called his Sergeant at Cutting Heads. Within minutes the Sergeant and Professor were on the scene. Initially the Professor was puzzled but then an expression of enlightenment spread across his face. He explained to the Sergeant. "This is obviously the work of a metal ladybird. But what I couldn't work out was why it decided to attack one of the bells. You see a bell is made of a special metal which contains 77% of copper and has no iron in it whatsoever. My guess is that it was attracted by the sound of the bell, thinking that it was coming from something made of iron. So it launched an attack. Realising that it had made a mistake it continued its assault out of sheer temper until the bell fell down. But unfortunately that's not the end of the story. We now know from experience that these creatures get very upset when they're thwarted, and an attack on metal or glass is always followed by a search for flesh. Somewhere there's a very stroppy metal ladybird thirsting for blood."

The three men left. On their way back to base they made a detour and drove past the field behind the north-east corner of the Church. They could not believe what they saw. There were five bullocks and each one was limping round in a circle. In the middle of the field lay a metal ladybird with its legs in the air. The Professor ran into the field. This was exactly what he wanted; the chance to examine one of these creatures in detail. The autopsy was carried out back at Cutting Heads and confirmed that the subject's stomach was full of blood and lumps of bell metal. There could only be one source from whence the blood had come; the bullocks which would account for why they were limping. But all the ladybirds' victims so far had died when they were bitten. Why had the bullocks survived? Eventually the Professor came up with the answer. Bullocks were animals and this was significant. It was specifically human blood which the ladybirds needed for survival and reproduction. Animal blood was fatal for them.

Panic was spreading through Dersingham. The population of six inch metal ladybirds was increasing rapidly, and a large gathering of the creatures had built up at the War memorial. Suddenly there was a tumultuous clattering noise as they began to move en masse in a southerly direction. The Professor analysed the situation. Clearly they were still deeply resentful of the fact that one of their number had died and they were going to get their revenge by launching a massive, blood-seeking attack on Cutting Heads. The Professor and the Sergeant were stumped for ideas. There wasn't an answer. The creatures were unstoppable and would soon be in control of the village. Annabelle, Belinda and Catherine were whispering in one corner of the salon, then Belinda tapped the professor on the shoulder. "We can stop the buggers" she said. "Oh, really? And how would you do that?" he replied with sarcasm. "Lend us the lorry that the soldiers came in and we'll do the rest. But we'll have to hurry." Half an hour later there was a huge pile of dead metal ladybirds in front of Cutting Heads. Relief spread through the village. Dersingham had been saved by three young ladies. They had raced up to Sandringham Foods in West Newton and filled the lorry with as much meat as they could find in the butchery. Sides of beef, legs of pork and lamb, anything in fact that looked like a piece of an animal were taken. They came away with enough meat to build a barricade in front of the salon, which is what they did. The ladybirds took the bait and gorged their way into the pile of meat, dying within seconds of their first bites.

The Professor was awarded an OBE for his outstanding contribution to the rescue of the village whilst Annabelle, Belinda and Catherine graciously accepted an invitation from the Queen to dine with her at Sandringham. The meal was strictly vegetarian! □

Steve Nowell

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NORFOLK FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE NEEDS YOU

Sandringham Fire Station, which is located on Dodds Hill, is looking for people who live or work in the local community to join their team of Retained Firefighters.

The Fire and Rescue Service offers a challenging and varied career, which involves dealing with emergency incidents such as fighting fires, road traffic collisions, and providing community fire safety advice to members of the public.

A Retained Firefighter differs from a Wholetime Firefighter in that they have primary employment elsewhere and are called upon by the Fire and Rescue Service when there are emergency incidents in their area. Working as part of a team you will respond to emergencies when alerted by your pager at any time of the day or night.

You will be required to attend a regular weekly training session held on Tuesday nights and pass an induction course held at the Brigade Training Centre in Bowthorpe, Norwich. In return you will receive a monthly retaining fee plus additional payments for every incident and training session you attend. There is also the opportunity to undertake further training courses as your career progresses.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from anyone subject to certain criteria. Currently the requirements are:

- You must be over 18 years of age and you will be required to pass some standard written tests.
- Live and /or work within 5 minutes travelling time of the Fire Station.
- Be mentally and physically fit, with good eyesight standards.
- Be of good character.
- Have the agreement of your employers to leave work to attend emergency calls.

Paul Edwards, Crew Manager at Sandringham Fire Station said “We are looking to build up a bank of people who may be interested in joining Sandringham Station. We currently have one vacancy which we already have an applicant for, but over the next couple of years we may have more vacancies due to retirements”.

“The whole recruitment process can take up to 6 months depending on the applicant being able to pass initial training sessions and completing a 2 week induction course which is why we are hoping to generate some interest from people now with a view to recruiting in 2010”.

Sandringham Station will be holding an open night on Tuesday November 17th at the Station on Dodds Hill at 7pm when potential recruits can visit, have a look at the Station, appliances and equipment and ask any questions they may have regarding working as a Retained Firefighter.

Anyone interested in finding out more about opportunities at Sandringham Fire Station is encouraged to attend the open night or alternatively contact Watch Manager Dennis Wright on 01485 542509 or Crew Manager Paul Edwards on 01485 540735 for more details. □

Dersingham Larder

Here is a special nut cake recipe from my grand mother. I have met a few people in Dersingham who have a wheat allergy like me. What is so special about it? Well it's wheat free!!!, and contains no butter or margarine!!!

Ingredients:-

8 eggs
9oz (250g) ground hazel nuts (or almonds)
8oz (200g) icing sugar

Pre-heat the oven to 150°C, Gas Mark 3

Separate 6 eggs and beat the 6 egg yolks with the sugar until creamy. Add the sugar, nuts and the 2 whole eggs stirring together until everything is mixed nicely.

Beat the 6 egg whites until fluffy and fold the fluffy egg whites into the cake mixture.

Turn into a greased cake tin (10" or 25 centimetres square would be good).

Bake for about 45 minutes, checking, after 30 minutes to make sure it is not burning, cover with greaseproof paper if it is getting too coloured before it's time.

For decoration, just sprinkle some icing sugar on top if desired. □

Antje Franke



July 26th winners and runners up of the mini sixes tournament 2009 girls and boys are as follows:-

Under 12's girls. Runners up Hungate,	Winners Dersingham
Under 14's girls. Runners up Wisbech St Mary purple,	Winners Discovery
Under 16's girls. Runners up Dersingham,	Winners Downham Market
Under 12's boys. Runners up Dersingham,	Winners Reffley
Under 13's boys. Runners up Dersingham,	Winners Reffley
Under 14's boys. Runners up Walpole,	Winners Wisbech St Mary
Under 15's boys. Runners up East Lynn,	Winners Swaffham

August 16th pre-season tournament results are as follows :-

Due to FA regulations under 7's and the under 8's are non competitive games , but all teams that took part had an medal at the end of the day.

Under 9's both teams went to penalties so ended up as runners up Downham Market,
Winners Fakenham

Under 10's runners up Dersingham,	Winners West Winch Blacks
Under 11's runners up Hungate,	Winners Dersingham B
Under 12's runners up Wisbech St Mary,	Winners Clenchwarton

Hunstanton Area

SureStart Children's Centre

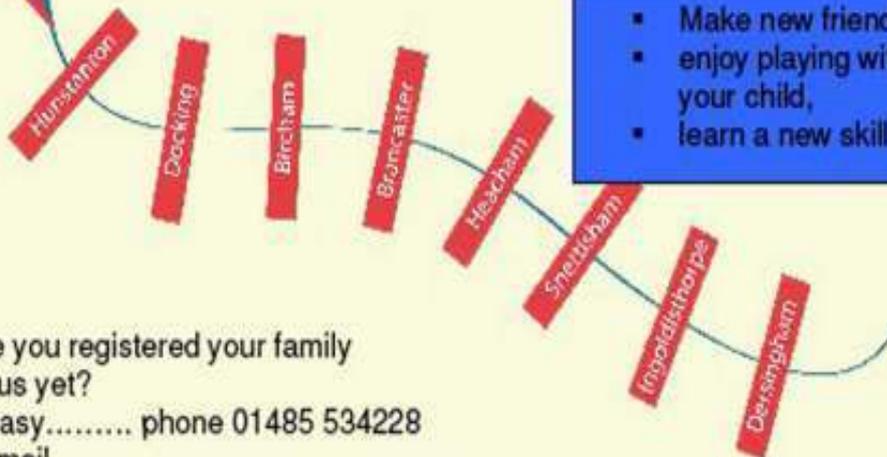
Sure Start Children's Centres are places that offer access to a range of support for families with children under five.....

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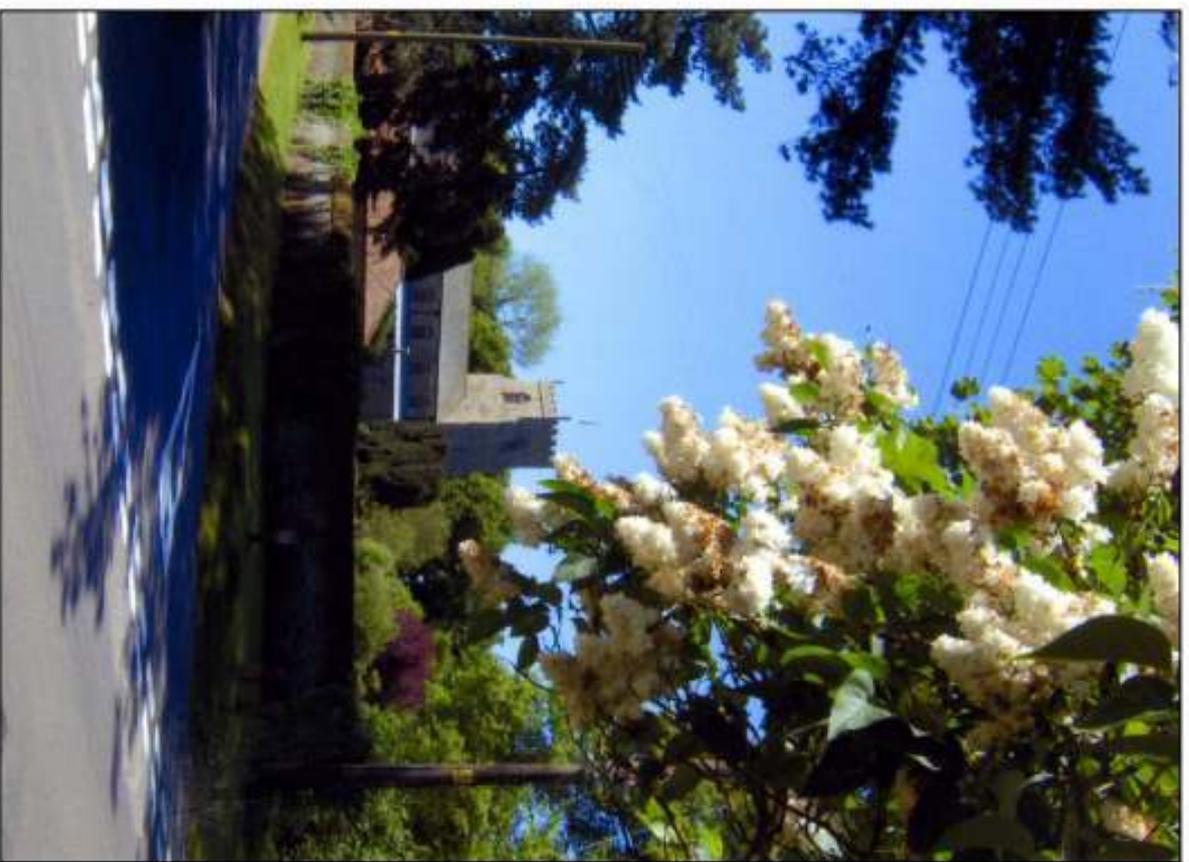
and ask for a registration form.

We would love to hear what you would like the children's centre to bring to your village – we look forward to hearing from you soon!

Cover competition runners up



Steve Davis



Liz Murrell

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Dick Melton

What a good view of the four bungalows at the top of Dodds Hill in the last issue. These bungalows were built around 1960. The first houses to be built on this piece of land were the police houses. When I went to school at St. George's from 1950 to 1954 this was a lavender field and then, before it was built on, Ken Martins had it for a year or two to grow sugar beet and potatoes on.

Now what about this man with the top hat who lived up the Common in a house called Twinberry. Dennis Wright told me that his name was Major Edward P. Northfield. Then his mother Mrs. Doreen Wright tells us that his name was Mr. Frank Leake. I do not wish to start a family feud. So which one is correct or were there two men who lived up Heath Road and wore top hats?

Staying with Heath Road. Yes, Pat, I too remember the Edrich family. They lived in a bungalow on the right hand side going towards the Common. Barry was in my class at school. His father was Jeff Edrich who was brother to Bill Edrich, the England cricketer and, if I remember right, Jeff played for Norfolk. Also I think Barry only lived up Heath Road for a year or two then they moved away. Before Oscar Humfrey lived up Heath Road he lived at no 18 Lynn Road which was later to become the hairdressers shop. Queen Mary used to also visit him there and her chauffeur then was Freddy Southgate whose mother and father kept the Albert Victor public house in Manor Road.

Doreen Wright brought a few old names back to me when she said about the old characters of the village. The first one that came to me was farmer Daniels. I do not remember his proper name but he lived in Chapel Road and he had some allotments up Fern Hill. Clarence Todd also lived in Chapel Road. He was a warrener (rabbit catcher) and whenever you saw him on his trade bike he always had two or three dogs with him. Uncle Two Foot, I never knew his real name, would stand outside the school gates and tell us kids tales. His favourite one was about a ghost at Snoring Lodge Hall. Now everyone knew Jo Painter who lived in the last house next to the Common in Lynn Road (Pleasant Place). Jo worked on Sandringham Estate in the daytime but in the evenings and at the weekend you would see him going around Dersingham sweeping all the chimneys. Jo had a large garden and in it he had a big shed full of goe'sunder's (chamber pots). All three hundred of them, but the main thing that Jo was famous for was his giant bonfire at the top of his garden every November 5th. The cockle man, that's what Tony Daniels was called. He was always riding around the village with a cheerful word for everyone. One little story I remember about Tony - my mother wanted a cat. I will get you one said Tony. He brought one around and let it out of a sack. It was so wild that it shot up the curtains and sat on the pelmet for three days until it got hungry and then it came down.

Norman 'Buster' Towers, the butcher in Chapel Road, was another great character. He used to keep lots of greyhounds. He also kept horses on the shut-up common and he would use a horse and cart to deliver the meat around the village.

Doreen also said the village doesn't have many characters now, maybe the odd one like Sam Burlingham. Well now Doreen what about Fred Easton and the greatest village character of them all, Ken Martins. Ken has been a little higgler (smallholder) in Lynn Road, Dersingham for well over fifty years.



I was reading through a book the other day when I came across a list of Dersingham Special Constables and policemen who were attached to the Dersingham Division in 1944. So for the older people of Dersingham here are some of their names - Mr. Bill Playford (the baker), Mr. Wells, Mr. Mapus-Smith (a solicitor that lived down Station Road), Mr. Whisker (kept the shop near The Drift), Mr. Chambers (builder), Mr. Twite (Bernie's dad), Mr. Bird, Mr. 'Hubby' Cross and Mr. Benstead. Also on the list is P.C. Mitchell who later when he was made up in the ranks was in charge of Dersingham Police Station and Det. Con. Watts who was bodyguard to the late King George Sixth when he stayed at Sandringham House and he also lived in Lynn Road.

Well, that's about all for this month. The samphire season has come to an end. There was some good stuff about while it lasted. The mussels will soon be ready and there are some nice harvest rabbits about and don't them blackberries go down well in a blackberry and apple and apple pie. □

The Dersingham Weather

I smiled when I read the first sentence of My Patch by Gardenwatcher; "At last some rain". Well, as we are all aware, after a much drier start to the year it all went horribly wrong. Even the Met Office admitted that their long term forecast was inaccurate.

Although June was marginally drier than last year we had a total of just under 50 mm of rain which is pretty wet for the time of the year. The maximum temperature was 29.8°C which was much warmer than last June where the max was a mere 26.4°C.

This July was a wash out with a total of 106mm of rain compared to the 86mm of last July. We all thought last year was wet! The temperature was marginally warmer but this year we achieved 30°C, though only on one day, the 1st July. We never achieved that temperature at all last year, so although the weather has been nothing to crow about I feel that we went past the psychological barrier of the big three zero. I apologise for the use of millimetres and degrees Celsius, but it is the international standard and I record data in that format.

Although we had lots of rain it was nothing compared to the rest of the country. The Met Office issued several severe weather warnings and here in Dersingham we got comparatively little. In particular on 17th July some places registered a daily total of 50mm (2 inches) and we got 12.7mm (half an inch). Before I moved to the village from the North East four years ago, my partner, who is from the area, told me that East Anglia was renowned for being among the driest areas in the country and it looks like she was right.

August was much better than last year with only 37.6mm of rain compared to 91.4 last year. Temperatures were much warmer too, with a high of 28.4°C; three and a half degrees warmer than last August.

In my previous article I predicted that the garden would be more productive this year than last. How was it for you? Certainly my garden has produced a good crop of root vegetables, particularly carrots and beetroot and I was pleased with my beans. The rain combined with the better temperatures seems to have done the trick.

Don't forget that you can see the current weather by going to www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=MC8851

People are visiting the site. I had over 200 hits in August. Sorry if you visited in the last week of August but my computer had a short spell in 'hospital' and I didn't update the site for a few days. Also I am still looking for someone who can assist with our own Dersingham weather site.

You can contact me at murrayjohnf@btinternet.com

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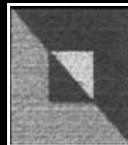
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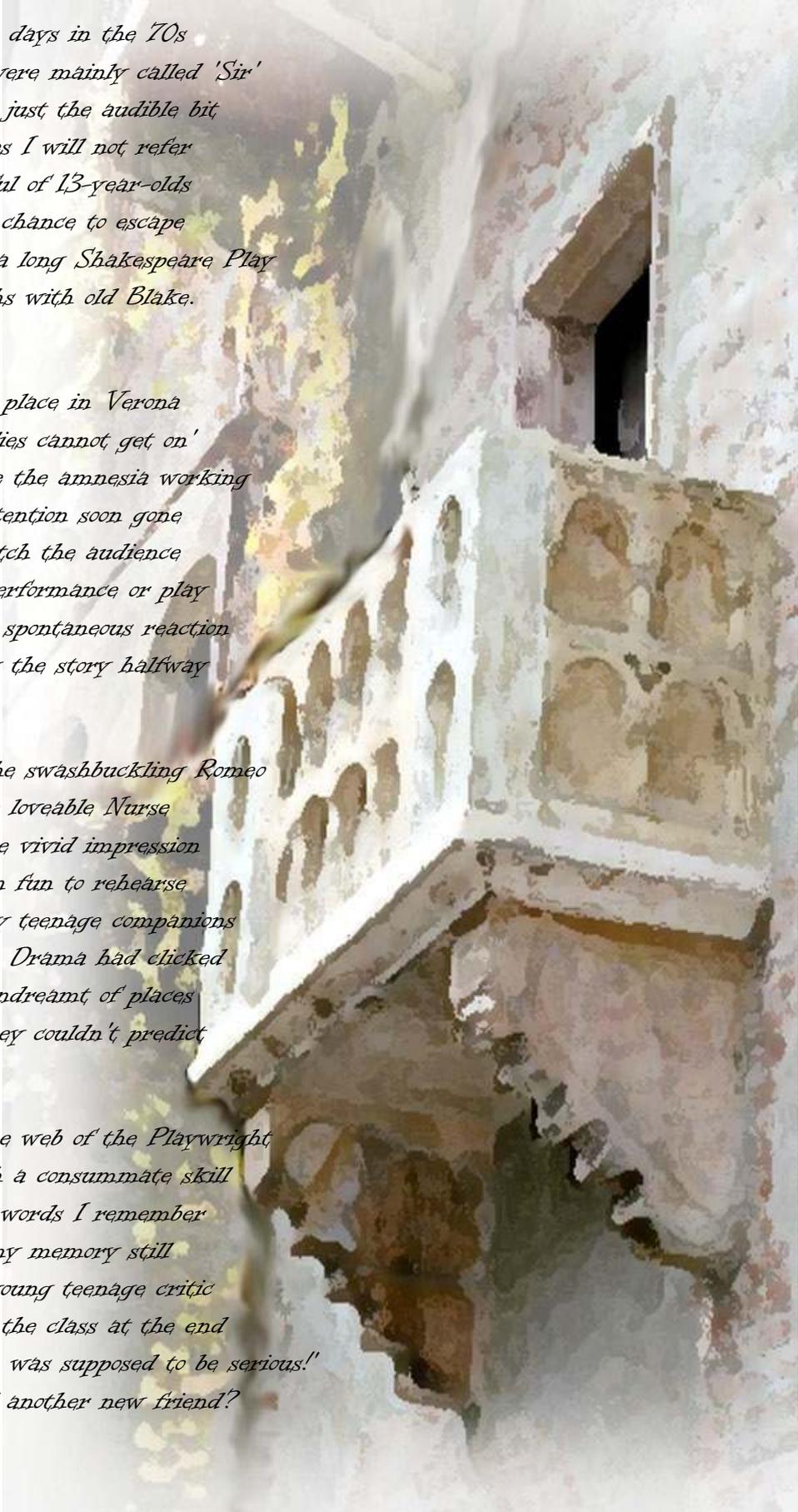
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Proprietors:- Sue & Martin Bruce

No harm in hoping!

© Hugh Mullarkey 2009



*Remember those days in the 70s
When bloke teachers were mainly called 'Sir'
Of course that was just the audible bit
To the nicknames I will not refer
Imagine a classful of 13-year-olds
Being offered a chance to escape
An afternoon watching a long Shakespeare Play
Or a double Maths with old Blake.*

*The Play takes place in Verona
Where two families cannot get on'
As I spoke I could see the amnesia working
Any lurking attention soon gone
Do you ever watch the audience
When you go to performance or play
You can judge from spontaneous reaction
If they're meeting the story halfway*

*Michael Kitchen was the swashbuckling Romeo
Beryl Reid the loveable Nurse
The Cast gave the vivid impression
It had even been fun to rehearse
When I looked at my teenage companions
I could see that the Drama had clicked
Transported to undreamt of places
By events that they couldn't predict*

*They were caught in the web of the Playwright
Which he wove with a consummate skill
But it wasn't his words I remember
That stay in my memory still
It is those of the young teenage critic
Who emerged with the class at the end
'Sir, I thought Shakespeare was supposed to be serious.'
Had the Bard found another new friend?*

DERSINGHAM GUIDE GROUPS LAUNCH CENTENARY

The Dersingham Guide groups (Rainbows, Brownies & Guides) launched the Centenary celebrations of GirlguidingUK with a two part celebration.

Current Rainbows, Brownies, Guides leaders and helpers were joined by former members, Trefoil Guild members, The Royal British Legion, The RBL -Ladies section (Dersingham Branches) and Dersingham Parish Council members for the first part of the event when they planted 300+ crocus & daffodil bulbs at the recently refurbished memorial garden at the Dersingham Village War memorial. Everyone taking part signed a special scroll which will be framed and mounted at the Guide & Scout HQ in Dersingham, they also viewed a special "100" cake made by Brownie Guider, Sandra Hullett.

Current members, leaders and helpers then moved onto their HQ for party celebrations. They played traditional party games, including pass-the-parcel, musical chairs etc, and games with parachutes. Everyone contributed to a special Centenary Flag, designed and planned by Assistant leader Elizabeth Wheeler signing their names on multi coloured felt stars and attaching them to the flag. The party ended with a traditional camp fire organised by Guide Leaders Jeanette Lister and Ann Saunders, with plenty of singing and action participation by all. Everyone went home with a "party bag" of birthday cake and centenary souvenir.

Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and leaders are now planning a full programme of events to continue the Centenary Celebrations for the next 12 months. □

Lynne Wheeler





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The Wastewatchers Holiday Club

This was held on 27th, 28th and 29th July. Thirty seven children and a team of helpers from St Nicholas Church and other churches had a great time, making things, jumping about and playing games, and learning about how God can transform lives. We also thought about recycling – and raised £100 for WaterAid.



A banner made from recycled materials



Waiting for the result of a team games



Making and decorating biscuits



The end result!



Lyn the Bin sharing jokes



Our vicar, Michael, asks what did you like best?

We are so grateful to the many people who made it all possible. Dersingham Parish Council once again gave us a generous grant. The Fountain of Life Church, Ashill lent us props for the drama, 26 helpers (including young helpers, and parents) worked very hard to make everything go smoothly and there were lots of meetings and discussion in the planning stage. Thank you to you all !



Making a kaleidoscope



Refreshment time.....



Mens work - being supervised



Can we come next year?

This is now the fifth Holiday Club which the team have presented. We finished the week with a Family Barbecue, held in the vicarage garden on Friday 31st July, and much enjoyed by all.

What next ?

Whether or not you came to the Holiday Club ... come and join us at our **Kidz Klub** ! Our first meeting after the summer break is on Saturday 10th October 10am – 12 noon. It's for those aged 5 – 11 years.

We meet on the second Saturday every month – contact Alan or June Crawshaw on tel. 543836 to find out more. □

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That's My Business

The Coach & Horses, Manor Road.

At the end of March 2007 Sheila Roythorne became Landlady of the village's last actual pub, The Coach & Horses. Sheila, originally from Bircham and having brought up two children in Dersingham, had worked at the Feathers Hotel, Dersingham for 23 years, leaving in October 2006 to work at the White Horse in Holme.

Then one evening in March 2007, after a few bevvies in the Coach, made a rash decision to take on the tenancy for just one year.

In the first few months, with help from daughter Helen, the pub was freshened up by re-decorating throughout the Bar, Restaurant and upstairs B&B accommodation.

The pub had a well established reputation as somewhere for blokes to go for a pint so Sheila embarked on a mission to encourage more ladies and families to come and have fun, and something to eat as well. Work began on the Beer Garden to create a pretty place to enjoy in the summer. The Play Fort was renewed and a goal installed for the children. The garden was then used for Summer Family Funday Sundays. These are now a regular occurrence, and with live outdoor music, are becoming more & more popular.

In July 2007 the smoking ban meant a shelter being constructed in the garden to cater for those now banished from pubs!

August 2007 saw the Petanque Piste created, leading The Coach to having two Petanque teams playing in winter and summer to accompany the pool team already playing Wednesday nights throughout the winter.

With the first year over Sheila decided to stay on at the pub introducing a Quiz Night on Thursdays and a Poker Night on Mondays.

In November 2008 our Chef, Tom, was taken on to provide quality homecooked food which is proving more and more popular with locals and visitors to the area.

Two and a half years down the road, the pub has gone from strength to strength and become a real hub of the community - a tribute to the loyal, hardworking staff and the wonderfully varied customers. □





News from the RSPCA

I am writing thank everyone who attended the September Village Voice Live, where I talked about the work of the RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre. I would also like to thank everyone concerned for the very kind donation of £60 towards our work. It was lovely to meet you, and to speak to such a welcoming and interested audience.

Just as a reminder, we always needs old towels, tea towels, flannels and blankets . Sarah and Anita in the Parish Office (at Collings Estate Agents on Hunstanton Road) have offered to act as a collection point.

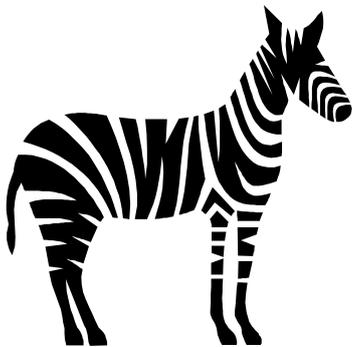
Jo Mead, Supervisor

CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE

Following a request for a pedestrian crossing on Manor Road opposite the new health centre, the parish council can report :-

The Highways Department have confirmed that there are no plans at present to change the crossing to the Carole Brown Health Centre, but will continue to monitor the situation. Warning signs may be a possibility.

The footpath through St Nicholas Church provides an alternative route to get to the surgery – many thanks to the Church for their kind co-operation.



However, if anyone is still concerned about crossing the road, the Community Car Scheme is available – on 01485 572777 - to take you all the way.

Andrea Smith

Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

Monday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm

Tuesday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm

Wednesday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Thursday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

The Dersingham Parish Council Office has moved and shares premises with Geoffrey Collings & Co at 7b Hunstanton Road, Dersingham PE31 6HH

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SANDRINGHAM FLOWER SHOW WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2009

Despite uncertain weather forecasts, around 22,000 people flocked to the 128th Sandringham Flower Show which was held on Wednesday 29th July. The weather held until late afternoon when there was a light shower.



Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall arrived at the show at 11am to the National Anthem played by the Minden Band of the Queens Division. They then spent more than two hours touring the Royal Marquees, charity stands, and meeting members of the public and Exhibitors. There was particular interest this year in the Help for Heroes Garden, featuring a buried military tank, surrounded by the most amazing garden which was designed and built by Mulberry Tree Garden Design. Members of all the Armed Forces were on duty on the garden throughout the day to talk to members of the public, and the garden raised a huge amount for the Help for Heroes Charity.

The Large Show gardens Competition was won this year by Crowe Garden Design for their garden celebrating 25 years of fundraising for Tapping House, The Norfolk Hospice. The Peoples Choice was won by Ant Messent. The Best in Show Courtyard garden was won by Anne Harrap and the Peoples Choice in this category went to Emma Colclough of Middle Earth Garden Design.



In the local Horticultural Clubs Competition for small garden displays Snettisham Gardening Club achieved Best in Show.

The Royal Marquees featured some amazing displays with Large Gold Awards going to Mulberry Tree Garden Design, Peter Beales Roses, Norfolk Lavender, Choice Landscapes, Orchard Nurseries, The Plant Lovers, and Rougham Hall Nurseries. The Best in Show Award in the Horticultural Trade Marquee went to Pheasant Acre Plants.



With over 200 Trade Stands, Horticultural Stands, a Craft Marquee, Gardening Talks, and Main Arena Events - from the excitement of the Bolddog Lings Motorcycle Display Team and the precision of the Royal Signals Freefall Parachute Display Team, to the age of yesteryear with a display of the gentle giants of agriculture, the Heavy Horses - there was something for everyone in the main arena. A military Tribute to the Fallen, and low level Tornado flypast provided an evocative end to the Show. There was something for everyone on the showground, including all the much-loved regular attractions and familiar faces which make Sandringham Flower Show such a unique event.

The show is run by a Committee of Volunteers and the profits from each show are donated to local charities. Since 1977 the Show has donated over £421,000. The profits from this year's show will not be known until October.

Planning is already well under way for next year's show which will be held on Wednesday 28 July, 2010. □

Paul Murrell



Bog News

As I sit in the office writing this article the sun is shining and the weather now feels like it is summer but, although it feels like the BBQ summer we were promised, autumn is fast approaching on the reserve. Many of our summer migrants have started heading back to their wintering grounds and it seems like days since swifts have been seen over the reserve and soon the swallows will be a distant memory.

The recently fledged birds are now a lot bigger and more independent and can be seen all across the reserve. The shelduck which is often seen on the

reserve have disappeared and they are likely to be grouping together on the mudflats at Snettisham Bird reserve. Although this time of year is getting quiet on the bird breeding front, the time for autumn rarities is tantalisingly close and the coast around West Norfolk and the rest of the east will be scoured by birders looking for that elusive rare warbler or wader.

Autumn is the time when we begin our works on the site to maintain and enhance the heathland and mire. This involves removing the smaller scrub on the site and eventually allows the heathland and mire plants to re-establish. We tend to work on blocks of heath and mire each winter, almost

similar to a coppice rotation e.g. cutting a different area each year and then cutting it again after all blocks are completed. We will also begin harvesting small patches of heather to reseed areas in which the heath has been unable to establish itself. This is done by forage harvester and is then spread using forks and rakes.

Now let's come back to summer and some of the works that have been occurring on the site. You may remember from the last article, I mentioned the infrastructure improvements. These have continued apace across the site and the reserve now boasts an extension to the steps at the John Denver bench, allowing easier access up the slope, including a new handrail. There have also been improvements at the Scissors car park with new bollards and a new handrail to guide people into the site. We have also replaced many of the boards that shore up the path from the cliff top replacing the older rotten boards. You may notice when you walk round the reserve now that there are routed oak signs. These correspond with the signs at the two main car parks and the footpath route marker posts and allow visitors to follow three routes of



Fallow Buck in "velvet"



Bog Asphodel

varying lengths across the site. Most of these infrastructure improvements have been completed by our volunteer team at Dersingham Bog as well as other organisations such as the Vinolved team. We hope that the improvements we have made will allow visitors to experience the site in a comfortable and easy manner and allow easy navigation across the reserve.

The reserve also plays host to some large mammals as well as its bird and plant populations. There are three different species of deer seen regularly on the site. There is the Fallow which is the largest of the species found and these roam about the reserve in herds of up to 18. The other species of deer which is slightly smaller than the fallow is the Roe which, if you are careful, can sometimes be seen browsing the birch close to the path. The third species found is the muntjac deer which is quite small and is colonising in the UK rather quickly. This is an introduced species of deer from Asia and was probably kept in Deer parks or on large estates and escaped allowing it to colonise.

You may think this time of year is relatively poor for some flowering plants but here on the reserve there is a plant which has been slowly appearing since July. This is the Bog Asphodel which can be seen around the boardwalk and has an orange flowering spike before the yellow flower head appears on the plant. Although it will probably have finished flowering by the end of August at the start of September the plant can still be seen sitting proudly above the other plants across the mire.

Hopefully you all had a good summer. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers to help with patrolling and practical works across the reserves so if you are interested or would like to find out more about volunteering please get in contact. We are also extremely interested in your wildlife sightings from the site as well. □

Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden, Natural England, Dersingham Bog NNR
thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk

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6.30pm	Evening Service - informal worship Choral Evensong (2 nd Sunday)

"All Stars" Sunday Club (Junior Church) 10.20am in the Church Hall 4years onwards, Creche 0-4 years in the Church. (apart from Family Service when all children are in the Church)

Other Services

9.00am	Saturday Parish Prayers
12noon	Eucharist Service (1 st Wednesday - approx $\frac{1}{2}$ hour service)

Activities in Church Hall

Coffee Mornings - 1st Friday of the month. Various stalls with fresh vegetables, homemade cakes, nearly new clothes, second-hand book shop handcrafted cards - Come and joint us for a friendly chat and a cuppa and a fresh homemade scone!

Parent & Toddlers Group - for parents & carers of children from 0 - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old. Tuesday's during term time - 8.30am to 11.15am. Tea and coffee on offer all morning with children's refreshments around 10am - £1 per family.

Kidz Klub - 2nd Saturday of the month - 10am to 12noon for 5-11 year olds - telephone Alan or June on 543836 for details. Holiday Club in Summer Holidays.

Mothers' Union - 2nd Wednesday of the month - 2.30pm - with Guest Speakers - visitors are very welcome - £1.

Men's Group - 2nd Wednesday of the month - 10.30am with Guest Speakers - all men are very welcome to come along - £1

If you or anyone you know would like a lift to any of the above we would be only too happy to help by picking you up and taking you home again - Please contact Pauline on 544561.



From the parish office...

I hope everyone had enjoyable summer and it certainly feels whilst writing this that Autumn has come early. The leaves were falling from the trees in Thetford Forest on the last day of August.

Anita and I are now safely positioned in our new office, within Collings Estate Agents. Several of you have already found us, for everyone else come and see us, we do not bite, promise. We are still selling dog bags, trade sacks and rubbish tags.

The new litter bins should be in place by the time you read this and hopefully you will like them and we can get the other four replaced in next year's budget. If you find a certain area getting untidy please report it to the office or you think a polite notice asking people to take their rubbish home would help please ring. Just a reminder, if you are an organisation or business within Dersingham and think that a bin would be handy, please contact us at the Parish Office. Please bear in mind that you will have to empty and dispose of the rubbish yourself. This will be the final time in asking by the end of October we will have to dispose of them one way or another.

Our Strategic Working Group have been busy looking into providing a Village Hall now that they have finished with the Parish Office move. I am sure this will be a rewarding experience for the village.

We still have six vacancies for councillors and if you think you can help the village and wish to join please contact us for details of how you can apply.

Still keep the posters coming for the Public Noticeboard it is well used and must be an asset to the village and its organisations. The suggestion box is being used more often, which is good; keep your ideas and concerns coming in.

I have been asked by the chairman to include the Planning Decisions for the last couple of months so here they are:

- 09/00873/F Mr M Dady. Application for construction of detached double garage at Inisfree 10 Park Hill, Dersingham. – **Granted**
- 09/00903/F Norfolk Constabulary, 43 Manor Road, Dersingham. Application for replacement of windows and alterations to entrance.- **Granted**
- 09/01125/A A F Blakemore & Sons Ltd, 2 x illuminated fascia and 2 x illuminated projecting signs at 49 to 51 Hunstanton Road, Dersingham – **Granted**
- 09/00707/F Paterson Homes Ltd, Construction of three bedroomed house and conversion of outbuilding to dwelling at 1 Chapel Road, Dersingham – **Granted**.
- 09/00981/F Mr Kirby, extension to existing dwelling at 20 Woodside Close, Dersingham – **Granted**.

Mr Mark Cotton site at 30 Woodside Close, Dersingham. The Planning Inspectorate decision on appeal. - **Refused**

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

Sarah

Walk on the Commons

The weather couldn't have been better for the Walk on the Commons on 8th August with the Trustees of Dersingham United Charities. More than 20 people arrived in glorious sunshine at the Village Sign and were welcomed by Trustees Chairman Alan Hayward. Also on hand to answer questions were past Chairman Alan Cross and Sarah Harmer, who is an ecologist with specialist knowledge of Dersingham fens and woods.



Eve, her daughter, was the youngest there and had often walked the paths before, exercising the dogs. But some of the party had never ventured there before.



The party stopped on the hill for a little picnic half way through the walk, at the bench overlooking the road. They were shown the new boardwalks in the woods, which protect the plants in damp places and make the walk accessible all year round. A thoroughly delightful afternoon was had by all. □

May Davey



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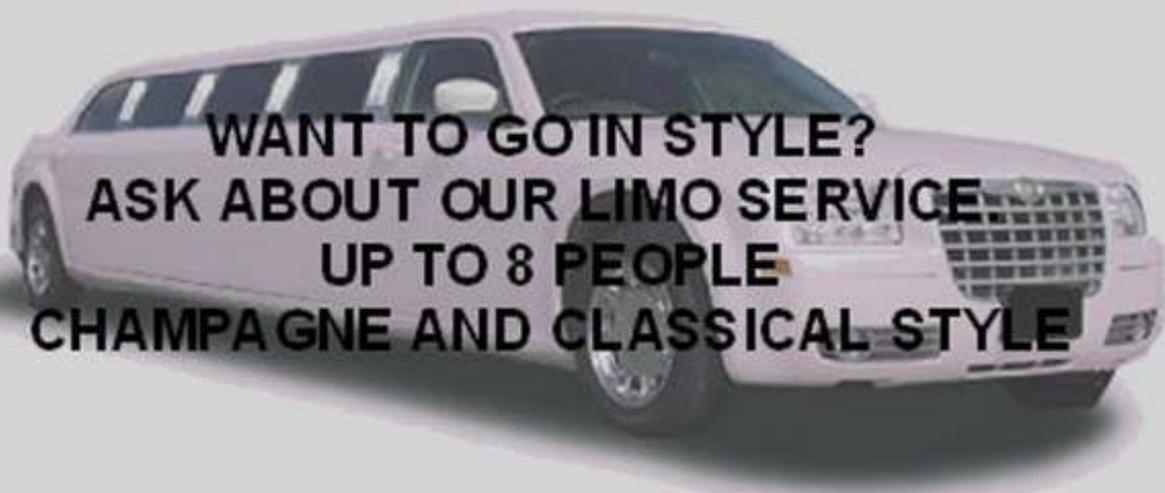
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Dersingham Cricket Club



By the time you read this our 1st team will have been relegated to the Norfolk Alliance Division 3. BUT that's not all bad news, with several junior players coming through to the 1st team this year and with the need to encourage more of them for next season a division lower will give them chance to establishing themselves.

All the junior teams have proved to be very successful, which shows what hard work Richard Southgate and other have put in to provide a long term base to provide player in years to come.

Off the field the club has had tremendous support from business, Vice Presidents and local people and all events have been very well supported and the club is now on a sound financial footing to face the coming years, but we will need to continue this fund raising to provide the best foundation for all the teams and to encourage new players to the club.

Events coming up are, end of season dinner at The Feathers on Saturday October 10th 7.30 for 8pm and the AGM at the same place on Friday November 6th at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to both events with the AGM being very important this year as we are planning to run a Sunday team next year.

Finally I would like to thank Hillington Cricket Club for staying and supporting our Hog Roast & Summer Draw and everyone for helping the club on match days and hope to see you all again next year. □

Roger Poll, Chairman

RAOB Sandringham Lodge

On Tuesday 18th August 2009 in the Feathers Hotel, Manor Road, Dersingham, Mr Ken Conley, ably aided and witnessed by Mr John Hunt (Chief Officer of the King's Lynn & District Province, RAOB, OLE) & Mr John Herbert (Grand Primo of the Grand Lodge of England for 2005), presented, on behalf of John Evans, Mark Evans, Fred Hart, Colin Lloyd, Doug Gravener and Frank Jacklin, (all members of the Sandringham Lodge, of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes), a £1000 cheque to the Snettisham Corp of the Salvation Army, represented by their Territorial Envoy, Mr Colin Hanover. Mr Hanover thanked the members of the Sandringham

Lodge for their most generous gift and went on to express his admiration for the work that the Lodge members strive for and their aims for the future. □

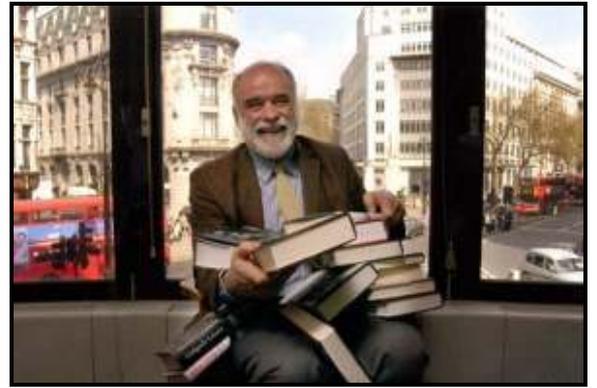
John Evans

Village Voice Sudoku No 8								
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					2	8		9
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Alan Clark – the Dersingham connection

Ion Trewin has spent the past five years researching and writing the life of the celebrated MP, minister under Margaret Thatcher, self-confessed womaniser and compelling diarist – and discovers a Norfolk connection.,



What does the name Alan Clark mean to you?

There's the Kansas born rhythm and blues singer, and an American fantasy artist, there's a former Roman Catholic cleric, (and I would not be surprised if Dick Melton will be able to tell us of an Alan Clark who once lived in Dersingham). But to me even before my wife Sue and I made the village our home in 2002 there was only one Alan Clark: rumbustious Tory MP, Minister in successive Thatcher governments, a self-confessed philanderer – yes, as his publisher and editor through the 1990s I knew him also as an original historian and sublime diarist.

Ten years after his death it is his diary for which he is mainly remembered. Following the publication of its first volume one newspaper commented: 'Literature and the great British game of gossip will judge him for his diary. For its Pooterish self-assessment, for Mr Toad's enthusiasm for new things, for Byron's caddishness, for its deadly candour, it is one of the great works in the genre.' Another likened it to *Adrian Mole*, except that it is fact. There will also be those who recall a BBC television adaptation in 2004 with John Hurt as Clark and Jenny Agutter as his wife Jane. Indeed if you want an account of Margaret Thatcher's downfall as Prime Minister and Tory leader in 1990 the Clark account has yet to be bettered. And if you want a confessional on behaving badly you will find none more honest.

If you know Alan Clark as a diarist – and with half a million copies now sold I imagine many Village Voice readers do – you may have a favourite passage. To some it is his account of delivering a ministerial statement to the House of Commons after over-indulging at a wine-tasting. But Lord Tebbit – who as Norman Tebbit was Alan's Secretary of State at the time – denied to me



that Alan was the worse for drink; indeed he felt he was all the better for it! In my researches I have talked to a score of other former political colleagues as well as contemporaries throughout his life. I discovered the extent to which Alan was not an MP to tow the party line unquestioningly: he was viewed by many of his Conservative colleagues as a closet liberal when he fought Margaret Thatcher over cruelty in trapping wild mink for its fur and campaigned vigorously against the export of veal calves to continental Europe.

The greatest help to me has been Alan's widow Jane. They married when he was 31 and she was only 16. Despite Alan's self-confessed philandering they remained together for 41 years, until his death in 1999. She continues to live at the family home, Saltwood Castle in Kent, which for a biographer is like an Aladdin's cave with drawers, old filing cabinets and boxes full of family papers, invaluable to a biographer. Now, five years after I began, *Alan Clark: the Biography* is being published. Looking around as I write I realise just how my study in our Dersingham home has steadily been overtaken by Clark papers and

memorabilia.

What few people know and one of the revelations in my biography is just how much Alan was devoted to Norfolk. The connection began in his childhood in the 1930s when the family rented houses along the north Norfolk coast. Boxes of old photographs surviving in the Clark family home, Saltwood Castle in Kent, show Alan as a toddler on the beach at Brancaster, Alan in front of beach huts – could this be Hunstanton? – and Alan with a building behind on the horizon – is this the Royal Norfolk Golf Club?

The Clark children – Alan had younger siblings, twins, sister Celly and brother Colin – were usually taken on holiday by their governesses and servants, but in 1935, when Alan was seven, his father Kenneth Clark, already a noted art historian who had become director of London's National Gallery when only 31, went too. He and his elder son took comfort in something they could enjoy together – walking. In an undated note Alan later recalled that on these walks his father explained life to him, but the bonding failed to survive. 'He hardly ever did that once I was at boarding school.'

By the time he was sent away to school in 1938 he was once again holidaying in north Norfolk, this time accompanied by a master from the boarding school, Mr Cutforth (known as Cutty). Cutty would contribute to



Alan's collection of cigarette cards, and by the account of one of Alan's contemporaries, he was a brilliant teacher of reading. He and Alan stayed at Burnham Overy Staithe, where Alan recorded in his pocket diary high tides, messing about on Mud Island and fishing from a boat called Dorothy (all very Arthur Ransome). Dorothy was a motor boat, named after the youngest daughter of Mary and Sydney Phillips, owners of the Moorings Hotel. Mud Island was behind the hotel, man-made from mud generated by dredging the Overy Staithe creek. This was not Alan's last visit to North Norfolk.

Just before the 1992 general election he surprised his friends by resigning his seat at Plymouth, which he had held for nearly twenty years. But his private life was in turmoil and he had finally lost patience with the long journeys to Devon and in particular with his constituents. His assistant at the Commons was distraught at his resignation as she had worked hard with one end in mind: to help him fight the coming election and ensure he held onto the seat. Instead of Plymouth she chose to come to King's Lynn to help Henry Bellingham's campaign. And for one day Alan returned to Norfolk and according to his diary campaigned on behalf of the Conservatives in Hunstanton. Sixty years had passed since he had first toddled on a north Norfolk beach. Whether he once again enjoyed that peculiar sensation of sand between the toes he did not record. □

Ion Trewin will talk about his biography of Alan Clark – which is being published in hardback with copious photographs by Weidenfeld & Nicolson at £25 – at the annual literary dinner of the Friends of St Nicholas Church on October 23 in the Sandringham Visitors' Centre.. He will be joined by Alan Clark's widow, Jane, in a rare public appearance. Taking the chair at the dinner will be Keith Simpson, MP for Mid-Norfolk, who knew Alan well. Tickets for the dinner from 01485 544865/ 540081/ 540865

OBITUARY

The late Mr. Common Sense

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the worm; life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his situation.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Elastoplast to a student, but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant or wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son Reason. He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else is to Blame and I'm a Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone. □

Ron's Quiz part 3

Ron Brackstone has compiled this 3 part quiz to test your local knowledge. Save the answers up and send the completed list to the editor by October 22nd 2009. First correct entry out of the hat wins a prize.

7) In front of the Queens stables is a statue of a which horse?

8) In kilometers, how long is the Dersingham - Snettisham bypass?

9) The Queen presented The Sandringham & Dersingham branch of the Royal British Legion with a large framed carving. Find it's location in the village and read off the date it was given. Enter the 3rd digit of the date. Does this clue ring any bells for you?

10) On a notice board on the left hand side of the Norwich Gates is a warning -This is a protected site under section?? of the serious organised crime and police act 2005. What is the number of this section, write in the last digit.

- | | |
|----|-------------|
| 1 | Answer..... |
| 2 | Answer..... |
| 3 | Answer..... |
| 4 | Answer..... |
| 5 | Answer..... |
| 6 | Answer..... |
| 7 | Answer..... |
| 8 | Answer..... |
| 9 | Answer..... |
| 10 | Answer..... |

The Power of a simple gift - Operation Christmas Child Samaritan's Purse 2009

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest Christmas appeal. Over 1 million shoeboxes packed full of goodies get sent to children in Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe every year - giving someone in the UK the chance to directly impact the life of a disadvantaged child overseas. Last year we in Dersingham donated over 300 shoeboxes . If you would like to take part in this worthwhile project I shall be distributing leaflets giving all the information you need to schools and churches in the village. You can phone me on 01485-540491 for a leaflet and any help you need .



Basically you cover a shoebox with attractive paper and fill it with gifts suitable for a boy or girl a sticker is supplied for you to attach where you tick a box stating 2-4 yr old, 5-9 or 10-14 yr old. Information on what can and cannot be put in the box is given on the leaflet.

Not only may your gift be the only one the child receives this Christmas but the only gift ever!

Budgens Supermarket have kindly offered to be a collection point for the filled boxes so you can easily drop one in there when shopping during the last week in November.

There is a website for more information :-

www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk

Joan Scorah, St Nicholas Church

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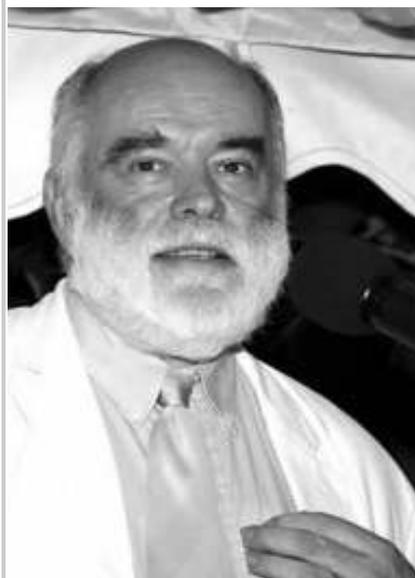
A LITERARY DINNER

The Sandringham Visitor Centre

Friday 23 October 2009

To mark the publication of the new biography of Alan Clark, remarkable diarist, MP, Minister under Margaret Thatcher and much, much more.....

The author, Dersingham resident, Ion Trewin, and Alan Clark's widow, Jane Clark, will be in conversation with Keith Simpson, military historian and Mid-Norfolk MP.



Ion Trewin



Jane Clark



Keith Simpson

Reception – Dinner – Conversation

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Tickets £40 each – which includes £10 donation to the charity

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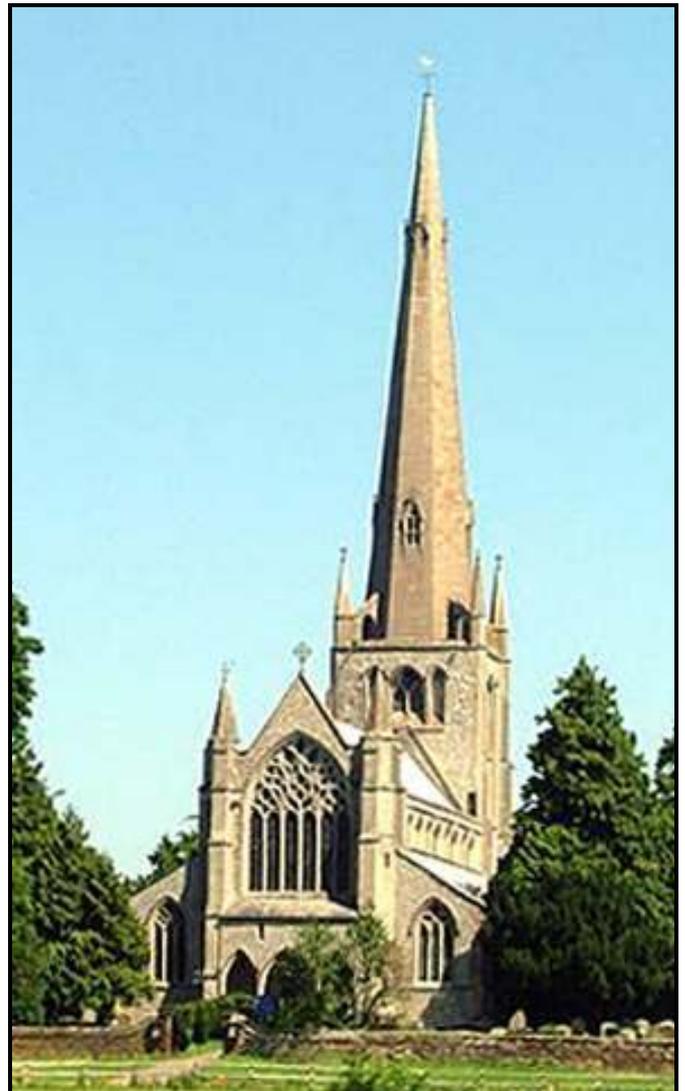
Snettisham

Elizabeth Fiddick

There have always been close links between Dersingham and the other surrounding villages. A look at the census return of 1851, when the places of birth were first recorded, reveals that many inhabitants of our village were born in Ingoldisthorpe, West Newton, Anmer, Snettisham, Wolferton and so on. Likewise many born in Dersingham were then living in these villages often through marriage. So there have always been close family ties with our neighbours but also sporting links were very important. There were regular football and cricket matches arranged between all the surrounding villages. Many a Dersingham man was remembered for his prowess on the field. In 1899 a villager widely known as "Honest old John Greene" died and the writer of his obituary contrasted honest John's bent back with the figure he cut on the cricket field in his youth when he "was in" for a day, "or was it a day and a half?" in the famous game against Sandringham. Another trio famous for their exploits at the same time were known as Tots, Tiny, and Rough. Two of this fearsome trio emigrated to Australia and the writer thought that maybe the great improvement in that Country's cricketing could be due to their coaching. (Mind you we have just regained the Ashes.) Sometimes perhaps the rivalry was too intense if an article in the Parish Magazine of February 1899 is anything to go by. Reporting on a cricket match between Dersingham and Snettisham it was noted with pleasure that Dersingham won by 101 runs to 22. The highest score of the opposition was just 9 runs with the unfortunate batsman being run out and seven players scored a duck. However the reporter thought, "*that noisy demonstrations on the fall of an opponent's wicket, or of some mistake in the field, do not necessarily add to the pleasure of those most intimately concerned.*"

Snettisham is one of our larger neighbours. The tower and spire of St. Mary's Church which reaches up for 175 feet has always commanded the area. It was an obvious sea mark when fishing was an important part of life here. There was a spire once on our church but it was removed in 1798 and we must admit really did not compare to that of our neighbour. The Snettisham village sign shows a golden torc resting on two sea horses. Below are cockle shells and a square rigged boat which is a very apt design for a coastal village where cockling was an important aspect of local life and smuggling prolific at one time. Dersingham too had a small haven at that time and our village sign also shows a small ship and fish. There are references to small ships called "doggers" being worked by Dersingham fishermen. The sea retreated from our village sometime in the 16th century.

In July 1984 Mr. Terry Grover was filling in pipe trenches for the new houses being built on the Old Hall site when he uncovered what he initially thought was just an old tin. It was in fact a cup of sterling silver containing 129 coins dating from the reign of Mary I (1553-8) through to 1643. (See Village Voice No. 42 for a full account) This was the Dersingham Hoard but



again I must admit, exciting though it was, it is not in the same league as the one uncovered in Snettisham.

In November 1948 Mr. R. Williamson was at Ken Hill deep ploughing a field which had previously grown lavender for many years but was now being prepared for a different planting. The plough had scraped the bedrock when Mr. Williamson had to stop to remove some old scrap iron that had become entangled in the plough shares. There was a mass of twisted greenish wire, some metal disks and what Mr. Williamson thought were bits of an old iron bedstead.



He cleared the plough, piled the rubbish up by the side of the road and continued his work. The next day he continued working a little further away when once again he uncovered some more of the scrap. He cleared it and left it with the rest no doubt thinking it would all be disposed of once he had completed the ploughing of the site. In fact the heap of old iron was left at the side of the road for several days but fortunately Mr. Williamson had told the landowner about the problem. Mr. Linnaeus Chilvers, who had grown lavender on the land previously, took a look at the rubbish. Something must have alerted him as he decided to show a piece of the old bedstead to a local archaeologist. I would love to have been there when that archaeologist saw what Mr. Chilvers had. I remember one of the experts in the BBC's Antiques Roadshow describing the moment when an old couple unrolled a piece of newspaper to reveal a priceless long lost painting. He had to walk away at one point as he was so overcome. He said it was the sort of moment an expert dreams about. This must have been the same. That pile of junk metal proved to be the most wonderful intricate gold Iron Age necklaces called Turks, the finest examples of the goldsmith's craft. The mass of twisted greenish wire tossed carelessly at the side of the road was gold alloy bracelets and

rings. Those old metal disks were Iron Age coins. At an inquest held on the find in Hunstanton Town Hall it was decided that the items had been concealed secretly with the intention of recovery. Thus it was declared Treasure Trove and became the property of the Crown. The finds did not end in 1948. In 1950, 1964, 1968 and 1973 more neck rings were brought to the surface. In 1989 fragments of more torques were found by a metal detectorist working on the land with permission. In 1990 a large hoard of 500 pieces of scrap gold, silver and bronze was found buried in a bronze vessel. Further investigation uncovered five more hoards. These were "nests" of gold, silver and bronze torques in shallow pits cut into the stone. There was tight security at Lynn Town Hall on 14th February 1991 when the inquest was held on the latest finds. Police were guarding every door, not allowing anyone in or out as 37 wooden boxes were carried in containing items valued at many millions of pounds. It was all once more declared Treasure Trove. A reporter at the time described the gold torcs as being as big as Shire horse shoes and thick as a woman's wrist.

They were amazing finds and we can now

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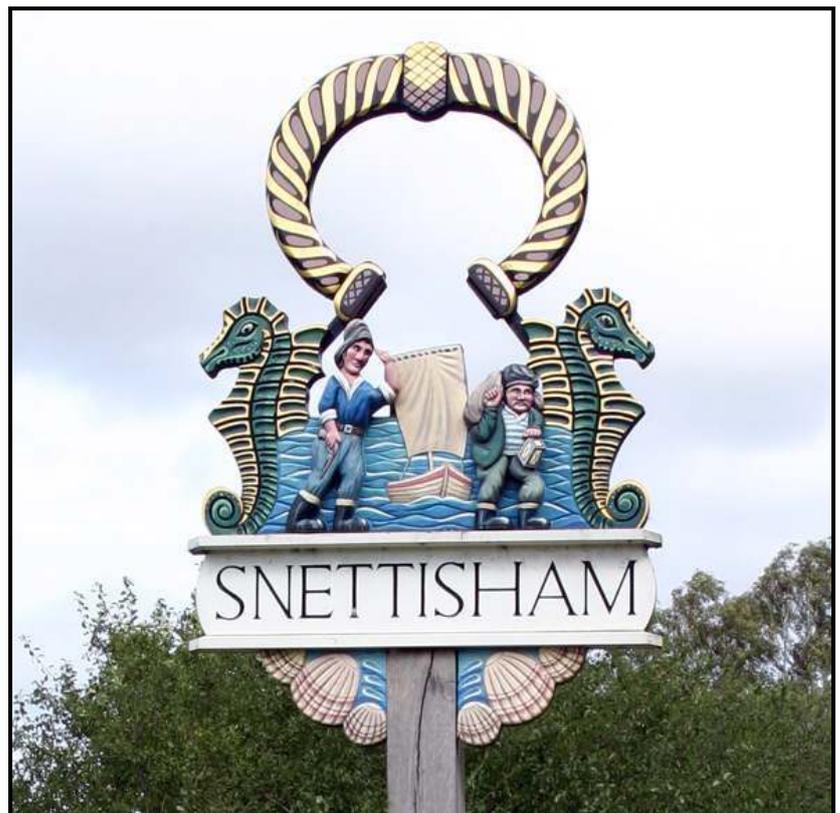
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see these beautiful objects, and admire the craftsmanship that went into the making of them. But the same questions arise whenever such hoards are found.

Why were they buried? Who buried them? Why oh why did they not return to reclaim such valuable objects?

The last discovery led to a full British Museum excavation but no trace of any buildings or pottery of the Iron Age was found. It seems the treasure was buried on an uninhabited windswept hilltop. Anyone familiar with the Time Team programmes will have watched as they uncovered evidence of Iron Age settlement. People then lived in round houses in scattered undefended farmsteads. They grew cereals, and kept cattle, sheep, pigs and horses. There were some hill forts in this area at Oldham, Wareham, South Creake and Yarborough. Our area of NW Norfolk lay within the arc of these larger forts and may have been a tribal centre. An ancient pre-historic track known as The Icknield Way runs through this whole area from Thetford, through Narford and on to the Wash near Hunstanton. It was later re-used as a road in the Roman period and a string of evenly spaced Villas has been located alongside it. The Peddars Way its more famous neighbour was probably constructed for military purposes. Coins and pottery have been found all around our area but no evidence of a large fort. Iron nails found by some of the pieces in the hoard suggest some items had been placed in shallow wooden boxes. Items were packed in groups according to size and all the evidence points to a careful and deliberate burial with the intention of recovery. One opinion seems to be that the hoards were ritual offerings to the Iron Age gods. But a more likely explanation is that it was all buried for protection. The dating for this is thought to be between 25BC and 10AD although how the material came to Norfolk can only be surmised. The hoard of 500 pieces of scrap metal found in the bronze urn could have been the property of an itinerant Smith, his working material as it were. Torcs however were worn as an insignia of rank and the sheer number found was overwhelming. This could mean they represent the property of many tribal nobles as well as the stock in trade of a smith. This was the area of the wealthy Iceni tribe although we do not know exactly where they set up their Kingdom. Tribes in S. Britain were continually at war and in North Essex the Trinovantes were under attack from the Catuvellauni who would eventually become the most powerful force in the area. They were poised at one time to attack the Iceni but the arrival of the Romans was to change everything. It is possible the Trinovantes fled from their homes to seek asylum among the Iceni. They chose a place close to the Wash Ferry in case further flight to the North became necessary. These refugees would have been chieftains or members of a Royal Dynasty or high priests attached to their court. They would have taken their treasure with them and after careful inspection buried it secretly on that bare windy hilltop we know as Ken Hill. There may have been some feature there then that would have marked the place for those in the know but we can only guess at the reasons why they never returned to recover their immense wealth. But there it lay under Norfolk soil, undisturbed while the world all around it changed. Centuries of conflict, and discovery passed over it until Mr. Williamson's plough bit into its hiding place in 1948. □





Greetings from the manse

“Twittering”, I think that’s how it is put, is part of the social networking revolution that is happening all around us. If I have correctly understood twittering then it’s a bit like “blogging”, but less structured and more random! None the wiser eh! It’s not something I go for exactly but as someone who claims to be on the spiritual side I like to think that I go in for something that is rather similar in some aspects. Twittering is a kind of outpouring of communication; words; thoughts; observations; feelings; emotions; much if not all that makes up the inner person.

For me there are distinct parallels with prayer and what we might call talking to God, a kind of divine twittering if you like. It is often the case that many folk I meet say their prayers from time to time, some that make their prayers at night under the covers or by their bed, but who don’t attend church or worship more formally. Instinctively we feel the need for the deep things within us to be expressed and heard. We speak about joys and sorrows, successes and failures, hurts and hopes and we call for help and strength and justice for ourselves, and more importantly for others and for the world in which we live.

However I think that prayerfulness has another dimension that leaves twittering behind. I think it’s essentially this, that prayerfulness is also about listening. The incredible volume of communication and outpouring in and through cyberspace is largely unconnected because very little if anything at all is ever read. Outpouring and expression in the spiritual life needs to be balanced with the discipline of silence and the attentiveness of listening. In so doing the soul can escape the self that is so small and afraid to find the love of God that liberates and empowers.

When I read the familiar stories and scenes of the New Testament I see that Jesus prayed much, said little and listened much. None before or after have connected so perfectly with God and Man and through his cross connecting God and Man, Man and God.

With every good wish and prayerful blessing, □

Kim Nally



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - WOMEN'S SECTION DERSINGHAM AND SANDRINGHAM BRANCH

Storms and heavy rain did not spoil our Strawberry Tea on 6th July. It should have been held in the garden of our President, Mrs. Betty Edey, however, not to be deterred we transferred everything into her conservatory - fortunately for us it was a large one. Betty had arranged tables with goods for sale, knitwear, homemade cakes and preserves, the revenue to go to the Royal British Legion.

We all had a lovely tea with Strawberries, Ice Cream and a delicious Cream Cake -naughty, but very nice. Many thanks to Betty for her hospitality and to her helpers for their efforts in making this a lovely afternoon.

NOTE FOR YOUR DIARIES

On 5th November, we will be holding a Coffee Morning at The Methodist Church Hall in Post Office Road, Dersingham between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. All proceeds will be for the Poppy Appeal, so please support us in this very worthy cause. □



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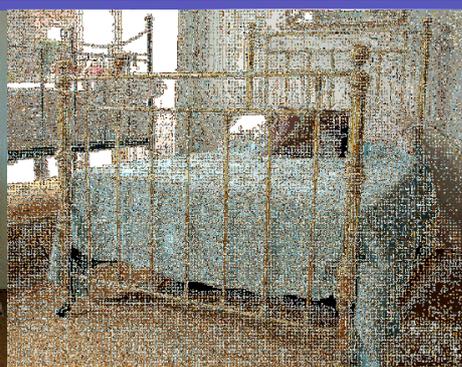
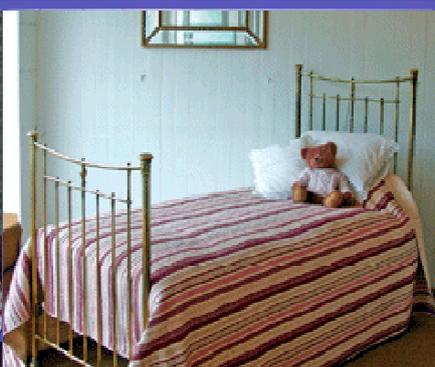


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News from St Cecilia's Catholic Church



The France Family entertains at the BBQ

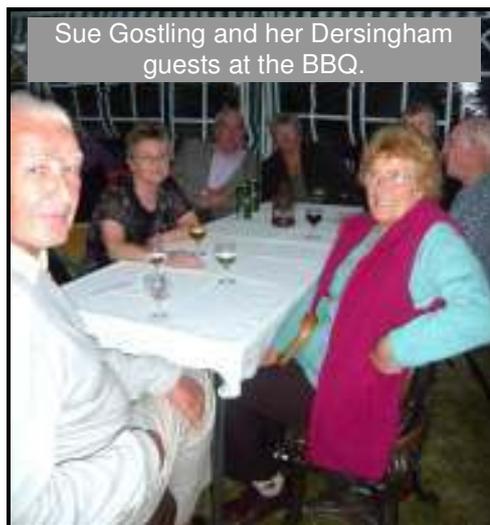
September is a busy month at St Cecilia's, but the Flower Arranging demonstration by Nick Grounds on the 8th and the Sponsored Walk on the 13th September do not take place until after this has gone to press, so reports of these events will have to wait for the next edition of Dersingham Village Voice.

The annual barbecue on 1st August took place at the Parish Centre in Hunstanton, despite the threat of rain. It raised £483.05 after expenses. Everyone had eaten well when the rain eventually arrived, and tucked cosily into the three adjoining marquees, the 90 or so parishioners enjoyed a happy evening with music provided by Terry

Finbow and a live performance on violins by the France Family.

Three children received their first Holy Communion on 23 August: Kirsty, Jonny and Ursula. They earlier went with Fr James to Walsingham where they celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) for the first time in preparation for the occasion.

The relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux are touring Britain and will be at the National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham on 6th and 7th October. There will be an all-night vigil and a torchlight procession. Look on our website nearer the time to get more details.



Sue Gostling and her Dersingham guests at the BBQ.

We are looking forward to the Harvest Supper at St Cecilia's on Saturday 10th October at 7pm. Fr James would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer to play a keyboard piano or the organ that night (tel: 01485-543818). One of the Organists at Hunstanton, Ken Barkham, comes to play for us on the first Sunday of the month, but we are still looking for a regular organist for Sunday Masses at 9am. Do you know anyone who could help us?

The Parish Ladies Autumn Shared Lunch at St Cecilia's is on Saturday 14th November at noon. We hope that once again ladies from St Nicholas and the Methodist Church in Dersingham and from other parishes will join us, bringing a plate of food to share. A representative from Tapping House Hospice will be updating us on the progress they have made there this year.

Fr James sends his best wishes to all his parishioners and the many guests who have been coming to both churches over the summer. The Saturday evening Masses at Hunstanton stopped at the end of August. Sunday Masses are at 9.00am at St Cecilia's in Dersingham and 11.00am at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and St Edmund in Hunstanton.



First Holy Communion candidates: Kirsty, Jonny and Ursula with Fr James



Sheltering from the rain, John Baird and another party from Dersingham.

David Bingham

Big spiders

I've always liked big spiders. A fascination that probably stemmed from a close encounter with a saucer sized 'bird-eating spider' when I was very young. Being given a giant poisonous spider to hold was one of the simple pleasures of childhood in days gone by. This innocent activity, along with playing with shiny beads of mercury, pulling apart slabs of soft asbestos and X-raying your own feet in the shoe shop, is denied to today's children. I also recall accidentally driving over a massive tarantula on a desert road in Utah. I felt guilty about this act of arachnicide and went back to have a look at the damage I had done, only to find the victim splayed out across the hot tarmac oozing a white gooey substance. I saw several others later in the day in Zion National Park, where the guidebook described tarantulas as 'relatively harmless' – but it didn't specify relative to what!



British spiders always seemed a bit too 'incy wincy' for my taste with one exception - the fen raft spider. These are Europe's largest spiders and are only found at three locations in this country – two in England and one in Wales. Our closest colony is at Redgrave and Lopham Fen, a Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve on the border between Norfolk and Suffolk. I had previously tried and failed to find fen raft spiders on this reserve but was recently inspired to have another go following a random conversation with a chap at a railway station. It turned out that he had just completed his PhD thesis on these spiders and in the three minutes I had before his train arrived, I managed to acquire enough knowledge to make another attempt seem worthwhile. A warm sunny summer day with light or no winds are apparently best for fen raft spider spotting according to the spider doctor and conditions seemed perfect the very

next day. Redgrave and Lopham Fen is easy to find. It is signposted off the Thetford to Diss road just before Bloom's Garden Centre. I was advised to look around the edges of small pools for hunting spiders or a foot or so up the stems of surrounding reed for the brood webs. The reserve staff have also helpfully named one of the numerous visitor trails the 'spider trail' so this seemed a useful clue. The reserve is well worth a visit, whether or not you want to see spiders. Redgrave and Lopham Fen is the largest surviving river valley fen in England. Covering 162 hectares, it is a very important wetland with an incredibly diverse selection of plants and animals. The water comes from springs that are the source of the River Waveney.

Half way around the spider trail a platform has been built at the edge of a small pool with an information board telling visitors all about the fen raft spider. This pool was spiderless when I visited and I must admit to wandering slightly off trail at this point to investigate some small pools that were clearly visible from the platform. They ranged from about the diameter of a children's garden paddling pool to kitchen sink sized. They also had small marker posts with numbered aluminium tags – clearly intended for use by research scientists. The pools were gin clear with attractive yellow flower heads of common bladderwort sticking out above the surface and were surrounded by bank of aquatic moss. It didn't take long to find the spiders. One small pool had two males sitting on broken reed stems with their front feet touching the water in order to feel the vibrations caused by struggling prey. They can take prey up to the size of sticklebacks but normally feed on invertebrates that have fallen into the water. They were very attractive (for spiders) with long velvety chocolate coloured bodies set off by two cream stripes along the outer edges. They weren't saucer sized but if you have a recipe requiring a dessert spoon full of spiders then a single fen raft spider should be enough to add the desired piquancy to your dish.

The visit was made all the more enjoyable on the return walk to the visitor centre by a

meeting with the main workforce of the reserve. The workers are not human they are equine. Konik ponies have been imported from Poland to act as living lawnmowers. Konik ponies are an ancient breed – pale grey/brown in colour with dark tails, lower legs and manes and a dark cross on their backs. They are believed to be closely related to the wild horses that roamed across Europe during the Neolithic. I have seen pictures of horses on the walls of caves in the Dordogne painted over 16,000 years ago and they did look very similar to Konik ponies. The Koniks appeared to be very well fed and were standing in the shade of a tree on some higher ground - swishing their tails to keep away the flies or rolling in the dust. They are native to the wetlands of Poland in habitats that closely resemble those found on the reserve.

Redgrave and Lopham Fen has big spiders to please the little boys, ponies to please the little girls, tea and cakes to please mum and admittance is free to please dad! Who could ask for anything more? □



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The next **Coffee Morning** is on Saturday 27th September 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon, when the Church will be decorated for Harvest. All proceeds for Mission Without Borders. The Harvest celebrations continue on Sunday at 10.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. We look forward to welcoming you to these celebrations.

We also have a **Coffee Morning** on Saturday 17th October 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon.

You are invited to '**LUNCH AT THE CHAPEL**' on the first Monday of each month at 12.15pm, commencing on Monday 5th October at Dersingham Methodist Church Post Office Road, £4.00 a head. No need to book just come along for food and fellowship. For further information ring Jane Clay - 01485 542241 or Jean Griggs 01485 543623. □

October/November events at Dersingham Library



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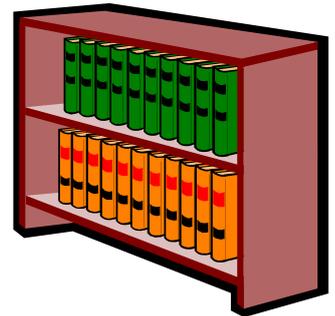
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Monday 19th October -
Reading Group at 6pm

Thursday 29th October - Spooky Storytime
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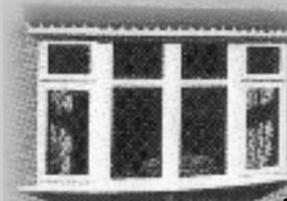
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The Grumpy Bit

Early retirement? - Tell me about it! What can you do? Well here is my experience. I am 75 years old, I retired in 1986 and moved to Norfolk from Greater London 22 years ago.

Golf... As a member of a Norfolk golf club for 23 years I still find it hard to be accepted by other members. It's "Hello Richard" one day and "You don't play with us Richard" or "You are not in our group Richard" the next day.

I have been fortunate enough to have played in a regular four-ball for several years - (I was asked to join them by somebody that I knew in Dersingham). Unfortunately one member died and the other two left the Club because of 'bad backs' and I was left on my own. Another member who joined us sometimes, played 'the wrong ball' in our game, denied it strongly and refused to play with me again! I now play only 'home' and 'away' club matches and occasionally a few holes on my own.

Bowls... There are outdoor bowls, indoor bowls and carpet bowls - I've tried them all over the years having many enjoyable games, but the appalling selfishness and bad behaviour of both home and away club members (and they don't realise it) has reduced me to one game a week now.

Metal-Detecting... Another of my hobbies from 1972. Detecting on four farms has given me much pleasure except that - Farm One - is now used solely by American visitors who pay for the privilege. Farm Two - is now leased to another landowner who is a "No Detecting type". Farm Three - Permission very restricted now "To protect the birds!!" after items were stolen by detectorists at a Rally on his land. Farm Four.- Sole permission given to me by a friendly farmer. After three years of detecting there I have given him one display case of Artefacts found by me and another case containing only Coins dating from Roman to present day that I have also found. These were all single finds and have no "Treasure" implications.



Clay Pigeon Shooting...I am now pleased to be able to spend my week-ends at this sport although with reasonable scores I will never be a "Top Gun".

Fire-arms Shooting...This I followed from my early teens until certain events led to the confiscation of our weapons. Somebody always spoils things for other people don't they?

Finally, on a different track - Why are we now only offered 'green' celery nowadays instead of the lovely white celery that we had years ago? And similarly - Why is there only one inch or so of eatable white on a spring onion stem instead of the lovely all white ones we had when I was younger? It costs 64p for 8 spring onions and each has one inch or so of white head which works out at 8p per inch!! Thank goodness we still get radishes and tomatoes which are all red !!

As I was born under the Sign of Aries the Ram I may not be the most likeable person or the easiest to get on with - I do like to call a Spade a Spade!!! □

Don't bottle it up! If something gets your goat write it down and send it in, you might feel a lot better. Anonymity guaranteed. Ed



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New Kid on the Block's Patch

by Mini Me

Sat: I tried to find that garden again where the Gardenwatcher was at home. No luck.

Sun: No luck today either in finding that garden. Researched neighbour's garden instead and found a butterfly. Pretty little things.

Mon: Investigated my next door neighbour's garden further and caught a rabbit. Took it home – bursting of proud ness – and what did I get? A door shut in my cute little face, picked up by my neck, the rabbit taken off of me and I was put indoors. I saw the rabbit legging it back into the garden next door. Was not allowed back outdoors for the rest of the day. Sulk.

Tue: Just got back from the vet. Apparently my sister and I had to get de-wormed. Tzz, me and getting de-wormed. I do not have worms, full stop. I showed them though – grins – my 2-legged friend and one nurse had to pin me down whilst the 2nd nurse pushed that awful orange thing down my throat. My sister, that wuzz, just sat there and let it happen. Didn't talk to anybody for the rest of the day.

Wed: Sunny. Went back into neighbour's garden to check on that rabbit. Found it, chased it, caught it and dragged it back into my garden. Careful watching the 2-legged ones out of the corner of my eye, but they spotted me – bugger – tried to climb the tree with the bunny so they wont catch me, but either the tree has grown over night or the bunny was too wiggly or to big or all of it – anyway, it slipped out of my mouth, run off AGAIN and I was trapped half way up that tree. How embarrassing is that?

Thu: Nice sunny day again. A knock on the door. Somebody called "Parents in law" turned up. Hm, not sure what those 2 have done wrong that they need the law with them. They look ok to me.

A bit very white on the top, but ok.



Fri: Dersingham Village Voice got delivered. AND MY PIECE IS IN IT ON PAGE 5. With a picture of me on the side. Am I a clever kitten or what? And here I read that the Gardenwatcher is not there anymore. I feel sad, thought I may get a new friend. Mind you, calling me a "wimpy tabby" is not very nice. After all, I caught a gargantuan rabbit! Twice!!!

Sat: Tried to play with my sister, but she is sooo boring. She just hissed at me and walked off. But I followed hoping to change her mind. But what did she do? She went 2 gardens down the road up the monkey puzzle tree, well knowing I will not follow her there. Stupid C A T. Look at her.

Sun: Raining. Grrr. Would like to check on that rabbit again – 3rd time lucky - but I hate getting my feet wet. Had a wash instead and stayed in bed aaaalllll day. □

"Read what the big sister has to say in our next issue."
Ed.

The Garden Farmer - Dig for the future

Despite all the rain we had in July, I would say that it's been a good growing summer. Looking around allotments and gardens in Dersingham and Snettisham I have seen plenty of lush and healthy crops. One of the biggest problems this year seems to be caterpillars on the brassica crops; cabbages, cauliflowers, kale and the like. Even people who have netted their plants well are finding that the butterflies are getting in. In my own garden I use a net with mesh size of only 5mm, which they can't get through, but somehow they still manage to find a way in. As an organic grower, I choose not to spray to kill the caterpillars and have been carefully inspecting every leaf and picking the blighters off individually. If the damage has not gone too far I find that doing this two or three times over a week will get on top of the problem. I have been lucky to stop the damage getting out of hand but some I know have come back from summer holidays only to find their Brussels sprouts reduced to ghastly skeletons of what they had before.

I would encourage people to make their gardens as wildlife friendly as possible, this benefits the natural predators of the pests that have been causing so much trouble this year. A fish-free pond with dense planting of pond weeds, lilies and marginal plants will be ideal for frogs and toads which will go after your slugs, snails and flies, and will host a wide range of beneficial insects.

Providing nesting boxes and feed stations for the birds is an excellent idea. A family of blue tits or wrens with up to a dozen chicks will eat thousands of caterpillars and aphids. Blackbirds and thrushes will go for the larger pests such as slugs, snails and leatherjackets.



There are many helpful insects, bugs and beetles which will feed on your pests. Beetles live in the soil and will eat aphids, caterpillars, slug eggs and also eggs of cabbage and carrot root flies. They prefer undisturbed ground and do well in beds that are regularly mulched and rarely dug. I have seen many ladybirds in gardens this year, these consume huge numbers of aphids. A patch of nettles will help them build up numbers early in the year as they like to feed on nettle aphids; the adults over-winter in walls, under stones, in dead vegetation or under bark and these places should be left undisturbed. Hover-flies are easy to attract to the garden by planting flowers around

your crops, they eat aphids and are very useful for pollinating crops. I have hung a bundle of dry broad bean stems in fruit trees and in my polytunnel, these make an excellent habitat for hoverflies.

Wildlife fares best in a garden that is not too tidy, or at least where there are areas that remain undisturbed by the tidy gardener; where there are places to hide and a good range of habitats. If you can't bear to leave the garden untidy, making habitats is not difficult; as simple as a pile of logs or stones, or an "insect hotel" with a range of different materials for different animals to live in.

Now that the Autumn is upon us we can start to relax a little, most of the hard work is now done and we can enjoy the fruits of our labours. There is of course still some work to be done. This month I shall be sowing the over-winter broad beans, onion sets and garlic. The best garlic is usually from the autumn planting and beans and onions set at this time of year should yield a crop a month or so earlier than spring sown varieties. □



Bryan Beers - The Garden Farmer

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Steve Davis

...and Finally!

I am writing this on August Bank Holiday Monday rather wearily, having just got back from a very pleasant roundabout walk from Dersingham to see this years Scarecrows at Wolferton. Did you go? It was great fun and you may like to view my pictures at picasaweb.google.co.uk/ukuleleboy/ScarecrowsAtWolferton2009 and even compare them

against ones taken two years ago at picasaweb.google.co.uk/ukuleleboy/ScarecrowsAtWolferton2007. As with the previous event we had to record letters from cards attached to the scarecrows on the way round and at the end rearrange them to try and make a well known saying. So my wife and I joined groups of fellow brain racked punters sprawled around on the grass at the end trying to rearrange the letters ALUTESIHENGTMDIIEHT ERCSEB with the given clue "Not available over the counter at the chemist", inwardly groaning as another smug-faced individual nonchalantly posted their solution into the box! Sorry, perhaps you were one of them! Actually, I was too last year but not so this time even after, I confess, employing the phone-a-friend approach by sending a text of the jumbled letters and clue to our son who is pretty good at these things, but who soon sent a reply saying that "it was too hard!" So tired and defeated we trekked back off home via the Dersingham Bog. It was as we were well on our way back pleasantly enjoying watching a pair of Stonechats making their characteristic two stones being knocked together sound that our son sent his second text saying that he had had a sudden flash of



inspiration and come up with the solution! It makes you sick! (All will be revealed at the end!)



For my wife and me, walking is really one of the great highlights of living in these parts. Straight from our door we have the choice of heading north through Life Woods and along the old railway line, or south to Dersingham Common or Sandringham, west to the Snettisham RSPB reserve or east up Fern Hill and the back and beyond. We can certainly recommend the *Short Strolls In and Around Dersingham* that our neighbour Keith Starks publishes regularly in *Village Voice* especially after having spotted a White Admiral butterfly along the old railway track whilst checking out his walk detailed in the last issue. Then we join the Dersingham Walking Group for local four to five mile walks, mostly on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month, again as advertised in *Village Voice*. We also spent a very enjoyable morning on the advertised conducted walking tour of the Dersingham Fen and Commons on 8th August, gaining insight from the Trustees of the flora, fauna and their management. I was pleased too to be able to identify the bog myrtle that David Bingham had sung the praises of in his last *Village Voice* article and even more chuffed when, after returning to the Fen at dusk, following a tip-off from one member of the group, to see a pair of nightjars flitting around. (We knew they were around at Dersingham Bog but not the Fen that is much closer!) For those who wish to go further afield there is of course the King's Lynn Ramblers group, though for the present we have not quite managed to find the time to add them to our ever-increasing portfolio of memberships!

North Norfolk is blessed with an abundance of unspoiled coastline and I have enjoyed walks along this at different times of the year, some in conjunction with the useful Coast Hopper Bus Service to help out between strategic points. Following a recent few days spent camping at Side Strand, just beyond Cromer, I can now claim to have walked (at various stages over recent years) all of our coastline from Wolferton around as far as Mundesley, and very varied it is too. I

often hanker after doing it all again in one expedition whilst I am still able and hopefully will do someday soon. For those who just want a gentle local walk with others to talk to on the way, we hope to resume our Sunday afternoon *St Nicholas Parish Plodders* strolls invariably starting from the Church Hall. (Do contact us on 543138 if you are interested). When you are not actually engaged in doing it for real, or want some inspiration, then sit back for some arm chair walking with a simple *Google* search on *walking in Norfolk* and enjoy the exploits of others! (Photos of a walk from Cromer to Hunstanton that I did over three days with a friend can be viewed at picasaweb.google.co.uk/ukuleleboy/CromertoHunstanton).

By the time this is published we will be settling into Autumn and Harvest Festivals, and the first of the Pink-Footed Geese should be arriving, and somehow, whatever else is happening throughout the world I feel very privileged and reassured when I see the first skeins of the season winging overhead. Last year saw record numbers, and making the effort to brave the cold early morning, half-an-hour before sunrise to watch them take off from the mudflats at Snettisham (a week either side of the new moon), is simply awe-inspiring. If you would like to do this in the company of others then the dates for the led walks by the RSPB can be found at www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/s/snettisham/events.asp . These are



followed by an optional cooked breakfast to consolidate the experience, this year at the Poppyfields Garden Centre. Last December's issue of *Bird Watching* magazine published a list of the *10 Greatest British Birding Spectacles* and two of them were right here! One being the "Pinkies" taking off, and the other the tremendous swirling flocks of waders that are displaced from the Wash mudflats when they are covered by particularly high-tides. Again details of this and led walks to see them can be found on the RSPB website.

Thinking about websites leads me back to our own website dersingham.org.uk which I have started making adjustments to and hope to increase throughout the winter months. I hope to link in with RSPB and other local organisation events and there really is much scope for things to be included (under the guiding hand of the Parish Council Communications Committee of course), so do keep your ideas coming to me. Interestingly, I heard from someone at the RSPB that they are cutting back on some of their paper publications of events in favour of web-based publication, which seems to attract far more custom and interest. Now I know that increasingly, nothing compares with the joy of receiving a paper-based copy of our own *Village Voice* magazine through the door, but nevertheless do try and visit our Village Website regularly (or get someone you know with a computer to show you) and hopefully you will see it develop too. Incidentally (.pdf) copies of all *Village Voice* issues over the past year can be downloaded from the website and the most recent contain even more of the photos in colour than the printed version.

Right, it is time for me to finish and get on with planning my Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride Route on 12th September. By the time you read this, it will have passed and I will have posted pictures on picasaweb.google.co.uk/ukuleleboy/NorfolkChurchesCycleRide2009 . Before I finish though, just in case you have not already worked it out, as promised I had better give you the solution to the Scarecrows' well-known jumbled phrase that cannot be bought over the counter at a chemist. It is simply "Laughter is the best medicine." Well of course, I knew that all along! Nice one Wolferton! □

Email: steve@davista.co.uk or visit: www.davista.co.uk, picasaweb.google.com/ukuleleboy and www.youtube.com/bovrilman



Village Voice publication dates

We love getting your reports of events and meetings, advertisements and advance details of forthcoming attractions. To make sure you hit your targets please note the publication dates of this magazine:-

No	Copy deadline	Publication date
Issue 61	Wednesday 4th Nov 2009	Thursday 26th Nov
Issue 62	Wednesday 6th Jan 2010	Thursday 28th Jan
Issue 63	Wednesday 3rd March 2010	Thursday 25th March

The earlier you get your copy to us the more we like it and the better position it gets.

DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Every Monday	2.00 pm	St. Cecilia's Church	Rosary Group	St. Cecilia's Church
Every Monday	2.00pm or 7.30pm	Freebridge Community Housing	Bingo	Orchard Close
Every Monday	6.30 - 8.00	Dersingham Cubs	Meeting for boys age 8 - 10 1/2	Scout & Guide HQ Manor road
1st Monday of Month	12.15 pm	Methodist Church	Lunch at the Chapel	Methodist Church, PO Rd
3rd Monday of month	6 pm	Dersingham Library	Dersingham Reading Group	Library
Every Mon, Tues, Thur & Fri	9.00 to 11.30 am	Dersingham Playgroup	Playgroup Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Monday in Term Time	12.45 to 2.15 pm	Sticking Together	Toddler Craft Group Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Last Monday in the Month	7.15 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Council Meeting	Infant and Nursery School, Saxon Way
Every Tuesday	5.30 to 7 pm	2nd Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7 - 10 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Tuesday	7 pm	Dersingham Bridge Club	Bridge Evening	The Feathers Hotel
Every Tuesday in Term Time	8.30 to 11.15 am	St Nicholas Parent & Toddler Group	Parent & Toddler Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Tuesday	8 pm	Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes	Sandringham Lodge Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
1st or 2nd Monday in the Month	2.15 pm	Royal British Legion Women's Section	Dersingham & Sandringham Branch Meeting	Orchard Close Community Room
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Village Voice 'Live'	Presentations by Guest Speakers	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Art Club	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
2nd Tuesday in Month	7.30 pm	Royal British Legion	Branch Meeting	Feathers Hotel
Every Wednesday	10.00 am to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly	Recreation & Leisure and Mid-day Meal	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road

Every Wednesday	10.30 to 11.30am	Music+Movement	Pre-school Music, Dance & Drama	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Wednesday	2.00 to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Carpet Bowls	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Wednesday	6.00 to 7.15 pm	Beavers	Meeting for children aged 6 - 8	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every 2nd Weds of the Month	10.30 am	St Nicholas Men's Group	Men's Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every 2nd Weds of the month		Dersingham Walking Group	Circular walk	See programme for details or contact Keith Starks 542268
Every 2nd Weds of the Month Sept to April	7.30 pm	Albert Victor Bowls Club	Prize Bingo	Albert Victor Bowls Club, Manor Road
3rd Wednesday of the Month	7.15 to 10.00 pm	Dersingham Evening Women's Institute	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
Every Thursday	10.3 am to 3.00 pm	North West Norfolk Phobbies Club	Meeting	St. Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thursday	4.00 to 5.15 pm	1st Dersingham Rainbow Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 5-7 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Thursday	5.30 to 7.00 pm	1st Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7-10 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 8.30 pm	1st Sandringham Guides	Unit Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre,, Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.00 pm	1st Dersingham Scouts	Group Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.30 pm	Norfolk Army Cadet Force	Sandringham Detachment Meeting	The Drill Hall, Dodds Hill
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Badminton Club	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thurs Sept -June	2 pm	Park House Hotel	Rubber Bridge	Park House Hotel
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	Hunstanton and District Camera Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Thursday of Month		Dersingham Flower Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
2nd Thursday of Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Horticultural Society	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
3rd Thursday of the Month	9.30 to 10.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church Jigsaw Club	Meeting	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Friday	9.45 am	Freebridge Community Housing	Coffee Morning	Orchard Close
Every Friday in Term Time	9.15 to 10.45	Puddleducks Toddler Group	Toddler Group meeting	Dersingham Community Centre,, Manor Road
Every Friday	6.30 to 8 pm	1st Dersingham Guide Unit	Unit Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ
Every Friday	6.45 to 9.15 pm	Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club	Club Meeting	St George's Middle School
Alternate Fridays	2.15 to 4.30 pm	Dersingham Seniors Club	Entertainment and Outings for the over-60s	St Cecilians Church
1st Friday of month	10.00 am to 12 noon	St Nicholas Church	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas Church Hall

Advertising in Village Voice

The Editorial Team would like to thank all of those who so generously support our magazine by placing advertisements in it, for without the income so generated there would be a possibility of the publication ceasing to exist. With this in mind it would be helpful if you were to support those who do advertise, and to then let them know that you used their services because you saw their promotion in our magazine. For those readers who perhaps provide a local service but who do not currently advertise with us, you may consider a fee of from £12.50 for an eighth of a page black and white or £17.50 for colour per issue, to be very cost effective.

Advertisements for inclusion in the next magazine should be in the hands of Anita Moore, Dersingham Parish Council, 7b Hunstanton Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HH by **Wednesday 4th November 2009** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465. E-mail — villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

Articles for publication in the August edition of Village Voice must reach The Editor c/o Dersingham Parish Council, 7b Hunstanton Road, Dersingham PE31 6HH or e-mail; villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 4th November 2009 for publication on Thursday 26th 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.

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

It must be pointed out that the editor encourages contributions but reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Any contributions received will be accepted on the understanding that, unless a specific request is made that names, addresses, etc are not used, these may be included in the publication and may be maintained on the Parish Council's database. Due to limitations on space it is possible that some items received may not be published, or may be held for publication at a later date. Contributors should also be aware that published material might appear on the Parish Council's Internet web site. The editor does not necessarily agree with opinions that are expressed, or the accuracy of statements made, by contributors to the Village Voice.

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

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

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

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LANDLORDS

Are you paying too much for your property management service?

Are you being offered the best service available?
Is your management agent listening to you and your requirements?

Are your tenants being vetted correctly?

For a comprehensive management service with no hidden fees or extra charges, contact us for a free appraisal.

TENANTS

Thinking about relocating?

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www.norfolklets.com

or Telephone: 01485 544740

Some of the areas we cover:

King's Lynn * Downham Market * Pentney * Wisbech * Dersingham
Ingoldisthorpe * Snettisham * Heacham * Hunstanton * Docking
Terrington St Clement

£6 a minute!



On Saturday 11th July the 2nd Dersingham Brownies & Friends ran a very successful Coffee Morning for one of their members, Phoebe Ward. Phoebe, who is 7, has cerebral palsy and the Coffee morning was to raise money to aid in the purchase of a snap-dragon wheelchair for her. Phoebe would be able to operate the wheelchair herself via her head giving her a greater measure of independence, but it would also stand her up and set her to any height. Unfortunately, it costs £25,000, but a charity has pledged 80%, if her family can raise the remainder.

Her fellow Brownies wished to help, so a Coffee Morning was arranged, for which the Brownies made a variety of sweets to sell. There was also a cake stall, tombola, raffle and toy/gift stall. Particular thanks must be given to Catherine Oakes (Brownie Mum) and her family who produced colourful posters, contacted local businesses for contributions and collected donations.

The Brownies and Phoebe's family wish to thank everyone who came and supported the Coffee Morning, which was always busy and a great success. It was so successful that a cheque was presented by the Brownies to Phoebe at their next meeting for £800 - virtually £6 a minute!

Anyone who would like any further information or would like to make a donation should contact Phoebe's Mum, Victoria Ward, on 01485 544739. □

Lynn Wheeler

Swine Flu

the panic spreads!





Hunstanton & District Lions Club

Our raffle for the pair of Bottecchia 803 Ladies & Mens bicycles is now over. All 2000 tickets have been sold and by the time you read this Newsletter the draw will have taken place. The name of the lucky winner will be published in the December edition of "Village Voice". Thank you for supporting this raffle. It gave us in excess of £1000.00 for our Charity funds.

We also thank Messes "Fat Birds" for supplying and servicing these super bikes. Watch out for our next exciting raffle.

August saw our "Bowls Weekend" at Old Hunstanton Social Club. There was a Pairs Tournament on the Saturday and a "Triples" on the Sunday. What a change from last year when it was cold and wet. This year the sun blazed down on us all weekend. Luckily the Club had brought in some extra real ales which were greatly appreciated. Thank you all for supporting this event which we hope will now be held annually. The winners of the Pairs were Rod Foster and Jean Neighbour, and the Triples was Lee Drivers team with Lee, Neil Kenny and Peter Dennis. Runners-up were Dave Ruddle, John Pesci and Glen Pooley. Congratulations to all of you. We also have to thank three small girls who unbeknown to us organised painting the finger nails of visitors, and at the end of the Sunday they gave us their proceeds which was well over Ten Pounds. Thank you very much Tanika, Jasmine and Hayley.

Our Car Boot Sales have been very successful this year, being the first year we have held them at the Glebe School. We will let you know next years dates in the April edition, and we thank the Glebe for allowing us to use their facilities.

On Saturday September 12th we held a "Race Night" in conjunction with the local "Naval Association" which helped them to raise much needed funds for their group. On Friday November 20th we will be out and about collecting for the "Children in Need" day. Look out for us and please give generously to this very worthy cause. All we collect on this night goes directly to "Children in Need".

The winners of our "200 Club" in July were P. Sutton, Mrs.M. Sarsby, Val Rybak and J. & P.D. Harrod, and in August were V.Duggard, A.R. Hannay, Mrs. P. Burville and Richard Bird. Finally an early reminder that we are again holding our "Christmas Grotto" and "Craft Fair" in Hunstanton Town Hall, and full details will be in the December issue. However if you would like to book a stall at the Craft Fair please call Ian on 01485 533108 during the day.

Lions Clubs International is the worlds' largest service club organisation with 1.3 million members in 45000 clubs in 205 countries and geographic areas. Founded in 1917 we are people who volunteer our time for good causes. Remember our motto is "We Serve", so as ever if you think you know of somebody or organisation who we may be able to help, please let us know. □

Peter Mills

EXHIBITION OF PORTRAITS

Dersingham photographer Jo Halpin Jones is holding an exhibition with two fellows artists: Barbara King, a painter; and Kay Manning, a sculptress. They all have a love of creating portraits and are coming together to show how each artform can capture the essence of a person. If you might be interested in commissioning a portrait, the artists will be available for discussion. Otherwise just come and enjoy the exhibition. Prints, cards and calendars also for sale.

The exhibition will be at "The Stables", the Gin Trap Inn, Ringstead, from Saturday 24th October to Sunday 1st November, open daily from 10am to 4pm. Further information from Jo on 01485 541790.

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday October 6th

**What does an
Air Traffic
Controller
do?**



PATIENCE SKELTON

**FROM NORWICH AIRPORT
DESCRIBES HER WORK
AND HOW SHE CAME TO BE
AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER**

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £2.00 including refreshments. Raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

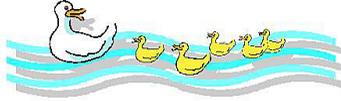
Tuesday November 3rd

**ROAD TRANSPORT
FROM A
BYGONE ERA**
An illustrated talk by
DERRICK SMITH



St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £2.00 including refreshments. Raffle

PUDDLEDUCKS



TODDLER GROUP

Chairpersons report.

Schools out for summer.

We're all going on a summer holiday. Having nice time. Weather is lovely. Wish you were here.

Today's the day.

Sandringham 31st July and all the teddy bears were out for their picnic in the woods.

They had each a red check rug to sit on and a wicker basket for their biscuits and drinks, and teddy bear shaped gingerbread men. We had a little sticking craft of making your own picture jam pot with label and red gingham lid. Plus there was a good selection of teddy bear story books. Raffle prizes, were a Tin cooking playset and a Welcome to my garden plaque, the main prize a Cream tea for two donated by Thaxters and won by Kath.

Letting off steam.

Back into the hall for the 7th Aug. Business as usual at rooms where the puddleducks meet up usually in term time. We had out most of the bigger toys to cater for the older siblings invited to join in their younger brother or sister's fun at the group. It was quite a noisy morning but it was enjoyed by all and lots of energy was used up!

Beach ball antics at the park. 14th August

It was real great fun, and a lovely seaside feel, we had the wind breaks up and that really set the feel of a camp just like your fun day at the beach would be. We had some giant blow up chunky chairs to roll about in and a blow up ball pit that the kiddies had great fun playing in. There was also a sand pit and bucket and spade for sand castle building. Plus craft of a seaside postcard was available to make, and there were lots of seaside story books to choose from. Biscuits and juice available for all. Raffle prizes, a family tickets donated by Hunstanton Sea life Centre which was won by Paul's family, a crocodile sand scoop won by Nathan, and a flower windmill won by Paul.

It's my bat and it's my ball.

Home to the hall again for this week 21st Aug. Had a nice time this morning lots for the older siblings to do, decorating a bat for bat & ball on a string, plus making some great animal masks, also there was an air hockey table for tournaments between them.

The younger ones also enjoyed making the masks and all the stickers for the decorating the bat and ball, plus they had a good time playing with everything set up in the hall, and the playtown set on the activity table.

Sports day fun thing.28th August

Sunny morning but quite a breeze. We set the scene with some bunting hung across from poles, and set up the different activities for the morning. There were lots of winners at all events races, prizes all round for everyone (a treat size sweetie). Milli won the first heat of the hop, skip & jump race, with George close second. The welly wanging was a very popular event. Katie & her grandparents won the shot put but there was some good competition up against them.

The most popular was the long jump after a slow beginning and bit of persuasion for this event all were very keen then to beat the last jump, judges marked out each jump with their special tape measure and out of a best of three Nicole was the out right winner.

Refreshment all round with a choice biscuits plus orange or blackcurrant drink.

Last race, a dressing up race was great fun, won by Jake in the fireman outfit with hat and fire engine to the winning post, followed second by Milli in Snow white with high heels and handbag, Nicole third place as Cinderella.

Raffle prizes this time were a really nice play tents with connecting tunnel won by Vicki, a fluffy toy giraffe won by Paul, also Sophie won a voucher donated by Time Out for an eye brow treatment.

The clouds held off until we had finished packing away.

Great time had by all, thank you all for supporting the summer events, we had lovely holiday time with lots organised for us to do. The raffle fund raising was fun too and everyone seem to win just the prize they'd had their eye on.

Back to School.

Meeting back at the hall for the 11th Sept. Settling back in we will have lots for all the baby toddlers to explore on the carpet area, plus sit and rides for the more mobile toddlers, also the activity table to look forward to, the craft will be making a name label for your coat hook.

Plus in the afternoon of this day we have a photographer coming to do all your family photos ready for sending off at Christmas.

Organised events coming up are a visit on the 25th Sept a qualified trained 'Montessori teacher'.

Montessori is a unique teaching technique promoting children's own senses that encourages their own development and learning skills.

On the 23rd Oct. We have our own local fireman coming to the hall to visit and then we can all take the short walk up the hill behind the hall for a look around the fire station.

Also in Oct there will be a Bingo evening for fund raising for Christmas party.

We would like to thank all the local businesses that donated prizes for our fund raising.

Chair person Ruth Butler. ruebutphiller@googlemail.com

Secretary Karen Bushell karen.bushell39@btinternet.com

What the lifeboat has been up to

Saturday 25th July

Yarmouth Coastguard requested the launch of the Hunstanton Lifeboat in response to a 999 report of a balloon with a basket coming down in the wash off Old Hunstanton. Other reports from the Lincolnshire coast were reported to the Coastguard of red flares being sighted in the general direction of Hunstanton. Our Lifeboat carried out a search from Hunstanton down towards Kings Lynn. The local Coastguard team also searched the area. After one hour of searching nothing was found. It was believed to have been a false alarm with good intent, and the flare reports were most likely to have been fireworks. A local Hotel had had a display using, amongst others, one that was described as a Chinese lantern and could have been mistaken for a balloon.

Saturday 31st July At 3.16pm, in response to a 999 report of an inflatable dinghy drifting out to sea about ¾ mile off old Hunstanton, Yarmouth Coastguard requested the launch of Hunstanton Lifeboat. Nine minutes later, at 3.25pm, our Lifeboat was launched. On arrival at the scene it was established that the inflatable was a blow up dolphin with no persons with it. After consultation with the local Coastguard team, and the informant, it was agreed that it was a false alarm with good intent and our Lifeboat was stood down and returned to the Boathouse.

Thursday 6th August At 4.15pm Yarmouth Coastguard requested the launch of both our Lifeboat and Hovercraft, together with the all weather Lifeboat from Skegness, in response to a MAYDAY call from the yacht Antigua sinking in the Freeman Channel. The Skipper of the Antigua was taken on board the vessel Conservancy, but in the process the hull of the Conservancy was damaged. The Antigua sank and the Conservancy was taking in water. On arrival at the scene our Hovercraft transferred a portable pump to the Conservancy whilst our Lifeboat took the Skipper of the Antigua on board. Our Lifeboat then stood by until the Skegness Lifeboat arrived. Antigua's Skipper was then transferred to the Skegness Lifeboat and both our Lifeboat and the Skegness Lifeboat escorted the Conservancy up to Fosdyke.

Friday 14th August – 2050 hrs (8.50pm) Yarmouth Coastguard (CG) requested the launch of our Lifeboat in response to a report of a cabin cruiser having fouled his prop in the Freeman Channel and in need of assistance with two persons on board. The casualty's only means of communication was by mobile phone. He was not sure of his exact position, and the Coastguard was not able to DF him as he did not have VHF radio. This resulted in a prolonged search of a large area hampered by shallow water. Boston pilot cutter also assisted using his radar to sweep the search area. Yarmouth Coastguard requested the assistance of a Rescue Helicopter which arrived on the scene at 0030 hrs and located the casualty at 0105 hrs some distance from the search area and relayed the position to our Lifeboat which went alongside the vessel. The Rescue Helicopter stood by until our Lifeboat made good the tow and started towing the casualty to Boston. The Rescue Helicopter was then stood down. Our Lifeboat finally moored the casualty up in Boston at 0400 hrs and commenced the return to our Boathouse. Meanwhile our shore crew prepared our Hovercraft and made it ready to ferry fuel out to the Lifeboat if required. At 0415 hrs crew member Ian Devenny reported that they were low on fuel. Our Hovercraft was launched at 0425 hrs to rendezvous with our Lifeboat with further supplies of fuel to enable a safe return to the Boathouse. Our Lifeboat had been at sea some seven hours including a 14 mile tow against the tide towing the 28 ft. cabin cruiser.

Sunday 23rd August At 0850hrs Yarmouth Coastguard requested the launch of our Lifeboat in response to a MAYDAY call from a Kayak needing assistance while crossing the Wash. Our Lifeboat arrived on the scene at 0920hrs and reported that they had the casualty on board. Two Kayaks were involved and one person was experiencing acute seasickness due to the rougher conditions in the centre of Wash. Both were fully equipped for their journey: having proper suits, life jackets, flares and VHF radio thus making their rescue very quick and positive. Both persons - who were exceedingly grateful to our crew - were brought back to Hunstanton Boathouse and given a warm drink. There is a clear message demonstrated in this incident. If you go to sea properly equipped it helps us to help you.