

Number 71

August 2011

Dersingham Village Voice



©Mike Langman (RSPB Images)

David Bingham seeks the Golden Oriole

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Editor's Notes

Welcome to the August Village Voice. Just one week before the deadline my computer died and with it this magazine, but some sterling work by Rural Computing (they used to be Positive Computing) saved the day (and this rag) so we are back in business.

I was wondering the other day if many of the village properties had cellars. With our sandy soil and high water table (sometimes), it is quite possible that they are scarce. Indeed I know of only one, under Hill House Farm, at the top of Sugar Lane. I mean proper cellars of course, not just a void under the house created by it's being built on sloping ground. If you have one or know of one do let me know.

Whilst on the subject of information required, are there any railway buffs out there that know the history of the goods wagon in the field on Sandringham Road?

We are now starting work on the next Dersingham Data. Please look at the entries for any thing that you belong to, go to or just know about and get any corrections in to the office by August 25th. If there is something new to add please tell and also send in any pictures you may have of relevance. If you would like to advertise the same deadline applies.

Whilst on the subject of pictures, we are always pleased to have them with your submissions for V V but sometimes they are not too great. Do please ask for a photographer to come to your event, we have several on the team and we will be happy to do so - it's quite free!

Village Voice is looking for some help, unpaid help. We need someone (a volunteer) to visit new and existing advertisers, gather the odd story and generally make themselves useful about the place. A knowledge of computers would be good as well as an enquiring mind. If you fit the bill please contact the office.

Contact a few goodies for you this time. Dick Murrell has written about his experiences when evacuated to Norfolk in wartime, there is news of a Land Rover rally to tempt you, one of Magwitch's thought provoking pieces is there, Steve Nowell is getting multi-dimensional as well as all the other regular articles that I hope you enjoy. Do let me know if there is something you might like to see in these pages - we aim to please and you may get lucky.

Just by way of whetting your appetites, the picture below is of Millicent Walden outside Reynold's shop. There will be much about the Waldens property next time but where was the shop?



Enough from me, you are probably anxious to get to the rest of this magazine so I won't detain you. Happy reading.

Tony Bubb

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Dear Village Voice

I am researching into the history of Potter's Barn in Centre Vale where William Potter established his smithy in 1887. William died in 1940 but throughout his working life the villagers frequently called upon him and his well tended carriages and ponies for transport to the station and many other destinations. If any one has any information or stories told to them about Mr.

Potter the blacksmith I would love to hear about them to add to the record. It would be a real bonus if there are any photographs of William and his carriages that I could copy for the records. I believe William's brother also lived here as people have told me they remember a Mr. Potter but at a later date. The barn has recently been beautifully restored and the finished article on its history will appear in due course. Please contact me on 01485 540940

Elizabeth Fiddick

I want to tell you we have a hero in our road, namely Mr. Don Blue of 30 Valley Rise, who ran the London Marathon in just over four hours. I first met him when he called for sponsorship and was pleased to do so. Just the other day he called with his lovely daughter to show us his medal. It was very heavy and lovely to look at. He still has, I believe, people to still pay him, so we hope they do so. So we hope you can find a place for him in Village Voice to acknowledge his success.

Jean and Eric Shelton



Charity Bike Ride

I started my 500 mile sponsored cycle ride on Friday 29th April, the Royal Wedding Day, I hoped it would be quiet on the roads as everyone would be glued to their 'tellies'. Apart from getting utterly lost in the 'Fens' where all the roads are 4 miles long and dead straight, I had a good day and managed to cycle 111 miles that day, which gave me a good start, 389 miles to go! The next day was a rest day, after that there were strong winds for 3 days, my next ride was to Norwich and back. I rode into the centre of Norwich and had my photo taken outside 'The Forum', then made my way back home by the same route.

The next day I only did 25 miles, must be feeling my age! More Wind!

On 9th May I decided to have a go at Cromer and back, I've tried it several times in the past but never quite succeeded, the hills on this route don't start until after Wells-next-to-Sea, you don't notice them when in a car! But I was determined. It was a hard day as there was head wind all the way home.

On 11th May I thought I would have a little ride to Castle Acre and back, all went well until 2 miles from Castle Acre. I was freewheeling down a small hill, when all of a sudden I heard a loud metallic crack, the chain had come off and was wrapped around my feet. I stopped and turned the bike upside down, while I pedalled with my hands it was fine, but as soon as I stopped pedalling the chain came off again. So there I was, 15 miles from home - stuck! I phoned my wife and asked her if she would come and pick me up - thank goodness for a big estate car. We took the cycle straight to 'Fat Birds' at Hunstanton to sort out, I was then 6 days without a bike plus a rather large bill to pay - THE JOYS OF CYCLING! It turned out to be cheaper to buy 2 new wheels.

I had 122 miles still to go to reach my 500 miles so I redid my ride to Castle Acre and finished off with a run to Downham Market and Nordelph.

The good news is the money I've raised for Alzheimers will be £1200 - £1300. So once again a big, big thank you to everyone who sponsored me. I think I will walk it next time!

John Lambert

There must be hundreds of bridge players who do not belong to a bridge club and therefore do not have the opportunity of witnessing how many outcomes there can be when the same hand is bid/played by different players. The following hands were dealt recently at the Hunstanton Bridge Club :

	N	
	S 4	
	H 10 0 8 4 3	
	D 10 5 4	
	C Q J 7 5	
W		E (dealer)
S A Q 10 8 6		S 7 5 2
H 2		H A K 7 5
D A Q 8		D 9 7 6 5 3
C 8 4 3 2		C 6
	S	
	S K J 9 3	
	H Q J 7	
	D K J	
	C A K 10 9	

The bidding went as follows:

	N	E	S	W	
		Pass	1C*	1S	(*playing a weak N T)
	Pass	2S	Pass	Pass	

At 2 tables with West playing in Spades 9or 10 tricks were made.
 At 2 other tables South bid Spades first (no support from partner) went 4 off and 5 off vulnerable!
 At 1 table South bid 2NT and went 2 off.

Different players playing the same hands is what makes Duplicate bridge so interesting. Look out for our next "Hand of the month!"

Do your readers know that bridge is now classified as a sport and is recognised as improving the mental health and wellbeing of participants !

If you would like to know more contact John or Christine on 01485 572121. The club meets on Monday and Wednesday evenings. We also have a session for "beginners/improvers" on Thursday evenings.

John Savidge

Many of you will remember the television portrayal of 'All the King's Men' with David Jason. Although the contents were far from accurate it did draw attention to the contribution made by men from this part of Norfolk.

You are invited to join others in remembering these and all the other brave men who were involved in the campaign at the service on Saturday 17th September 2011 at 3pm at St Nicholas Church. The service will be conducted by Rev Michael Brock

This is the 7th annual service. Previous services were held at West Newton Church. However, now thanks to the generosity of the Rev Michael Brock the service has now been moved to Dersingham.

There will be military representatives present at the service. They include friends and colleagues

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Everyone is invited to join in this ceremony of remembrance. Following the service There will be tea and ANZAC biscuits in the Church Hall together with a photographic display.

The service is organized by me, John Crowe, Membership Secretary, Gallipoli Association. Anyone who is interested in the campaign and the work of the Association please visit www.gallipoli-association.org I can be contacted on Tel: 020 8697 2787 or Mobile: 07956 188826 Email [iohncrowe\(a\)uwclub.net](mailto:iohncrowe(a)uwclub.net)

John Crowe

The Dersingham lace makers held their fifth lace day at St. George's School on 14th May. Lace makers from Saffron Walden, Bury St. Edmunds, March, Norwich, as well as local got together to have another good day's lace making and fund raising.

There was a competition for a lace decorated card. Tea and coffee was served all day and cakes in the afternoon. David and Margaret Davis from March who are bobbin makers and Mainly Lace who are lace suppliers attended. There was a beautiful lace bouquet made by the Norfolk Lace Makers from Norwich on display which was greatly admired. Helen Melish and husband Noel who are Dersingham residents sold hand made cards, made by Helen.



The day raised £480 for the Hunstanton First Response team. Yvonne from the Dersingham flower shop who is one of the Dersingham team came along to accept the cheque on Hunstanton's behalf. Yvonne also showed us some of the equipment and told us about their role in the community. They do a very good job.

We would like to thank everyone who helped us with setting up tables and chairs, clearing up at the end of the day and all who made it another enjoyable day.

Barbara Lake & Barbara Merrick





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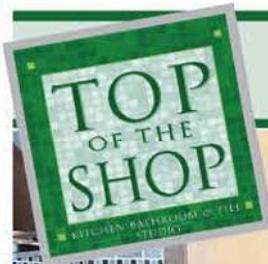
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**CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE (CBHC)
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From: T G Morris, PPG Committee

24/7 PHONE NUMBER FOR DOCTORS' APPOINTMENTS

It is now possible to book, check and cancel a doctor's appointment on any day and at any time. To use the new automated system simply ring 01553 696888 at any time. All you need to do is to follow the instructions and enter your date of birth and phone number using your phone keypad. (Before you use this new system, please ensure that the Carole Brown Health Centre has your current telephone number). You will then be given various options including:

- The next available appointment.
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- An appointment with a specific doctor.

You can also cancel an appointment you have already made or check the date and time of your next appointment.

Initially, this new system will be for doctors' appointments only but in consultation with the PPG, the practice hope to expand the options later. The on-line (internet) booking and repeat prescription system will remain as will the 08444 77 33 77 main number which may be used for appointments with a Nurse Practitioner for many acute conditions, or for help with making appointments with any member of the clinical or nursing team or to answer queries.

When making a telephone appointment, and hopefully '*without teaching Granny to suck eggs*' it is advisable to have pen and paper handy to note the date and time of your appointment. Remember that missed appointments may deprive another patient of that appointment slot.

Medical and Nursing telephone numbers you should note are:

24/7 Appointments Line – 01553 696888

Main Number for all enquiries and for nurse appointments – 08444 77 33 77

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The Dersingham Weather Observed by John F. Murray

During May and June we had a good mixture of weather, not least some rain at last. In May we had several areas declaring that they were having a drought. But, of course, we already knew that didn't we? We also achieved a record high temperature and a record low temperature so I hope the picture I have chosen above reflects all of this.

In May, although we had some rain, namely 24.6mm, it was still woefully low. In previous years we have had between 35.6 and 57.7mm. Although we should be thankful it simply wasn't enough. Temperatures were nothing to get excited about either. The mean temperature was a poor 13.5°C whereas in previous years it was between 15.1° and 16.1°C. I recorded a record low in May with the overnight temperature on the 4th dropping to -1.7°. I have never before recorded a below zero temperature in May. As you might guess from this, the highest temperature recorded was also pretty poor; only 26.1°C. The last two years were 30.9° and 29.8°. Taking all into account then, May was a pretty mediocre month.

June was noticeably better. The mean temperature, at 15.3°C was about average, as was the low temperature at 3.8°C. However the maximum recorded for that month, in fact, the highest temperature I have ever recorded was 32.2°C on the 27th. This was a scorcher of a day and luckily the relative humidity was not too high, at 47%, when it reached that temperature, otherwise it would have felt as though it was a lot hotter. The humidity was much higher earlier in the day and at nightfall when it was just below 80%.

The best thing about June, speaking as a gardener that is, was the rainfall. I recorded 59.1mm. The average for June is 50.4mm and this is the first month since September last year that rainfall has exceeded the average. It managed to fill my water butts, well just about anyway, and it saved me having to water everything for a little while. However there is no call for celebration just yet. The rainfall for this year is still well below what we would expect and at the time of writing this article, there is no rainfall on the horizon. Please excuse the pun! We are halfway through the year with a total of 196.7mm. The first six months of last year saw 263.9mm and in 2009 we had 297.7mm. This year therefore is much drier. We are 100mm down when compared to 2009. If you convert it into Imperial measurements 100mm is 10 centimetres which is 4 inches; and that's a lot.

It is nice to see that plenty of people are checking our weather on line using the link from the parish council web site. In May there were 268 hits and June 393.

Keep weather watching and do a little rain dance. You never know!□

A Bit more Squit

Oi don't know about yew but Oi'm gitten a bit full up uv this here fuss about the EU or as that useter be called "The Common Market". When that fust come about Oi heerd two old mawthers mardling out side the post office, one say to the other "What do yew think about us gorn inter the common market" har mate say "Oi shamt bother corse Oi kin git all Oi want in the village". But we did go in din't we und wot about all them size changes? Oi went tuh Lynn tuh git some new boots, Oi went inter the shop and this here young mawther come up and say "Kin Oi help yew" Oi say "Yis Oi want a pair of boots size 8 " she say "No, we don't sell 8 no more you'll hetter hev a 42" Oi say " Oi can't hev a 42 thattle be miles too big Oi've allus hed a 8 an if Oi hev a 42 Oi'll be loike that there Max Wall" she say " No, thas the new EU size we can't sell 'em in 8 no more" so Oi say "roit Oi'll hev a pair ". So she browt a pair of soize 42. She say "How dew they feel" Oi say "They are a bit toight " she say " Yis Oi reckon yew want a 9"! Ent that a rummun? Well fare yew well tergather, and dew yew kip a troshen.□

Willy Ever



Dick Melton

Well, here we are again. What an interesting issue of the Village Voice was the June edition, especially the article from Elizabeth Fiddick about the village in 1911.

Mr Senter

I will start with the photo sent in by Bernie Twite. It was the Sunday School outing from the chapel and he is correct, the photo was taken just to the left of the entrance to the blue lagoon swimming pool at Hunstanton. There were some seats just under the wall; the seats were taken away many years ago but the old wall is still there. The gentleman with us was Mr Senter, who had been a carpenter on the Sandringham estate. A group of us boys would go round to his shed in his garden on a winter's night and he would teach us carpentry. We would pay one shilling a time towards the cost of the wood and the light. The first thing I made there was a sewing box for my mother. Senter was an old Dersingham name and the area where he lived on the corner of Manor Road has always been known as Senters Corner. You also have Senters Road and Senters Row down Manor Road.

Lynn Road

Now then the picture taken of Dun Cow Lane was taken from the entrance to Dun Cow Farm looking towards King's Lynn; I would say it was taken somewhere between 1900 and 1920. The houses that you can see on the left of the lane were built around 1890 and most of them were built by Chambers, the builders. A row of three, numbers 65, 67, and 69 were always known as Chambers Row. My parents bought number 63, which was named Restu, in 1946 for nine hundred pounds. The Road was later renamed Lynn Road and most of the other houses in the Road were built by Mr Chambers and Mr Tom Drew, who up to 1926 had been the landlord of the Albert Victor inn in Manor Road. Three of the bungalows in Lynn Road, numbers 39, 41 and 43, were built by my grandfather, Mr Will Melton; and, when I first came to Dersingham, for a short time we lived in number 41, which then days was right opposite to Fred Wagg's cycle shop. After the Second World War there were not many empty plots of land left in Lynn Road so the Dersingham building company built a house at numbers 37 and 56 and a bungalow at 58. This left a plot of land between numbers 58 and 60, which for many years my father kept chickens on. Those days, way back well before the bypass, all the traffic from King's Lynn to Hunstanton used this road and in 1946, just after the second world war, it was reported in the local press that the A149 King's Lynn to Hunstanton Road was the second busiest road in England, the busiest being the road from London to Brighton.

Sandpit Cottages

Next we have the picture of Sandpit Cottages, as we have always known them though through the years they have had other names. It's a bit like Dersingham Fen; it has been the Fen for maybe hundreds of years but some people will insist on calling it Dersingham Bog. Sandpit Cottages were built by Sandringham estate to house a mole catcher and a rat catcher. They were called such as the sand pit is just up the road through the five bar gate. When I was a lad Mr Walker lived in the cottage nearest to the village and a Mr and Mrs Borley lived in the one nearest the sandpit. Between Mrs Borley's cottage and the sand pit was a flat open area of land where a lot of cars would stop on their way to and from Hunstanton, so Mrs Borley decided to sell pots of tea and sandwiches to these motorists; and that is how this area of heath land came to be known as the picnic area,

Name changes

Elizabeth Fiddick, in her article titled *Reflections*, says she has yet to find out when the stretch of road in Dersingham from Jannoch's Corner to Parker's Corner was changed from Church Road to Manor Road. Well, I have looked in every book that I have on Dersingham and I can't find out either. Maybe Bernie can tell us but there were many roads in Dersingham with more than one name. Glebe Road was often called Pansy Drive; and Brooke Road was also known as Laundry Lane as there

used to be a laundry at number 8, as there was at Albert Victor Cottages and therefore they were known as Wash-house Yard. The Lynn Road, or the Main Road, as some people called it, started at Pleasant Place, near the Common and went right through the village to Life Lane Wood; then, some time after 1965 and before 1974, the stretch from Post Office Road corner to Life Lane Wood was changed to Hunstanton Road.

Norman Towers

I have spoke many times in the Village Voice about Norman Towers the Butcher, who had a shop in Chapel Road and who kept a horse on the Shut-up Common. Well, I found a picture of his horse and covered wagon, giving a ride to some local children , so maybe they will recognize themselves. *(from the piece of car showing this must have been taken after 1959. Ed)*

That's about all for now, don't forget keep on writing lots of letters and send in them photos. Have a good summer, see you all again in October.□



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Farewell Paul

Long time Parish and Borough councillor Paul Burall stood down from public office at the May elections as he and his wife Jenny are moving to Drayton.

To thank him for his 20 years service the Parish Council marked his departure with the gift of a painting of Venice, by local artist Jill Ilett, where Paul and Jenny have an apartment.

Paul has been a Liberal Democrat councillor at the borough, printing and publishing "Focus" several times a year, as well as his work for the Parish. He was "delighted" with the painting presented to him by Suzy Daniels at the Annual Parish Council Meeting last May held at the infants school in Saxon Way. He said he had enjoyed representing Dersingham and the couple would be keeping in touch with their many friends in the village.

We wish them both well in their new home.□

Dersingham Methodist Church Annual Flower Festival and 121st Church anniversary

Many thanks to everyone who came and supported us and helped us to raise £2,416, from this we have donated £500 to the QEH Transport Incubator appeal and the rest is for church funds. We were delighted that both Dersingham Infant and Nursery School and St George's School took part with window sill displays and also singing on our first two days. We had local



people attending as well as many from far and wide, they all enjoyed the flowers, food and stalls. Our Sunday morning service was led by Rev Gerry Bruce a United Methodist Church Minister and former chaplain to the US Marines, he's definitely a colourful character and we thoroughly enjoyed his company. The evening Songs of Praise was very well attended, the nine hymns we sang were chosen by some of those involved with the festival.

Our next coffee morning is on Saturday 24th September, with a harvest theme, followed by our harvest services on Sunday at 10.30 and 6.00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you.□

Elizabeth Batstone



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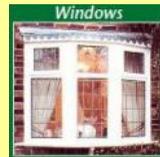
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Old Picture Corner - then and now

The junction of Lynn Road with Manor Road with the buildings looking largely unchanged. The corner house has lost its notice board/target and gained some plumbing and a porch. Next door the shop has now gone but you can still see where the window was. Three flagpoles! Were these always there or just for a special event? Now there are other poles and lots of trees of course - can't these wires be put underground? Is it the same hedge - probably not.



DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP



The group has enjoyed the dry weather over the last few months with the number of people walking ranging from 12 to 20. As I have not been able to participate I have been sent the following comments:

On the walk from Burnham Deepdale led by Pat (who kindly led it in my place): "Just the 12 of us set off from Burnham Deepdale up and along the farmland tracks to Barrow Common where we took a short break before descending to and around Branodunum Roman Fort area and on down the Coastal Path with its extensive recently restored boardwalks back to Deepdale. A little over 5 miles but very enjoyable and one we hope to repeat."

On the walk on 17th May from Dersingham Railway Station: "Steve Davis led 20 of us along farm tracks to the RSPB Reserve on the Wash. We saw high tide, Marsh Harriers, Ringed Plovers and played spot the Mediterranean Gull in amongst the mass of Black-Headed Gulls from the Sanctuary Hide. Perhaps the most amazing sight was seeing a flock of 20 walkers cross the by-pass altogether at 5.30 in the evening!"

On Steve Martyn's walk from Thornham Harbour on 8th June: "From the harbour we walked along the sea defences and out onto the beach where we passed the site of the famous 'sea-henge' which was removed in 1999. After following the edge of the dunes as far as Holme we turned a few yards inland to return on the Norfolk Coast Path which brought us back to Thornham just in time to enjoy a true 'Norfolk Skies' sunset."

The programme for August and September is:

SUNDAY 7th AUGUST

Start at 2.00pm from the car park behind the Dogotel on the A148 at Harpley Dams (map ref. L132/772 255). A 7 mile circular walk around Houghton and Harpley led by Steve Martyn (07879 885516).

WEDNESDAY 10th AUGUST

Start at 6.00pm from the car park on the right of Grimston Road about 0.75 miles from Knights Hill roundabout (map ref. L1 32/681 230). A 5 mile circular walk around Roydon Common led by Lindsey and Steve Davis (543138).

WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

Start at 2.00pm from Cliff Parade, Hunstanton (near the light-house) (map ref. L132/675 419). A 4.5 mile circular walk around Hunstanton and Holme led by Pat Reed (540757).

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 they stay 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.

Should you have a problem with transport to the start point, let me know a few days before the walk and I will see if a lift can be arranged. For more information please contact me or the walk leader.□

Keith Starks (542268)



Down on the Fen by Tony Bubb

Many of you will have seen the great plumes of smoke at Easter when the fen caught fire. From the by-pass you can see lots of apparently dead trees and initially the open area opposite the common just looked black. So armed with my camera I went down for a look in mid June to see what was happening.

There is grass growing back. Sparsely, but it is there, as are spears of bracken. A lot of the gorse bushes look beyond hope but they may re-grow from the base. More hopeful is the solitary oak tree in the centre of the open area. This already has tufts of new growth coming where the larger branches sheltered the upper surfaces from the flames. The boardwalk has also suffered and needs lots of work.



Close examination of the ground reveals new plants emerging. The baby oak will, rabbits permitting, be a fine tree in about 300 years and fires like this have always opened up the ground for other species to come in. The lack of cover together with a layer of nutrient rich ash will, in the short term, provide a habitat for a range of plants normally absent although as the bushes grow back these will recede once again.

The biggest problem will be the dearth of invertebrates for animals and birds to eat. Nightjar walks may well be a waste of time for a few years and glow worms will be scarce. Will the deer like the taste of burnt veg with their grass? It will be fascinating to see the regeneration unfolding. Just watch this space!□



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The Sandringham Newsletter

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

The highlight of April was the wedding of HRH Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton, now Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Gardens staff were delighted to be asked to arrange for flowers and foliage from the gardens to be sent to London to be included in the beautiful floral decorations in Westminster Abbey. Here at Sandringham, we put up a big screen in the Restaurant on the wedding day and were almost overwhelmed with visitors who came to spend the day with us – the Restaurant was full to overflowing with visitors of all ages wearing tiaras and waving flags. Wedding souvenirs have also been proving very popular in the Visitor Centre Gift Shop, but we have tried hard to keep up with demand.

The Land Train which runs a shuttle service inside the gardens to take people up to the House has been replaced. Instead of a diesel-powered tractor pulling a collection of open carriages, we now have an enclosed electric vehicle which makes the trip much less breezy and dusty; it's quicker and quieter than the tractor, and of course is also greener – part of our ongoing efforts, like recycling and composting waste, to reduce our carbon footprint where we can.

The warm and sunny weather over the last few weeks has resulted in good pollination in the apple orchards and blackcurrant fields. Fruit Farm staff have spent time recently grafting cuttings of Howgate Wonder apples onto Bramley's Seedling rootstocks; Howgate Wonder apples are a sweeter cooking apple than Bramleys and keep their shape better in tarts and pies, so they are always very popular at apple picking time, selling out very early on. We are aiming to increase the number of trees of this variety to try to keep up with the demand. More cider is also being brewed at the Fruit Farm for sale at the orchards this autumn, following the runaway success of last year's experimental vintage.

The good weather has also brought rhododendrons into bloom earlier than usual this year. The named varieties in the gardens and the purple Rhododendron ponticum which line the roadsides near the Visitor Centre and on the Scenic Drive were glorious and lasted for a few weeks. Also at the Visitor Centre, some new chainsaw carvings have been added to the Sculpture Trail – a mountain goat, a rearing horse, a pair of dolphins and an enigmatic lady who goes by the title of Swan Lake have recently appeared. The trail is a circular walk in among the trees of the Arboretum which makes a peaceful half-hour stroll; it starts at the statue of St Felix and his coracle which recalls the legend of how St Felix, aiming to bring Christianity to East Anglia, was shipwrecked off Babingley and rescued from drowning by beavers.

The warm and dry conditions of spring brought forward flowering of all kinds of trees and shrubs in the Gardens. Gardeners have not had to mow as often as they usually would as the grass is growing more slowly, but they have had to use irrigation, particularly in the Woodland Walk where it is always on the dry side because the tree cover keeps any rain off. The sprinklers use water from the lakes in the Gardens, which themselves are fed partly from the gutters and drainpipes of the House when any rain falls – rainwater harvesting, Victorian style.

Fruit set in the orchards and blackcurrant fields was good, again because the weather conditions were favourable for a host of pollinating insects, but one or two sharp frosts offset this, as did the ensuing weeks of dry weather, which have not been kind; in particular, the blackcurrants planted earlier this year have suffered, as they have not yet established extensive root runs.

We were delighted to welcome almost a hundred members of the International Red Poll Society to Sandringham recently. Red Poll cattle have no horns (they are "polled") and are a deep reddish-brown colour; they are a dual-purpose breed, originally developed as both beef and dairy cattle, and there is a herd here at Sandringham as there was in Edward VII's time which is kept organically. Members from Britain and as far away as South America, Jamaica, the USA, New Zealand and South Africa, all in this country for a two-week tour as part of the Society's International Congress,



Red Poll cattle

spent the morning seeing the cattle and after lunch at the Visitor Centre Restaurant, spent the afternoon visiting the House and Gardens before continuing their UK tour.

At the time of writing this, there is a busy time about to start in Sandringham Park, with the Horse Driving Trials taking place at the end of June and the Flower Show on 27th July. The Horse Driving Trials follow similar disciplines to those in three-day eventing, like dressage and a marathon course run over roads and tracks, but with the added difficulty of controlling the carriages as well as the horses. The speed and precision of horses and drivers is a sight worth seeing, particularly as they tackle the marathon course with its obstacles on the Saturday.

Once the Driving Trials are over, the huge task of preparing the Park for the Flower Show begins. The Flower Show is always the busiest event in Sandringham’s year, with some 20,000 people likely to arrive to spend the day looking at designer gardens, nursery displays and a wealth of trade and charity stands, as well as taking in the programme of arena events and a parachute display. For people who live and work on the Estate, the most important part of the Show is often the keenly fought competitions in vegetables, fruit, flowers, preserves and baking, or the rivalry between entrants for the two awards for beautiful gardens, the King George VI Challenge Cup and the Queen Mother Challenge Cup.

There’s more information on:-
www.sandringhamflowershow.org.uk □

Village Voice Sudoku No 19								
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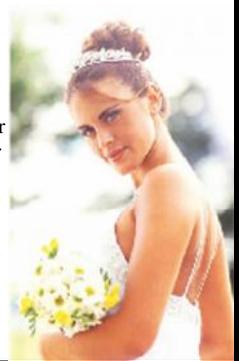
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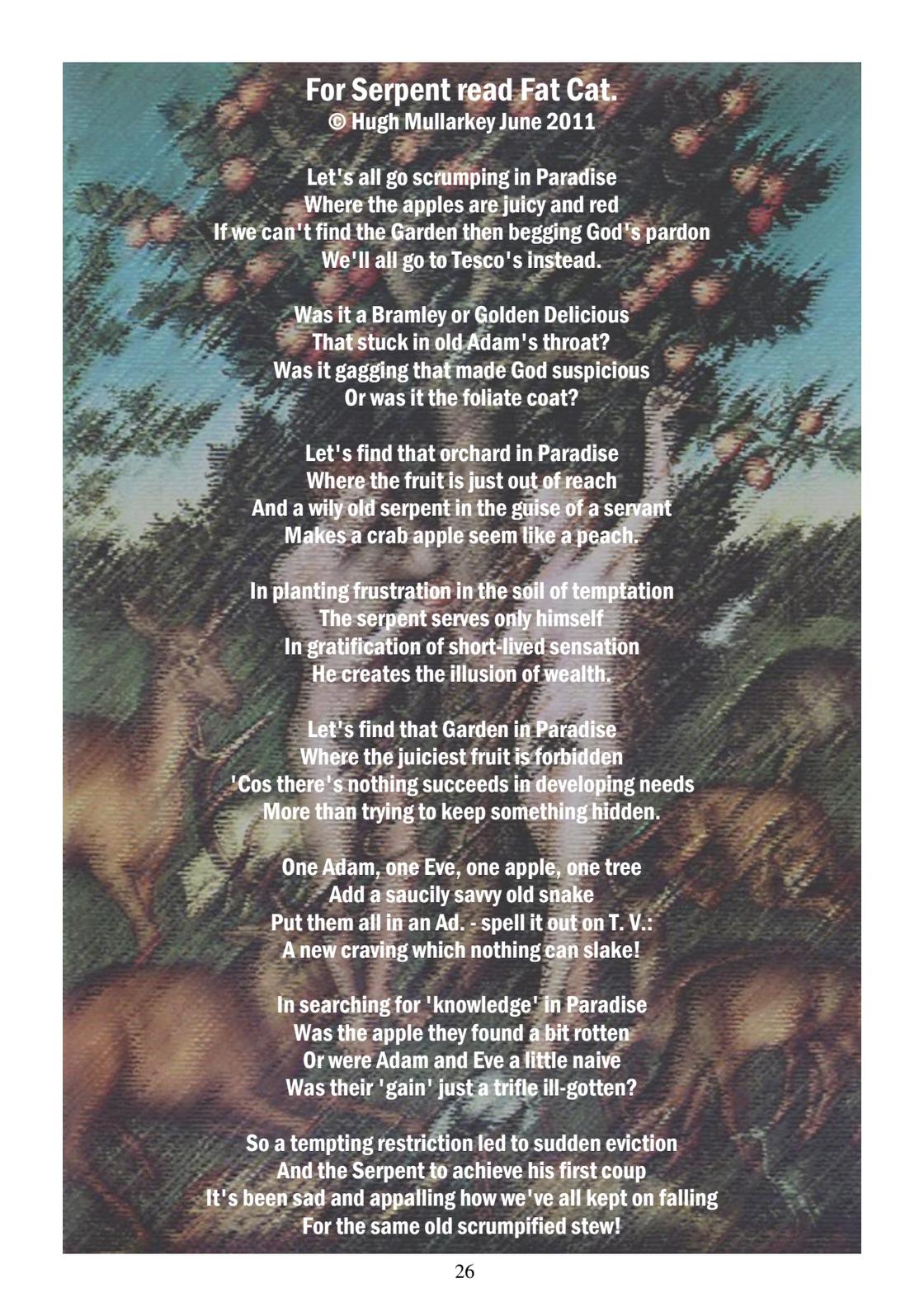
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For Serpent read Fat Cat.

© Hugh Mullarkey June 2011

**Let's all go scrumping in Paradise
Where the apples are juicy and red
If we can't find the Garden then begging God's pardon
We'll all go to Tesco's instead.**

**Was it a Bramley or Golden Delicious
That stuck in old Adam's throat?
Was it gagging that made God suspicious
Or was it the foliate coat?**

**Let's find that orchard in Paradise
Where the fruit is just out of reach
And a wily old serpent in the guise of a servant
Makes a crab apple seem like a peach.**

**In planting frustration in the soil of temptation
The serpent serves only himself
In gratification of short-lived sensation
He creates the illusion of wealth.**

**Let's find that Garden in Paradise
Where the juiciest fruit is forbidden
'Cos there's nothing succeeds in developing needs
More than trying to keep something hidden.**

**One Adam, one Eve, one apple, one tree
Add a saucily savvy old snake
Put them all in an Ad. - spell it out on T. V.:
A new craving which nothing can slake!**

**In searching for 'knowledge' in Paradise
Was the apple they found a bit rotten
Or were Adam and Eve a little naive
Was their 'gain' just a trifle ill-gotten?**

**So a tempting restriction led to sudden eviction
And the Serpent to achieve his first coup
It's been sad and appalling how we've all kept on falling
For the same old scrumpified stew!**



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A Journey to Ethiopia Village Voice Live June 7th

The timing of this very interesting 'travellers tale' from Walter Blaney, was very apt, as we were all informed on arrival at the Hall, that the "toilets were out of commission".

Walter then started his talk by telling us that toilets and hygiene leave much to be desired in Ethiopia. We shared other experiences and discoveries with him. The sign for the presence of a Cafe was a dinner plate fixed to the entrance (no doubt an earth floor inside), and a bar or drinking place was denoted by a glass on a pole at the entrance!

The churches visited were amazing, having been hewn out of solid rock - and the insides were very ornate, with lots of paintings and elaborate figures.

The people of Ethiopia were mostly poor, but seemed to lead happy and contented lives. Perhaps a lesson to us all in this land of plenty!

I am looking forward to hearing about, and seeing, more of Walter and Jane's travels - always enjoyable and very well presented.

Join us for Village Voice Live you are assured of a welcome, with a coffee and cake at 'half time'.

SEB

Many thanks to the bowls club for the use of their toilets. Definitely the best toilets in the village.
Ed.



Colman's Mustard Village Voice Live 5th July

Nick Cook from the famous *Colman's Mustard Shop and Museum* in the historic art nouveau Royal Arcade near Norwich Market entertained us with stories of the company's history, whilst some 95 of us crowded around tables bearing taste samples of some of their exclusive range: Mustard with Beer, Mustard with Chillies, Mustard with Red Pepper and even Mustard Chocolate – delicious!

Starting in 1814 with Jeremiah Colman at Stoke Holy Cross, he later adopted his nephew James Colman to form J & J Colman. In 1851 James' son Jeremiah James Colman (stay with it) took over the business and moved it to the famous larger works at Carrow in 1856. J.J. together with his wife Caroline were devout Congregationalists and champions of social justice, which they meted out to their ever increasing workforce and the surrounding area in the form of affordable low-cost housing, schooling, hot meals, medical support, and even funeral arrangements. Not ones to sit back themselves, they rolled up their sleeves and set an example to all, though closing all the local pubs was perhaps not one of their most popular decisions! In 1995 Colman's eventually became part of Unilever and really just a brand name, though the legacy does live on in the *Colman's Mustard Shop and Museum* which is separately owned and saved from extinction in 2009 by the Norwich Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust (HEART).

The usual evening refreshment and raffle break had to be greatly extended to accommodate the sterling trade that Nick then proceeded to do on his makeshift stall of some of the wares from his shop (www.mustardshopnorwich.co.uk).

In line with Jeremiah James Colman's famous statement "I make my money from the mustard that people throw away on the sides of their plate", I was a little heartbroken to see how much was left over and discarded from the table samples at the end of this otherwise very heartwarming evening.

Brucie





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The concept is very simple. Norfolk Knowledge facilitates meetings between experienced individuals and local organisations. Organisations submit requests for knowledge, detailing the nature of their problem. This request is forwarded to the membership. Those who can assist will then get in touch with the organisation and start the process.

Projects carried out so far have included strategy planning for a new business; planning and finance guidance with a puppet making company trying to establish itself in schools; profile raising for a fledgling web design business and marketing for a tourist attraction.

Norfolk Knowledge Board member Barry Dennis said: "I moved into semi-retirement a couple of years ago after 40 years in media. It's been great fun helping people and projects.

"So far the majority of members are based around Norwich and that's why we want to establish Norfolk Knowledge in the west of the county. I'm sure that there are lots of experienced people who want to pass their knowledge on to people who are looking for help and I look forward to meeting many of them."

So, whether you are a business looking for help or a retired or semi-retired individual looking to re-cycle your skills, Norfolk Knowledge can help you.

You can find out more details at the web site www.norfolkknowledge.co.uk or contact Luke Spanswick on 01603 597202.

Norfolk Knowledge is hosted by Norwich Business School at the University of East Anglia and funded by Norfolk County Council.

COVER PHOTO COMPETITION 2011

This years subject is -

DERSINGHAM'S HERITAGE

Get one of your pictures on the cover of the October Village Voice. Take a photo of your interpretation of Dersingham's Heritage. You may submit entries as prints or electronically, on a disc or by e-mail for the closing date of **Wednesday 7th September**. Pictures must have been taken within the parish boundary, not have been previously published and not have been digitally manipulated.

Remember that the cover is portrait (upright) in format so we may have to crop your work to make it fit. Good luck and happy snapping!



Send your entries to:-

Village Voice photo competition
Dersingham Parish Council
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or e-mail to:-
villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

Moving Through Time by Steve Nowell

Having started at King Edward VII Grammar School in 1952 I soon became convinced that there was an easier way to make a fortune than by studying. I looked at various schemes and ideas but none of them were practical propositions. Then, in May 1959, when I should have had my head buried in text books swatting for exams, the simple answer came to me. I would design a car engine which ran on water instead of petrol. The principle was so straightforward that I was amazed no-one had thought of it before. At the front of the engine there would be a battery unit which electrolysed water into its constituent elements, namely hydrogen and oxygen. These two gases would be mixed, but not chemically combined, in the middle of the engine. Then at the back, the mixture would be fired by a spark plug much as in a petrol engine. The power delivered by the resultant explosion would be huge and certainly enough to drive a vehicle. As a matter of courtesy, and just to sew up a few minor details, I put the idea to my Chemistry Teacher (Mick Taylor), and my Maths Teacher (Alan Trist). In a quiet moment I tried to visualise what would be involved in the award ceremony for the Nobel Prize for Advances in Engineering – if there was such a thing.

But the above mentioned gentlemen put paid to that dream with no effort at all. Mr Taylor pointed out that my engine was based on the 'principle of perpetual motion' which was impossible; and Mr Trist proved that the machine would be 150% efficient, thus creating more fuel than it used. By this time the exams had come and gone and I knew I had made a mess of them. But I had to stick to my guns. If I was going to make mega-bucks it would have to be by means of a brilliant idea instead of study.

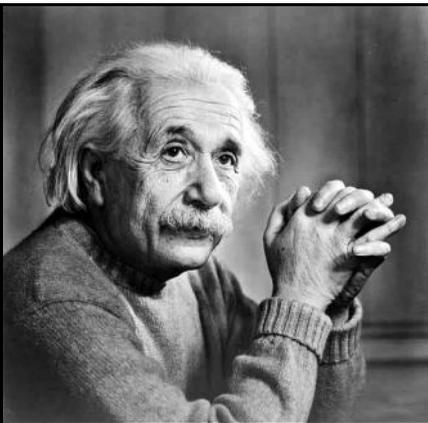
In the summer of '63 I finished a course associated with my occupation as an Electrical Engineer, at the County Technical College, King's Lynn. I was privileged to be taught maths by a man called 'Jake' Thurston. At this time I was getting interested in more abstruse subjects, such as 'time', 'the cosmos' and 'dimensions'. After burning the midnight oil I remember dashing into a 'Jake lecture' 20 minutes late one morning. The conversation went roughly as follows: "Sorry I'm late sir. I was working until..." "Sit down, Nowell." "But sir. I..." "I said sit *down* Nowell!" "But sir. I've worked out something of earth shattering importance." "Nowell; the day you work out *anything* even *vaguely* associated with mathematics, an international bank holiday will be declared!" There was nothing for it, I had to give vent to my new-founded theory (Or, as I preferred to think, my 'newly discovered fact') "JAKE!..sorry... SIR!

TIMEISTHEFOURTHDIMENSIONANDICANBLOODYWELLPROVEIT! Apologies for the enthusiastic language but you must admit I've turned up a right hum-dinger this time." "Much as I hate to curb your undoubted devotion to solving life's mysteries Nowell, I feel I should tell you that I've heard that idea before." "Oh? From whom; and when?!" (Very hurt feelings.) "Albert

Einstein, and he said it about 105 years ago. Sorry." Silence. Not to be completely beaten into submission by some long-haired, grossly-moustached, know-it-all Jew, I gave Jake my reasons for believing that time was the fourth dimension. In return he gave me all the reasons that he could remember why Albert E had put forward the theory in the first place. I must confess I was more than chuffed that my mate Albie and I were on the same wavelength (or would have been had he still been alive).

[At this point I can hear you saying that I've been rattling on about the 4th dimension and my would-be buddy Einstein, but the time has come to SHOW and not TELL. I hereby accept that challenge.]

A straight line drawn on a piece of paper represents

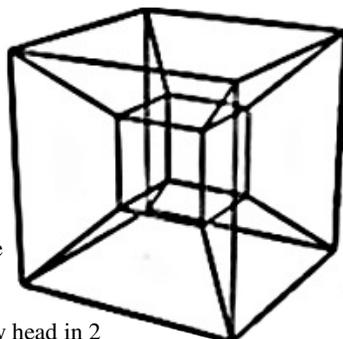


the 1st dimension because it only has length. It doesn't have width or depth. A square, or any other flat figure come to that, which has length and width is 2 dimensional. A cube, or any other object which has length, width, and depth is 3 dimensional. Now we human beings are 3 dimensional. But we only see in 2 dimensions. Sorry, you may disagree with this but it is true. Everything we see is a flat picture. I am looking at my computer at the moment. I know it is basically a parallel-faced tin can but I only know this from experience – not from what I can see. For all I know there might be a jolly great lump on that portion of the machine I can't see. (There isn't actually. I checked it out thoroughly before switching it on. I tend to get paranoid about such things!) That statement about only being able to see in 2 dimensions is, strictly speaking, not 100% true. The fact that we use two eyes does make a very minor difference. If you've nothing more constructive or useful to do, move your index finger towards an evenly lit and unpatterned wall with both eyes open. Before you actually touch the wall you will be able to gauge the approximate distance of your finger from it. Now repeat the test with only one eye open. It's a different ball game isn't it? And this is the way people who only have sight in one eye have to live. In all seriousness I feel very sorry for them. But I digress.

Please accept that for all practical purposes we are 3 dimensional beings living in a 3 dimensional world but we can only see in 2 dimensions. Similarly it can be shown that a 2 dimensional being which has, say, width and length cannot detect the missing dimension, i.e. height.

[Not bad so far, Nowell. You've completely confused half the readership. Stick with it old son and you'll get the other half without much bother!]

So now for the 4th dimension*. (You thought I was deliberately trying to dodge that; didn't you?!) If a 3 dimensional being can only see in 2 dimensions then it can be assumed that a 4 dimensional being can see in 3 dimensions, i.e. he would be able to see all aspects of a 3 dimensional body, like a human being, at the same time. Can we visualise what a 3 dimensional picture of, say, a cube would look like? I believe it would display not only height, and width, but depth as well. In other words we would be able to see *through* the cube in such a way that we could detect and measure its depth also. This may be difficult to comprehend. Don't worry, we're all in the same boat; it did my head in 2



paragraphs ago! Now for the crunch question – what does a 4 dimensional being look like?

Consider this. If we move a 2 dimensional object, for example a square plate, which has height and width through the 'missing' dimension, i.e. depth, it becomes a square-section rod which is 3 dimensional. If we now move that rod through a further dimension, what do we get? This is where it gets tricky. There isn't another 'spatial' dimension left that we can move the rod through. We've already used up the three dimensions that we know about (height, width, and depth) so what is there left? Would 'TIME' fit the bill as being the 4th dimension? The critical factor is that, like the 3 spatial dimensions, it CAN BE MEASURED. Not in metres and millimetres but in its own units; hours, minutes, seconds etc.. We have now come to the very disappointing answer to the question about what a 4 dimensional being looks like. We don't know. But we do know that there is such a thing. It can be described as the **OBJECT, OR SHAPE, WHICH IS CREATED WHEN A 3 DIMENSIONAL BODY MOVES THROUGH TIME**. We humans can never be aware of such an object because we are incapable of visualising anything which exists, or moves, in more than 3 dimensions. Strictly speaking we are even unaware of the passage of time itself. Say, for example, you go to sleep one night and the bedroom is completely dark. There is no light and no sound. During the night you wake up and the room is exactly the same as it was when you went to sleep. What is the time? You don't know. Time has passed but you don't know how far. In reality of course, during the day one is aware of the variation in lightness and darkness due to the position of

the sun. Also such things as how hungry you feel might give a clue as to what the time is. If we accept that 'time' is the 4th dimension, what are the implications? The first inference is that there must also be a 5th Dimension. It would require a 5th dimensional being to be able to see in 4 dimensions. In other words only a being of 5 dimensions (or more) would be able to see the object or shape created by a 3 dimensional object moving through time.

[Hold hard there, Nowell! You're going too far now. 3D was bad enough. 4D sounded like undiluted drivel. Now you want to b....er about in 5D?]

Just a word more about 'time' then I promise to leave you in peace. A quick summary: we humans are 3 dimensional and are fully aware that we move in 3 dimensions. 'Time' is the 4th dimension and, although we can't prove it, we know we move through that as well. But a 4 dimensional being *would* be aware that he was moving through time and could choose when and where to materialise. Conclusion:- Dr Who is a 'time traveller' (but we knew that anyway) and by the reasoning above is a 4 dimensional being. Ghosts are often reported as 'materialising'. They move through what are apparently solid 3 dimensional objects such as walls. The only being which could materialise, and move through time, and 3 dimensional objects, has got to be at least a 4 dimensional being capable of time travel.

Comments; preferably accompanied by a pint of ale are welcomed! In the meantime a big box of paracetamol wouldn't come amiss while I make my way to the Happy Farm!

**When Einstein put forward his hypothesis that time is the 4th dimension everybody seemed to accept it presumably because it was the mathematical genius himself who had said so. However, AE was not the only mega-brain on the planet and there were mathematicians who followed him who actually dared to question his edicts. The result was that there was a strong body of opinion which favoured the idea of the 4th dimension being a 'spatial' dimension. It is probably true to say that today there are more believers in the 'spatial 4 dimension' hypothesis than the 'time-based' hypothesis. Just to give a clue as to how the 'spatial' brigade think about these things, the diagram which looks like a heap of boxes is supposed to represent a 4 dimensional cube.□*



CAMPAIGN CARE 94' Charity afternoon tea (Tea Sandwiches & Cakes).
At St Nicholas Church Hall, in Dersingham, on Aug 14th, from 2pm until 5pm .
All money raised will be divided between Tapping House Hospice
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Strange Laws

After all you have to be prepared when going on holiday.

1. In Oklahoma, you can be arrested for making ugly faces at a dog.
2. In California it is illegal for a vehicle without a driver to exceed 60 miles per hour. (that would be one clever trick)
3. In New York, the penalty for jumping off a building is: Death.
4. In France, it is against the law to sell an "E.T" doll. They have a law forbidding the sale of dolls that do not have human faces.
5. In England, it is illegal to die in the Houses of Parliament.
6. In France, it's illegal to name a pig Napoleon.
7. In Israel, you could be prosecuted for picking your nose on Sunday.
8. In Turkey, it is illegal for a man above 80 yrs to become a pilot.
9. In Bangladesh, children 15 and older can be put in jail for cheating on their final examinations.
10. In Britain, it is illegal to consume a mince pie on Christmas Day. It is one of the odd old laws on the statute book, although rarely enforced by even the keenest police officer. It was brought to existence by Oliver Cromwell, self proclaimed Lord Protector of England. Festivals that promoted gluttony and drunkenness were against the righteous Christian ethics, including Christmas.□

Antje

Silver Jubilee

With another jubilee looming next year this is how some of you celebrated the Silver Jubilee in 1977. Can we put some names to faces? Are any of you still in the village? What were you watching? Come on, tell all.



THERE'S NOWT SO QUEER AS FOLK!

by Magwitch

Apparently, and I can't think why this is the case, but we British are thought of as a tad eccentric by many outsiders, Americans find us particularly so it seems, and find us cutely eccentric, according to one American friend of mine.

Personally I can't understand it, what is so eccentric about some of our pastimes for example, like toe-wrestling? Isn't that what everyone does to pass the time on a long boring weekend of wet British summer weather? Well they do if they live in Fenny Bentley on the Derbyshire/Staffordshire borders.

Back in the 1970s, one George Burgess, landlord of the local pub, decided that we British were a bit backwards in coming forwards at winning world championships and decided to change all that. He introduced the highly addictive and jaw-droppingly exciting 'sporting' event of Toe Wrestling. He had high hopes of us at last achieving success, only to find a foreigner winning the very first competition. Undeterred he carried on, and now the event is held annually at the Bentley Brook Inn in the village each June, proceeds going to charity. The qualifications needed for entry are strength, dexterity and preferably clean feet!

We all know about the various eating competitions and world record breaking attempts at eating that go on in this country, and whilst stuffing your face with pork pies or burgers might not appeal to most people, for the vegetarians there is a special event each June, not to be missed. The World Nettle Eating Championships. This is held at the Bottle Inn in Marshwood, Dorset and originated in the 1980s as an argument between two farmers as to who had the longest.... wait for it NETTLES! Of all things to brag about, no wonder we're considered eccentric. From this sprang the competition, all because one farmer said that if anyone could beat his nettle which was over fifteen feet in length apparently, then he would eat it! Of course, there is always some clever dick waiting in the wings to show off the fact that his is bigger, and so a sixteen foot nettle was the winner, and the boasting farmer was forced to eat it. In case you fancy having a go yourself, the trick is to roll it up, break it into small bits and make sure you break all the spikey bits which have the sting. Go on, you know you want to.



Much closer to home are the World Snail Racing Championships at Congham, which most of us have heard of I think. Not exactly fast-paced, in fact you've got time probably to make yourself a nice cuppa once setting your snail off in the right direction. The snails, according to one article I read, love the damp conditions at Congham, this said without wishing to cause offence to the locals naturally. And it's a cheap event to enter,

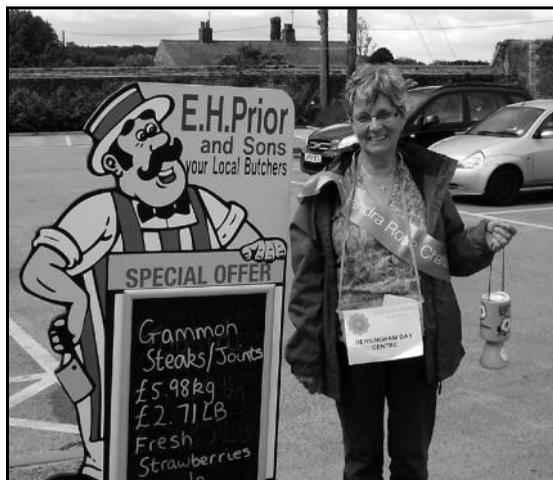
causes no physical distress to the combatants or owners thereof, and all you have to do is collect snails from your garden, put a sticker on their backs to identify them by, and away you go. Or they go. Or not, as the case might be. At the time of writing this article I have to say that the drought-like conditions seem to have sent any snails into hibernation in my garden, the hostas have never looked so lovely! Still, maybe come July when the event takes place, we'll have had much-needed rain.

Not everyone likes to live life in the slow lane though, there are those speed lovers out there who have their own events. No, I am not talking about the Grand Prix, or Touring Cars, but The Pedal Car Grand Prix. This took place in July last year at Ringwood in Hampshire with 54 British teams, with such interesting names as The Odd Balls, Pink Ladies, and Squeals on Wheels to name but three. Speeds of up to 70km in two hours are achieved, and crowds of up to 10,000 gather every other year to support this event, which in 2010 raised over £15,000 with all profits going to charity. As the next one isn't due until 2012, you've got plenty of time to get that old pedal car out of the attic, spruce it up, give yourself a daft name, and enter the race.

Eccentric? Us? Of course we are, and proud of it too.□

DERSINGHAM DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY

THANK YOU DERSINGHAM - YOU DID US PROUD



The 18th June was our annual Flag Day and our volunteer collectors were out in various parts of the village from 9.00am onwards. The weather was very erratic, going from brilliant sunshine to very heavy downpours of rain, but, thanks to the kindness and hospitality of the various shops where we were collecting, no one got wet and several got spoilt with cups of tea as well.

Last year we collected £380 so imagine the excitement when all the boxes had been emptied, and the money counted, to find that this year we had collected £532.02p, our highest amount ever. We are so grateful to all the people in Dersingham who gave us such wonderful support and showed an

interest in what the Day Centre actually does. Thank you.

On June 22nd we took our Members out to lunch at the Ffolkes Arms. As usual we were made very welcome and we had time to circulate and chat before lunch was served. Thirty-eight of us sat down to a roast beef lunch with all the trimmings, followed by blackberry and apple crumble or fruit salad and tea or coffee. We had arrived in lovely sunshine but when it came time to leave the heavens opened and the car park was awash. Our driver had to wait nearly half an hour before we could get everyone outside and on the transport. Fortunately, everyone got home safely and dry.

By the time this article is printed we will have had another day out, this time for lunch at the Lavender Centre. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and we will be able to look round the various shops on the site.

The Dersingham Day Centre will be closing for the summer holidays, i.e. from 29th July until the 7th September, so this will be our last news letter until the Autumn. □

Alice Worth



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Landy Rally 2011



We are Jeremy and Leanne and Christmas 2010 found us looking for a holiday with a difference which is how we signed up for the charity vehicle rally known as the Landy Rally which is a European 4x4 charity drive. A 3,000 mile non-speed on/off-road drive through the spectacular Alps and Pyrenees mountain ranges covering 11 European countries in 9 days. Teams entering Landy Rally have raised over £100,000 for good causes over the past four years, we live in Dersingham and our team name is Jifflin Pollywiggles (which means fidgeting tadpoles in Norfolk 'speak').

Landy Rally 2011 will run Wednesday 14th to Thursday 22nd September 2011 and the Route has yet to be finalised but it

is likely to follow the 2010 route starting in Valkenburg, Holland and finishing in Calais and there are approximately 15-20 teams, of which we are one.

The route will cover the spectacular Alps and Pyrenees mountain ranges including Austria, Italy (last year there was camping by Lake Como, I hear George Clooney has a house nearby) Spain, France, Holland and Andorra. Along the way local off roaders from various countries will be meeting up with the Landy Rally teams for support.

The Landy Rally is a fun, competitive (non-race) event with points awarded for 'thinking outside the box' and individuality as well as en route treasure hunts whilst raising money for charity. Landy Rally has been going for a few years now, however Landy Rally 2011 is likely to be the last one, which makes it quite special.

Our vehicle is a Land Rover Discovery 2 which has been prepared for off road use (including a winch and roof lights) and we will be camping every night or sleeping in the car if it is very wet. We have already begun to 'sticker up' LC (the beast of a Discovery 2 that is going to carry us through this rally) and there is still room for promotional advertising if you wish to sponsor us. We will be also attending several national land rover shows between now and September as well as raising our profile within the region via the local press.

We really need people to come forward and help us raise money for the Samaritans whilst also raising their own profile. Please do contact us via the details below if you think you can help.

We chose the Samaritans as we wanted a local charity to benefit from our fundraising. Samaritans provides confidential non-judgemental emotional support, 24 hours a day for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair.

All monies raised, either via individual donations or company sponsorship will go directly to the King's Lynn branch of the Samaritans. The King's Lynn branch relies on donations and needs around £30-35,000 every year just to meet running costs, so anything that we can do to help keep this valuable service running in order to benefit the people of King's Lynn and the surrounding area is very important

We have paid all our costs and are now looking for sponsorship for the Samaritans. All monies will go to the Samaritans, I cannot stress that enough. We are funding all associated costs of the rally.

We have been contacting local businesses for support in the rally and in return, we can offer up advertising space on the discovery and links on our website. So far, we have on board a company

called Millican(<http://www.homeofmillican.com/>) who although are not local, have committed to supplying us with a couple of their eco friendly bags for our travelling needs as well as Liz from Cornishwear (www.cornishwear.com) who is kindly making us his 'n' hers orange smocks to tie in with the orange theme we have decided to run with. Jifflin Pollywoggle the 3rd is a Tango doll who will be our mascot on the rally. Look out for photographic evidence of him on his Landy Rally travels on the website. We took part in the Help for Heroes Guinness world record convoy attempt over the Easter weekend. We are still waiting to see if the world record attempt was successful. It was harder than it looks as each vehicle had to be 2 car lengths apart, suffice to say I was not driving! You can see Jifflin Pollywoggle the 3rd in the following you tube video from Convoy for Heroes <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zgiwh1T2vZQ> about 3 seconds in. If anyone reading has a tango doll that they would like to re-home then please get in touch. We can give him a holiday of a lifetime.

We think that this is a charity event with a difference and as such should attract a lot of interest as we travel through Europe. We are intending to update the website after each day's events.

This is the last Landy Rally and entrants are from all over Europe. For general information regarding the Landy Rally 2011 visit www.landyrally.com and there is a forum page on that website where Jifflin Pollywiggles have introduced themselves.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring us either as a business or an individual please visit our website www.jifflinpollywiggles.co.uk which will be updated to reflect support/donations and events. During the rally we are hoping (internet connection permitting) to update the website daily. You can donate directly to the Kings Lynn branch of the Samaritans via the Paypal button on the website or email us at jifflinpollywiggles@yahoo.co.uk

In true 21st century style we also have a Jifflin Pollywiggles page on Facebook, there really is no escaping us! Just search for Jifflin Pollywiggles and you should find us.

Once again, I would like to point out that all monies raised will go directly to the Kings Lynn Samaritans.

If you see us out and about beep your horn, give us a wave and please give generously. □



All Change on the Buses

The 12th of June saw the takeover of our buses by Norfolk Green. To mark the day a couple of old Eastern Counties vehicles ran the route to from Lynn to Hunstanton. A 1954 Bristol Lodekka and a Bristol RE (right), which looked as fresh a design as the buses of today, gave travellers a nostalgic trip back to the 50's and 60's. There was also a 1966 Daimler, from the Daimler Club display at Sandringham, running to Hunstanton.

Norfolk Greens fleet is presented in a tasteful two-tone green livery, much more suitable for the countryside than the previous grey and pink of First Bus.



The new 10 and 11 Hunstanton Line buses and are running daily up to three times an hour.

The 10 runs via QE Hospital and Heacham Lavender, and then either via Mountbatten Estate in Dersingham or via Princess Drive in Hunstanton - the 11 runs via Castle Rising, Sandringham and Hunstanton Road in Heacham, and goes in and out of Hunstanton along Sandringham Road

The fast Coasthopper buses also still run in and out of Lynn every hour, meeting the trains, and all valid 10 and 11 tickets can be used on them and vice versa.

For timetable enquiries call 01553 776980 or visit www.norfolkgreen.co.uk



Bog News

Tom Bolderstone



The summer weather has arrived on the reserve and brought with it mixed fortunes for the site. Much of the wildlife has quietened down and many birds are busy with either second broods or frantically feeding their young.

The reserve is very dry at the moment and consequently the fire risk is fairly high on the site. The dry weather has also had an effect on some of the wetter parts of the bog and many of the birch trees that grow in these slightly wetter parts have struggled to get enough water. This has meant that there are large patches of birch trees with brown leaves. Some of these small trees will survive but many may have stunted growth or die off completely.

There are also areas of dying birch on parts of the heath and this is where we have been continuing our annual summer work of scrub management. During June and July we manage the silver birch by weed wiping them. Weed wiping is a technique of managing scrub through the use of a herbicide. We use a machine which is designed to only spray the target vegetation. The machine has carpets instead of nozzles and we wet the carpets and drive over the birch applying a small amount of chemical. This allows us to manage large areas of birch before they get too big to cut with brush cutters.

We have carried out quite a few nightjar surveys already this year and we seem to have between fifteen and twenty churring Nightjars across the site. We are still surveying the nightjars so there will probably be a few more churring males to add to the total. Many of the nightjars will be having a second brood of chicks.

We are continuing with our works managing the rhododendron and this one of our major tasks not just in the winter but also in the summer. This time of year we try and take advantage of the good weather and spray many of the rhododendron bushes off before they begin setting seed. As I have mentioned before the rhododendron is very invasive and can shade out large areas of heath and bog habitat. We try and spray the smaller bushes before they flower because once they flower and seed there is a chance that the seed will still be viable. The seeds of rhododendron only last for around a year in the soil so if we can keep on top of the flowering bushes in the bog and on the heath we should eventually be able to get on top of the rhododendron on the site.

The new heathland areas which we have created over the last couple of years are now beginning to show signs of regeneration with lots of new heather plants beginning to grow on them. We are managing the regrowth of pine and birch on these new areas by removing the very tiny new seedlings from the area. This will stop the seedlings from getting a foothold and allow the heather to flourish. This can be quite a hard task but the end results are more than worth it.

Odd heather plants have already begun flowering and this does seem a few weeks early, the warm weather has probably brought this on a little bit earlier than normal. In the next few weeks the site will be awash with purple heather flowers and lots of insects such as bees enjoying the flowers. Hopefully you can make it out to look at the heather in full bloom and hopefully I will see some of you around on the reserve. □
thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk



© Roy Anderson

NEWS FROM ST CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH from Tricia Steele

Our summer events are now in full swing. In May around 60 ladies met for the Spring Ladies' Lunch and we were delighted to welcome a number of visitors from local churches and organisations. As usual, the food was superb, and the company excellent. After lunch, Stuart and Anna Grant gave us a very interesting talk on their recent visit to Syria – Stuart suitably attired for the occasion in Arab dress. Our Autumn Ladies' Lunch is planned for November 12th, so if you would like to join us, put the date in your diary now!

After an unpromising start, we were blessed with fine weather for our Strawberry Fair in June when a number of visitors joined us for strawberry teas,



browsed the various stalls and purchased raffle and tombola tickets. The cake stall was particularly successful, enabling us to carry away the memory of a delicious tea in a very practical fashion. Over nine hundred pounds were raised for church funds, a magnificent result, and we do thank the local community and all our visitors for their support.



July 3rd was a very special day for the parish, as Conor Blake made his First Holy Communion at the 9am Mass at St Cecilia's. Conor was surrounded by his family on this important occasion, and afterwards received the good wishes of the whole congregation as we joined him for refreshments, including a superb cake. Many of us remembered the happy occasion of our own First Holy Communion, and promise to keep Conor and his family in our prayers.



We are always happy to welcome visitors to our services, whether they are visiting the parish from elsewhere, or live in the area. Refreshments are served after the 9am Mass at Dersingham on the first Sunday of the month. We also have a friendly and informal gathering after the 10.15 Mass at Dersingham on Wednesdays. Do come and visit – we'd love to see you.

For more photos and information, visit our website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org



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OPERATION PIED PIPER

by Dick Murrell

Junior School Friday August 25th 1939 and all the children were assembled in the main hall to be told by the headmaster that there would not be any lessons for the last week in August but to come to school early on Monday 28th August because we would all be going for a ride on a bus. Arriving at 8am on the Monday, along with the rest of the children, we were ushered onto the buses and taken for a ride to Liverpool St railway station. The platforms were crowded with children from other schools and we were made to line up into groups to be counted. After what seemed like ages at the time, we were ushered back onto the bus and taken back to our school and after being told to be back the same time tomorrow morning we were sent home. This went on until Thursday 31st when the headmaster told us that when we came to school on Friday not only would we have a ride on the bus but we would also be going for a ride on a train.

And so on September 1st 1939, along with a few thousand other children, we were on a train travelling from London to an unknown destination. The train did not stop until we reached Downham Market (I think), it was then that we were told what was happening, we were being sent to live with some different people to get away from the air raids that were expected over London. We were then loaded on to an old bus and driven to a little village called Beachamwell. When we arrived the door of the old bus opened and in got a very stern looking man, he was the Billeting Officer who told us to stand up and walk in single file from the bus into the Village Hall which was an old corrugated iron building with long forms all the way round. We were made to line up on both sides of the hall. There were about 40 of us standing there gas mask over one shoulder luggage label with our name on it pinned to a lapel, two brown carrier bags one with a clean shirt and a clean pair of socks and apart from what I had on, that was all the clothes I had. In the other carrier bag was a big bar of Cadburys Milk Chocolate, an apple and an orange. I did not see another orange until 1946. There we stood while the village people walked up and down deciding on who to choose, my two brothers and my sister were chosen quite quickly but I was still standing there and I heard the Billeting Officer say "well it looks like your left with this one Mrs G".

By the time we left the hall it was dark and we walked to the house only about 50 yards away. Once inside Mr and Mrs G introduced me to their son Wilfred who was nearly 10, the same age as me. I never did find out what Mr G did for a living, but Mrs G, who told me later that their name was Gathercole, said that she was the local school mistress and music teacher and that we were living next door to the school.

After having something to eat and drink Mrs G said you had better go to the toilet, Wilfred will show you where it is and so opening the back door he led me out into the garden and said follow this path and you will find it. I remember it was pitch black and that path must have been 50 yards long, but eventually I found this little hut which I suppose was the toilet and after failing to find the light switch I did what I had to do and I have to say that I must have left whatever there was to sit on very wet.

Having made my way back into the house Mrs G. put some water into a bowl and said "that's for



School 1940

you to have a wash” which I must admit was something new to me, she then said where are your pyjamas? I did not know what she was talking about, so I said what are they? She said “what you put on to sleep in”, I said “I usually sleep in my shirt”. I don’t think she was impressed and said “I will sort something out for you tomorrow”. And so with Wilfred leading the way, candle in hand, we made our way up to bed. My bed was an old camp bed in Wilfred’s room and once in bed it did not take me long to drift off into a deep sleep.

The next morning Mrs G came in and said “I have sorted out some of Wilfred’s clothes that he no longer wears so you can have them”. So after a plate of oats for breakfast, all dressed up in my hand me downs, off we went to school. As we came out of the house (remember this was the first time I had seen the place in daylight) I could see the village green right outside with the church on the other side and from what I remember, there were only about 20 or 30 houses that made up the village.

I suppose being young and mixing with a lot of other children, you soon settle down and get used to a different way of life which I did , but a lot of the other kids could not settle and were very homesick. I remember that Mrs Gathercole sat down with me each morning and kept me up to date with what was happening in London and I was beginning to feel like one of the family, but then came a big shock because after about 6 months Mr Prudens, the headmaster from my school in London, suddenly arrived and told us that we were being moved to another village. We thought we had done something wrong but it was because a lot of the other evacuees had gone back to London.

I did have a birthday while I was with the Gathercoles so I was now 10 years old but not old enough to appreciate what Mr and Mrs Gathercole and Wilfred had done and my big regret now is that I did not get the opportunity to say thank you for taking me in, looking after me and treating me as a part of the family.

After packing our things into a couple of cars we were driven to our next home which turned out to be Weeting, a village with about 40 houses. I was first billeted with two helpers from London but they were sent packing under suspicious circumstances and so I was moved once again to live with a Mrs Grass, her daughter Olive 23 and sons Horace 30 and Percy 19. There were quite a few other evacuees there already, too many to be taken into the village school, so we had to

make do with an old boiler house which was attached to a walled garden. The garden used to supply the big house with all its fruit and veg through the year but the house had now been taken over by the army and so the obsolete boiler house became our classroom . It was a huge room with a very high ceiling, impossible to keep warm in the winter so we had to keep our big coats on .

I am glad to say that I settled down again to a new way of life quite quickly, more so than some of the others, but everybody cheered up in the summer months by helping on the farms when the corn was being cut. I personally learnt a lot about country life during the war and I will mention some of the things I learnt later. But one of the major things that sticks in my mind even to this day is going up to Parrots farm or Partridges farm after school and singling out sugar beet, the rows seemed to go on for ever. Each row took me about 90 minutes and for that I was



Weeting Castle

paid 3d. In today's money 1 & a quarter pence. The soil, which being sandy and full of flint, made my knees very sore and remember back then the boys would wear short trousers until they left school at 14, so we tied sacking round our knees for protection. The best time of the year was harvest time helping to stack up the shocks as they came out of the binder and catching the rabbits as they bolted out of the corn. Now that's when I could kill, gut, and skin a rabbit but don't ask me to do it now.

After the joys of the summer months we prepared ourselves to face the winter, but come November we found we were wanted again. Someone from the two farms came to the school and asked if any of us would like to act as beaters on Saturdays? We were told we would get some refreshments at midday and be paid 2/6d (12 ½ pence); we liked going to Parrots Farm the best because we got a lump of bread pudding and a bottle of pop and 2/6 but at Partridges we only got a bottle of pop and the money.

And so the first Saturday duly arrived and armed with a stick and of course my protective sacking we set off towards Partridges Farm not knowing what we had to do, I think there were 8 of us and we were told to line up in front of a big wood. Every third person was one of the farm

hands and the man in charge said "when you hear the whistle you will all move forward in a straight line beating the trees and the undergrowth". After the first drive we all knew what to do and we quite enjoyed it just as long as we avoided the nettles. The following week we all met at Parrots Farm and did it all over again and when we had finished one of the older farm workers who had been in the line alongside me said "I got a pair of old riding britches at 'hoom young un, you can put those on next week and get rid of that old sacking". And so the next Saturday he was there with this pair of



A nature ramble at Brandon, 1940

corduroy Jodhpurs. They were a bit large around the middle but he gave me a leather belt to keep them up. At the time I thought it was a very nice thing to do as they gave me more protection than the old sacking, but I was to find out later the reason for his kindness. In the beating line he was always next to me and before we started one particular drive he said to me "now listen young un if I put my arm up you stop and stand perfectly still" and so of we went driving the pheasants out towards the guns. Half way through the drive up went his arm. I stopped and stood still frightened to move not knowing what he intended to do. I soon found out he had spotted a Pheasant crouching in the bracken and he very quickly despatched it with his stick, it was then I found out why he had given me the Jodhpurs. Tying a piece of string round the Pheasant's neck (it was a hen bird) he undid my belt put the bird down into the wide part of the leg, refastened the belt and tied the string to it, all this time not saying a word. He just put his finger up to his lips and I knew what he meant but believe me it was very uncomfortable walking around with a bird stuck down your trousers.

After getting my money and starting to walk home I was thinking what am I supposed to do with this bird when up came the old boy on his bike stopped and said "I HA A TAKE THAT BIRD YOUNG UN and don't forget not a word", this happened quite a few times during the shooting season, sometimes I had a bird down each leg and I never did say a word to anyone.

Coming down to breakfast one morning I noticed that Iris was crying. I found out later it was

because Percy had been called up and had gone off that morning to join the army. It was just two weeks after Percy going that I was moved again a hundred yards up the road to live with the Kent family, husband Gerry his wife Eadie and four children Gerry 12, Jean 10 and two others, a girl and a boy quite young but do not remember their names. They lived in a newly built council house which was quite nice, the only trouble was all the workmen had been called up before they had finished the inside because there were no handles on the doors drawers or cupboards, so we had to open them with a knife.

Mr Kent was in the Royal Observer Corp Aircraft Recognition and because of all the silhouette photos he had Gerry and I could name all the aircraft flying English and German.

After living there for I think it was about 8 months I was on the move again, this time just around the corner to Weeting Row, a row of lovely thatched cottages, owned by Farmer Parrot and I was moved in with Mr Kent's parents, known to me as Gran and Granddad Kent and their other son Dennis. He was 17 and as an under-aged driver drove this battered old lorry. I never did find out who he worked for but having been out with him during school holidays, I can confirm that he was not the best of drivers. I also remember that my vocabulary was increased a lot, especially when the lorry would not start first time, no automatic start knobs or buttons on this lorry just a cranking handle. I also remember Dennis joined the Home Guard and started courting Alma, a girl from London, who thought she could sing and, encouraged by the love sick Dennis, she would set forth each time she came to the cottage. She would make Dennis put some records on his old gramophone just so she could sing along, this could be the reason why I don't like the female singing voice especially if they sound like Alma. I think by this time I had got used to NO ELECTRICITY, NO WATER FROM A TAP AND I HAD EVEN GOT USED TO THAT LITTLE HUT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GARDEN.

As I have said before I did learn a lot definitely, a lot more than I would have had I not had this experience, for instance I learnt how to milk a cow (as a cockney erk I had no idea where milk came from), I learnt the rabbit thing, I learnt the art of scrumping although I think that may have come naturally, I learnt how to cultivate the soil, sow seeds to grow vegetables, to save apples and potatoes to last through the winter and I still do. I will always be grateful to the Gathercoles, the Grass family and both Kent families for taking me in and treating me as one of their own.

In 1989 I returned to Weeting and I am delighted to say that I met up with Percy Grass and Dennis Kent and we had a lot to talk about. I did ask Dennis the question and NO he did not marry Alma, it took a while but he too eventually got fed up with her singing (noise). The village had grown a lot since the forties, a lot more houses and a Beautiful Bowling Green where there used to be the village dump.

I also took time to visit the Churchyard to say thank you to all the people I had known but who are no longer with us, and I am sure it's because of my experiences with and the affection of all those people that Jean and I decided in 1987 to move settle down and spend our later years in DERSINGHAM.□

True Hate by Michael Keogh

Ah! Hatred is a dreadful thing, so fierce and so corrosive,
As much to fear in enemies as any high explosive.
No lover in his ecstasy can entertain a notion
Of just how passionate can be the opposite emotion.
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How strong the true fanatic's feeling for the infidel.
But if you'd like a good idea, just look upon her face
Who realises someone else has pinched her parking space.

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Steve Davis Puffin Away



For close on three decades I have greatly enjoyed our annual camping holidays and seldom wanted for more than to be under canvas for as many nights as possible. As our family and adherents grew, so did the amount of 'essential' equipment we took with us and roof racks gave way to

trailers, as bigger frame tents, extra pup-tents, a fridge, loo, wash stand, kitchen shelves and larder and all but the proverbial kitchen sink had to be accommodated. Now with just the two of us, we try to take a more minimal approach, and manage with just the car full, though our extensive comfortable bedding needs and birdwatching equipment seem to account for half the load!

This year, by way of celebrating my 'coming of age' (you may speculate which), Lindsey and I decided to embark on a seabird extravaganza stopping at two of our favourite campsites near Bempton Cliffs in East Yorkshire (woldfarmcampsite.tk) and Goswick Sands in Northumberland (www.beachcomber-campsite.co.uk) from where we could walk and take boat trips to indulge our passion for watching countless puffins and other seabirds as well as hunting for wild orchids.

As we drove the 150 miles around the Wash and north to our campsite at Wold Farm the early June weather started to cool a little and we soon needed to don a few more layers as we set up camp. However the sweeping open views from our tent across the farm fields and cliff-tops to Flamborough Head followed by the mere five minute walk along farm tracks to the cliff edge to view puffins, then a little further north along the cliff path with its glorious wild fauna to the gannet colony of the Staple Newk crags, part of the Bempton Cliffs RSPB reserve (www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/b/bemptoncliffs), more than compensated. A couple of chilly nights had us driving the few miles north to the elegant seaside town of Scarborough to pick up a cheap duvet



to further supplement our king-sized sleeping bags! Stopping off in Filey Bay on the way back we took advantage of the low tide to walk as far as we could around the bay and along the rocky "Brigg" peninsula at the north end that can be seen from the top of Bempton Cliffs, although I have to say it seemed a little less impressive close up! That night we were much warmer and cosier and ready for our last full day there walking south along the cliff-tops to Thornwick Bay, North Landing and on to Flamborough Head, pausing en route to spot puffins and wild orchids.

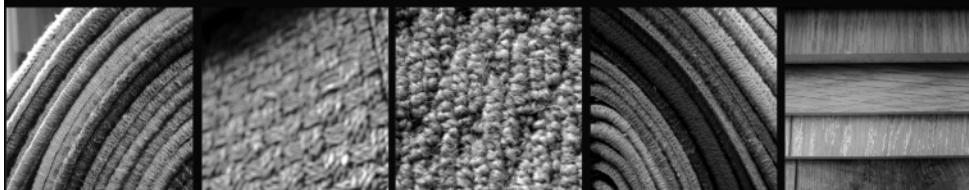


Driving 167 miles further north, we re-established camp at Beachcomber Campsite, just six miles south of the northernmost English town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. The other side of the sand dunes from this site is the most immense expanse of sand flats between Berwick to the north and Lindisfarne Island to the south, made all the more desert like as the far out low-tide disappears below the level of the sandbank creating a false horizon. This was indeed a treacherous place for early shipping to navigate as gloomy skeletons of old wrecks peering above the low-tide testify. On our first full day there, we travelled the twenty miles south to the large seaside village of Seahouses from where we were booked on one of Billy Shiel's 'All-Day' boat trips to the Farne Islands (www.farne-islands.com/boat-trips). Although we have done this a few times in the past, including some abortive ones when conditions were not so favourable, this was without doubt our best. The weather was excellent as we embarked on our six hour adventure around this archipelago, viewing the countless puffins, guillemots, razor bills and grey seals including a two and a half hour stop on each on the contrasting lichen encrusted rocks of Staple Island and the more verdant Inner Farne. Binoculars, scopes and telephoto lenses were for the most part superfluous when viewing these endearing



continued on page 56

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From the Parish Council Office....

Summer is here and the children are on school holidays, with the chance to enjoy the outdoor spaces in the village. Hopefully the weather will be good and the recreation ground with the recently mended skateboard ramp, getting lots of use. This is a good time to remind you that the recreation ground can be hired for car boot sales, fetes, games, shows and lots of other things. There is power and water there and it does not cost a lot. Contact me for more information.

The new council now boasts (almost!) a full complement of councillors, being just one short of its permitted number of eighteen. There is still just one seat available, and we would dearly love to fill it. If you can spare just a few hours a month, and want to make a difference in the village, why not drop me a line and apply? You don't need any special skills, a little time and a desire to make things better is enough!

In the meantime, the 17 existing councillors are working hard to ensure the village remains as lovely as ever, the grass cut and the road as free as possible from potholes and floods. The councillors are in the process of compiling a 'blueprint' of the village with details of every seat, bin, streetlight, bench, electricity sub-station etc. so we know exactly what we have and who is responsible for each, so if there is a problem with anything, the parish council can contact whoever looks after it as soon as possible.

Norfolk Green has taken over First's local bus routes, and is providing, I hope you'll agree, and excellent service overall. Of course, there is still room for improvement, and the parish council is in the process of meeting with Norfolk Green bosses to discuss the new service, and any changes that are needed before the new timetables come out in the autumn. If you have any suggestions of changes you would like to see, please let me know at the parish council offices.

And finally – enjoy the summer! The council is currently enjoying its summer recess, but meetings will resume in September – see the noticeboards or the website www.dersingham.org.uk for details of all parish council and committee meetings.□

Parish council meeting 23 May 2011

This was the first full council meeting since the Annual Parish Meeting which had taken place only a week before. The new Borough Council officers for the village are Cllr Judy Collingham, who was unable to attend this meeting, and Cllr Tony Bubb, who is already a member of the parish council.

At the meeting two new councillors – Gareth Hancock and Ivan Steel were co-opted on to the council by unanimous vote, leaving just two spare seats.

The regular crime report was presented by PCSO Robinson, with an unusually high number of village incidents – ten in all, including six incidents of criminal damage, two of possession of a class B drug, one theft and one common assault.

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In addition to the usual agenda items, appointments were made for councillors to serve on outside bodies, such as the Social Club, Police Liaison (SNAP meetings), and the Norfolk Playing Fields Association. Councillors give their time to attend these and many other meetings both to keep in touch with the activities of these other local groups, and where necessary, offer a parish council view.□

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clown-like puffins with beaks stuffed full of sand-eels together with guillemots, razor bills, fulmars, kittiwakes, shags and eider ducks with their young at such close range. Landing on Inner Farne, you have to run the gauntlet of the sharp-crimson-beaked arctic terns nesting alongside the walkways as they demonstrate their displeasure at our proximity to their eggs and offspring with an all-out dive-bombing attack. Hat wearing is strongly advised especially for those of us with little other protection on top! We completed this perfect day with a visit to one of

Seahouses' many Fish and Chip Restaurants *Pinnacles* (www.seahouses.org/directory_moredetails3.php?id=100095) which boasts the celebrity chef *Hairy Bikers*' accolade of being the 'best fish and chips in the country' and I for one had every reason not to dispute that!

From then on we made several journeys by car or on foot walking south along the coast and across the causeway to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, a very special place with its attractive bays, historical church, priory ruin, and fairytale mount-top castle (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-lindisfarnecastle) but mostly for us,



its sandy dunes along *The Snook* with masses of wild orchids and marsh helleborine to behold. Our visits there were made all the more interesting by virtue of the incoming tides sweeping around and closing the causeway behind us for five hours at a time.



Our final full day was to be our special treat as we drove the 50 miles further north across the border to the Scottish Seabird Centre in North Berwick (www.seabird.org) from where we were booked onto an exhilarating fast Rigid Inflatable Boat trip to the Isle of May 10.5 miles out into the north of



the outer Firth of Forth (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle_of_May). We were met on this historic rocky and verdant island for a briefing by one of the few resident researchers there, prior to setting off with our guide around its extensive undulating walkways. Here we saw our greatest yet concentration of puffins together with all the other 'usuals' including another attacking cavalcade of arctic terns. We returned elated for our last night under canvas but not before one final quick visit to our beloved Snook dunes.



Although I am sure we will return to Northumberland one day, our best, hard to repeat trip to the Farnes, the realisation of a yearning to visit the Isle of May, coupled with learning to our surprise that Beachcomber Campsite will be finishing at the end of this season does for us bring a kind of closure. Besides, Norfolk has so much to offer by way contrasting scenery and birdlife around its coastline. The straight-stubby-winged fulmars (often merely overlooked as gulls) along the cliffs at

Hunstanton are a delight to behold with their wheeling antics and cackling greetings. The wading birds at Titchwell and Snettisham will soon be arriving in their droves and I was especially proud to be an active member of the RSPB when I saw the striking new information boards that have just gone up in the hides at the Snettisham reserve; they are well worth a visit in their own right!



We are hoping to take some of our family and grandchildren camping locally during August. 'Pinewoods' at Wells (www.pinewoods.co.uk) seems to fit the bill with young children. Although, I think this time, it will take more than one trip to get all our stuff there! Photos of our excursions can be linked to from our website at www.davista.co.uk. □

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St Nicholas Church News



Thank you to all who came and supported the Grand Sale in April – the money from this event is used to help buy the flowers for the Flower Festival in July, and we would like to especially thank the members of the Flower Club who came along and help with this event.

In June we celebrated the 400 years of the King James Bible with a wonderful service in Church. Sandy Middleton made a cake in the shape of an open bible which was enjoyed by the congregation afterwards. The Choir were in good voice and the Vicar the Reverend Michael Brock liberally Baptised the congregation during a procession down the main aisle of the church. (Picture is of the Rev David Fysh our Choirmaster who helped organise the service “cutting” the cake)



By the time you read this the Flower Festival July 14th to 17th will have finished. At the moment it is being organised. The flower ladies are sorting out the flowers and

memorabilia for their displays of 100 years of life in the Church and Church Hall. Thank you to all involved in making this a memorable event, from the ladies making the wonderful displays to the many people in the background ensuring that everything goes to plan.



We are looking forward to the “**Last Night of the Proms**” Saturday September 10th at 7.30pm – this was a sell out last year! It was wonderful to see all the flags and hats and lots of people dressed up for the occasion. The Bilton Silver Band will be coming again with Liz West whose dresses are worthy of the occasion and her “Rule Britannia” dress is something else. A night of nostalgia and of singing your heart out, tickets £10 available from Hadyn Martin on 01485 544561.

Also in September we have the **Arts & Crafts Festival** – 22nd to 24th September with paintings by local artists displayed in the Church and Craft Stalls in the Church Hall. Refreshments served in the Church Hall each day.

Not forgetting of course our **Coffee Mornings held on the 1st Friday of each month** in the Church Hall 10am to 12noon when you can get your fresh vegetables & eggs, homemade cakes, preserves, handcrafted cards, nearly new clothes and second-hand bookshop and now Priors the Butchers also have a stall. Come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.□

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Summer Celebrations

Every day at our school seems to bring something new and exciting. We want to share some of our successes and achievements with you.



Nursery grew grass seed heads and cut their hair! They also made windmills to help keep the moles away from our new garden.



Reception children made a Water garden and they have Also been painting in the style of other artists.



Year 1 children learnt about different vegetables and planned their garden. They set about growing some themselves!



Year 2 children sorted their natural finds from a walk to Sandringham and .. outside was the best place to learn about fire!



Nursery and Year 1 entered a competition in The Royal Norfolk Show for 'Developing a Garden' and won £250 towards resources. The School Council and the Eco Council helped us to achieve the Green Flag Eco Award too!

Sandringham Squirrels

by Alan Coleby



Girl squirrels - Ella,
Eve, Cassie, Thora

Boy squirrels - Scoot,
Chip, Barney, Gus



Watchers in the wood

'Barney's got another game. Shall we go and watch?' Eve asked Scoot.

'Oh,' said Scoot. 'Nothing much else to do. I'm not joining in, but we could go and watch and keep our distance from another tree.'

'Why do we only watch?' Eve seemed a bit disheartened.

'He's too silly,' said Scoot, 'and I haven't been going around much with him recently. Do you remember that time when he wanted to go crossing the road with Gus and he almost got killed? The car just touched his tail.'

'M'm. Yes.' Eve was even more downcast. If Scoot wasn't keen on going, Eve didn't want to go and watch Barney on her own.

Then she saw Cassie in the distance. She thought that if Cassie was keen to go and watch Barney, Scoot would be sure to go too, because he seemed to like Cassie so much.

'Do you know about Barney's new game?' Eve asked, as they drew closer.

'Hello Eve, hello Scoot,' she replied. 'Yes. I've heard about it. He's found two thin sweet chestnuts and he has pushed and knocked them into a crack in an oak tree so hard that they won't come out. Plenty of people have tried to pull them out, but they can't. Now he's put two more in a crack and he thinks it's funny to watch people try to pull them out and they can't. They're quite near the ground. They poke out just far enough to attract people.'

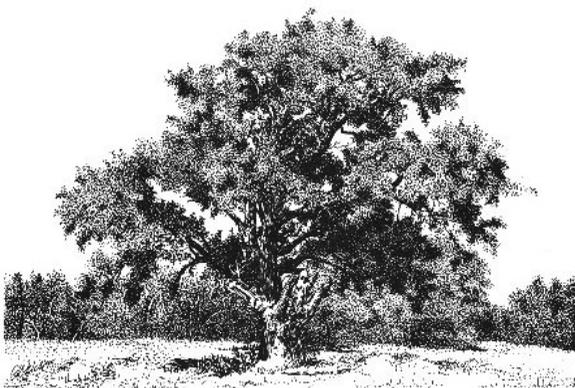
'Come on, then,' said Eve, and as she and Cassie went off to the particular tree on the edge of the wood, she was not surprised to see Scoot coming along behind.

The tree was beside the narrow path between the wood and the gorse bushes. They climbed a tree a little further into the wood and settled down to watch. They could see Barney opposite the tree under a large gorse bush so that he could have a good view.

One or two squirrels came past, saw the nuts, went up to them and gave them a tug, but soon went on when they discovered how firmly they were embedded.

The next passer-by gave a tug and could not move the nuts. Instead of just passing along like everyone else, he had a crafty look round to see if anyone was watching. All the watchers were well concealed. Then, with both back feet on the tree, he hung on to one of the nuts while he pulled as hard as he could. It would not budge. Then he lost his grip and fell backwards. The watchers covered their mouths to stop laughing out loud. The disappointed squirrel passed along the path.

Expectation increased among the watchers when two humans came along, a young man and a young lady. They could see the young lady point out the nuts, and the man tried to pull them out of the bark. When he couldn't do it, he looked round for something he could use to help. With a strong twig, he pushed downwards on



each nut but still without success. Much to the lady's amusement, he tried stones, and even pouring water down the crack from a nearby puddle. He obviously did not have a knife. Finally, he gave a shrug and walked away. The lady, who had been giggling and laughing for some time, tried to make him feel better by putting her arm around him.

Then came Gus. No-one could have told him about the game. He pulled at the nuts and tried knocking them downwards. He bashed them with stones. He even shouted at them. Cassie nearly fell out of the tree laughing at him. Eve and Scoot were sure they would give themselves away because they also laughed nearly as loudly. Finally, Gus had a careful look round to see if anyone was watching. When he had decided there was no-one about, he went up to the nuts and seemed to be kissing them.

The laughter from within the tree nearly gave them away again.

'He's trying to pull them out with his teeth,' said Eve, quietly.

'No,' said Scoot. 'He's eating all the part that's poking out.'

'Well, the uneaten part will just stay there for ever,' said Cassie.

'It will soon rot,' said Eve.

As if to prove them all wrong, there was then a great crashing of wings and rushing of wind, as a green woodpecker, which must have been watching, flew down and straight at the oak tree.

Gus moved smartly out of the way. He had no intention of being caught by that massive great beak.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

With four quick blows, the woodpecker disposed of each nut. Quickly, they were all gone. The wood echoed and re-echoed with the sound. The woodpecker gave his great loud laugh – some people call it a yaffle – as he flew away.

'You would never think his main food is ants, would you?' asked Scoot.

'With that great beak, I think he ought to start eating bigger animals,' said Cassie, 'starting with Gus'. □

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The Old Biddie and her Cottage Garden

Well, we missed out Spring this year, didn't we, going immediately into hot Summer, then reverting back to a few chilly days and even putting the central heating back on. I hope it doesn't bode ill for July and onwards. Let's think positive.

It was good to hear the cuckoo this year – There always used to be cuckoos calling when I was a child, but I haven't noticed it much in latter years until this year – but this summer I've heard it a lot. I suppose the hotter weather encourages it and its nasty habits – it's a shame that such a harbinger of hot and hazy summer days is such a bully-bird. But, I still like to hear it, always thinking to myself – it's *really* summer now – no more winter. One very early morning in May, in the dark before dawn, I could hear the silly bird cuckoo-ing in the woods. I suppose he was trying to herald the dawn chorus, but none of the other birds were having it. It was still dark, and they still had an hour or so of sleep before their busy day. It carried on cuckoo-ing for some time. Probably trying to lure a nice parent bird out of its bed to lay one of its own bandit eggs.

Mentioning the cuckoo made me turn to googling to discover that “they are of cosmopolitan distribution – found almost anywhere around the world and that they are ‘brood parasites’ involving the manipulation and use of host individuals of either the same or different species. This relieves the parasitic parent from the investment of rearing young or building nests, thus enabling them to spend more time foraging, producing offspring, etc.” Now, that kind of brings to mind the problems we have with Social Services and those of cosmopolitan distribution and parasitic parents, not wanting to work and so on...

Talking about bandits, I recently heard a lot of squawking going on in the garden – blackbirds, sparrows, tits and so on were all lined up on my cherry trees making a right old racket, and there were two Jackdaws trying to get in to feed at the bird table. One brave blackbird made a dive for them, and whoosh – off flew the bandits. Bullies are all the same, lily-livered when it comes to combat – they tried it a few times and gave up to the small brave-hearts, all banded together to save their territory.

After my splendid start at the beginning of the season, digging and weeding, of course the lack of rain soon set the earth to concrete-state. I couldn't get a fork in the ground. The flowers soon grew and I could no longer complete my task as they were too chock-a-block to get to the soil. Every few years or so, I like to completely dig my borders, splitting plants that look too crowded, getting air into the soil, getting out as many weeds as possible. However, it doesn't seem to matter whether it gets done or not – the plants all grow and the weeds are not really noticeable – except I know they are there and want them out! So, not wanting to disturb all the flowers, I set to creating some more beds and borders. It was such hard work, trying to get a fork into the rigid soil, but I am a stubborn old biddy, and carried on regardless, thinking slow, but sure, and as a small six inch strip was completed, I thought to myself, well, that is one eighth completed. Maths never having been my forte, I couldn't exactly fractionalise what I had done, but it seemed to make my brain accept that actually I was doing okay, and I felt quite excited at my task. I disturbed some ants who were frantically carting their eggs to safety, and I felt sorry for them and apologised, but it *is* my garden, and they don't pay the rates. I know they are intelligent workers and that their children would soon be in a safer place. Some blackbirds came down and pecked around my feet – it must be hard for them to find sustenance when the ground is so hard, so they were pleased with the bounty they found.

The good news is that I haven't broken any garden chairs or fallen through any since the last Village Voice came out. However, the bad news is that my girth is spreading. I know this, because when I now sit in my white plastic garden chairs under the gazebo in the back garden I find them very 'cosy'. When I rise up, they are attached to my rear and I can walk off with them still in situ. Him indoors watching tells thinks it very funny and I can hear his crack of laughter as I try to detach the blasted thing. What is more humiliating is that the parrot laughs as well! I have very little dignity intact.

As I am writing now on the 12th June, the rain is coming down in bucket-loads. Hurray and Hurrah – we really do need it. The blackbirds are scurrying across the lawns and flowerbeds, their heads cocked as they listen for a sound that will denote a worm or insect of some sort, and then down go their beaks at a fast rate of knots as they delve into the soil for their prey. I've managed to dig a circular bed around the roots of a large old willow tree long sawn down. There were some bluebells and sedum and valerian plants but it had never officially been a bed. There had been a shower the previous evening, so the soil had softened a little, and I was pleased to find that my fork was bringing up soft and rotten roots, making it easier to dig and form yet another bed to link up with a newly dug one, and making a kind of kidney shaped bed. Took out some of the sedum and transplanted them, just had time to tidy up and down came the deluge – which will perk up the plants no end.

To my delight part of the near dead hedge that I severely pruned in the spring has burst forth into leaf – hedges are dodgy things if you cut the green back too far, so I have been lucky with that one. Many a leylandi hedge is ruined by cutting back too far as you are left with nothing but brown to look at. You have to keep them regularly trimmed from young as they grow so big so quickly and really you are better not to plant them at all – unless you crave quick privacy, and they certainly grant you that.

My roses have done brilliantly this year – they certainly love the sunshine, and I have been able to pick plenty for indoors as well as retaining many blooms on the bushes. Next year they will hopefully be even better as they mature. And, substituting r for n – that is something I must get from my horsey friends. My roses lack a good dose and I am sure that would perk them up no end.

End of June now and time to submit my piece to the VV. There has been lots more rain and everywhere is well watered. I now have a bumper crop throughout the garden of Maretail that has grown so high it covers all the flowers. Hateful stuff. Also some lilies have grown to about five foot high – and my chives that should be neat and short along my borders are pretending to be leeks – they are so tall they look really untidy and defy my landscaping. Do I have green fingers, or was all that sunshine drawing them upwards?

My dog Crow, by the way, has met his match in the woods. He bounded up to a big black Alsatian wanting to play – not obeying my commands to stay – and got bitten for his efforts. I think maybe he might be more cautious in future. Luckily the bites weren't too bad so no expensive vet bills to fork out for. I just love those Heath Road woods – or Heath as I believe it is really named. The Rhododendron branches, with their glorious purple blooms prominent against the greens, reaching up high into the sky propped up by silver birches and also climbing to dizzy heights, the honeysuckle growing in riotous abandon everywhere – I've never been in such pretty woods and a thanks to the invisible person or persons who keep the place in good nick for walkers and wanderers like me.

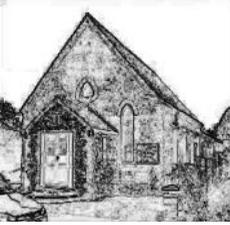
Lets hope the good weather continues, with only enough rainfall that is needful. Bring out the cucumber sandwiches and elderflower wine!

VV Sudoku No 18 solution								
6	9	2	8	1	5	7	3	4
1	3	7	6	9	4	8	2	5
5	8	4	2	7	3	9	6	1
4	2	1	7	6	8	3	5	9
9	6	3	4	5	2	1	8	7
8	7	5	9	3	1	2	4	6
3	5	9	1	8	6	4	7	2
2	1	8	5	4	7	6	9	3
7	4	6	3	2	9	5	1	8

reminds me – I always plant at least one elderberry tree in my various gardens. I have two small ones growing here at the moment, and when grown they will look stunning when in flower, and you can make exquisite wine and champagne from the flowers and of course use the berries too. They don't seem to be very popular and I don't understand why. If they look untidy, you can trim the branches to create a pleasant shaped tree instead of having an ungainly bush, and the birds, butterflies and bees will be grateful for the bounty too.□

Have fun – The Old Biddie.

Greetings from the manse



One thing we mustn't do as we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible is to "let its light be hidden under a bushel." This of course is one of the very many and greatly loved phrases and idioms from the 1611 Bible that have become part of our language. Others would include "let there be light", "am I my brother's keeper?", "be fruitful and multiply", "pillar of salt", "bald as a coot", "let my people go", "by the skin of my teeth", "tender mercies", "the spirit is willing", "a man after his own heart", "vanity of vanities", "sign of the times", "wages of sin", "thou good and faithful servant", "all things to all men", "eat, drink and be merry", "from strength to strength", "fight the good fight", "through a glass darkly", "grave, where is thy victory?", "the land of the living", and "a multitude of sins" are all generally in usage, well at least among the older generations! "

Many of these phrases were the work of William Tyndale (1494?-1536) who translated the New Testament from exile in Germany in the 1520s, into a vigorous straightforward English from Greek texts that were available to him. No one seemed to worry about the pedigree and accuracy of the texts they were working on. Tyndale's and, to a lesser extent the work of Miles Coverdale (1488-1568) and John Wycliffe (died 1384) became the basis of the King James Bible, the translators of which also took the view that the best translation was a literal one. So instead of adapting Hebrew and Greek to English forms of speaking they simply translated it literally. The result wouldn't have made all that much sense to readers, but they got used to it, and so these fundamentally foreign ways of expressing yourself became accepted as normal English through the influence of the 1611 Bible. To this day with modern Bible editions, there is always a tension between style and substance in the work of translation, the emphasis is on accuracy or "user friendliness", as we might say.

It is calculated that there are 257 such phrases in current usage. However only 18 of the 257 are considered to be original to the 1611 translation. These include, "God forbid", "Take root", "The powers that be", "No peace for the wicked", "A fly in the ointment", "Wheels within wheels", "Feet of clay" and "The blind leading the blind." The others were taken from earlier English language translations such as the Great Bible of 1539, Geneva Bible of 1560, The Bishop's Bible of 1568 which was a revision of the Great Bible in the light of the Geneva Bible and the Douay-Rheims Bible of 1610. They also looked at contemporary Protestant translations in French, German and Italian but they they didn't look at ancient manuscripts that were available to them. That was not really their brief and indeed they didn't lose any sleep over checking their translations with ancient manuscripts and asking the question which manuscripts provided the most accurate text of the New Testament? Instead for their work on the New Testament, the translators of the King James Bible used Greek texts that had been published during the previous century and made widely available through the printing press. These included the 1516 Greek New Testament of the Dutchman Desiderus Erasmus (1469-1536), who was one of the leading scholars of the age and a friend of Sir Thomas More. This edition would become known as the Textus Receptus, which meant in Latin, "received by all" and the basis through the King James Bible of Protestant Bibles until 1881.

Erasmus faced competition to get his translation published first, in fact he didn't succeed, the first printed Greek New Testament came out in 1514, and was the work of Francisco Ximenes de Cisneros, who was the Cardinal Primate of Spain at the time. It was called the "Complutensian Polygot" because the New Testament was printed in two columns in Latin and Greek. What ancient texts were used in this translation has never been discovered. However we do know what Erasmus used and where he started his work of translation. It was in the university of Cambridge where he was visiting before he travelled to Basle in Switzerland to use the collection of manuscripts at the Dominican Monastery in the city. This collection did not contain a manuscript that contained the entire New Testament. In his haste he mostly used two manuscripts dating from the twelfth century, considered today to be quite inferior texts.



He compared them with other manuscripts of the same books of the New Testament that he had to hand and entered occasional corrections and changes in the margins or between the lines of the Greek script. Erasmus's changes can be seen in the picture of Luke 6v20-30, where the bottom line is in his own hand, stating that part of verse 28 had been accidentally omitted by the scribe.

When he came to the Book of Revelation he only had one manuscript and unfortunately it lacked the final page containing the last six verses of the book. Instead of delaying publication to locate another copy of Revelation, and doubtless under pressure from the printers, he translated the missing verses from the ancient Latin translation of the Bible called the Vulgate, into Greek. Of course no Greek manuscript discovered before or since has anything exactly like this. These verses are still there today in the printings of the so called Textus Receptus of the Greek New Testament, like the 1611 Bible.

Gradually the idea came that it was of the greatest importance to compare different manuscripts because their readings sometimes varied and even more important to locate the oldest documents possible, because the oldest documents were more than likely to be closer to the originals. This led to a determined effort by Biblical scholars to hunt down ancient copies of the Books of the New Testament. Next time, the tale of the greatest Bible hunter of them all, the "Indiana Jones" of nineteenth century manuscript hunting, Count Constantin Von Tischendorf.

With every blessing *Rev. Kim Nally.*

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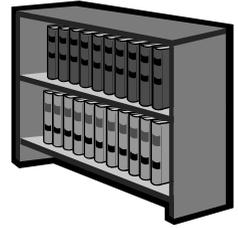
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Old Girls Patch by Meetze

It is sooo nice weather. We are all baking on the conservatory floor. We are waiting for a visitor. But 3pm has passed and she has not turned up yet.

Ah, there is the doorbell. Laura is here (she just got stuck in traffic I guess) and she brought 2 more visitors. Elsa and Kahla. They will be staying with us for a week, as Laura goes on holiday to Spain and either she can't take them or they can't be bothered to go. Elsa is black like Beauty and she also has a leg missing. Another car accident victim. Kahla is a Siamese I think. Elsa is very noisy and Kahla is very nosy. A perfect match if Elsa wouldn't hiss all the time. Both joined us without any hesitation in the conservatory for a fry up in the sun. What a picture! 9 cats scattered around on the floor and our female 2-legged friend is stepping over us, hanging up some washing and trying hard not to step on one of us.



After Laura had left for Spain we had serious logistical sleeping problems at night. Elsa and Kahla wanted to sleep with us in bed as well. That was really crowded. Just try to picture a double bed with 5 cats and two 2 legged ones on it. Sidney did not like it one bit. He jumped of the bed, grabbed his mouse and walked sulking downstairs to sleep in the swivel chair. Johnnie followed shortly after, just that she decided to sleep on the radiator bed and had no mouse. I stayed put. I was here first! Literally.

The next evening, after my 2-legged female friend returned from work, she called in a meeting with the two holiday cats and the permanent residents to discuss the sleeping arrangements. It looked like everybody was listening, but bedtime came and we had the same situation as the night before. But this time the 2-legged male took his pillow and moved downstairs to sleep on the sofa, where Stumpy and Beauty had to make room for him. So he was not really better off than upstairs, was he?!

Morning came and 9 cats having breakfast at the same time was unexpectedly easy. But then Elsa found the banana and got addicted. She was rolling around the living room floor like she tried to mop it. Our 2-legged friends made some comments and had a laugh on her account. Great, now we have a junkie in the house.

Kahla proved to be very athletic when it came to the dinner table of our 2-legged ones. She stole, very expertly, meat bits off of their plates. She did it so fast that none of the 2-legged ones could react quick enough.

Tiny Tatty turned out beautifully. Her fur has grown back and she now looks like a Cornish Rex.

Stumpy went for a check up and she now is completely deaf and she also has bad cataracts in both eyes. She cannot see anything anymore. And in her age, there is nothing that can be done. Our 2-legged friends were considering buying new furniture and changing the lounge and the bedroom, but that is now on ice, as everything has to stay as it is for Stumps. Amazingly she finds her way to the toilet, the food bowl, the settee and the cat activity centre without bumping into anything.□



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Gooseberry Fool

340g (¾ lb) gooseberries, granulated sugar to taste, ½ pt double or whipping cream (or Elmlea), 500g (1½ pt) plain set yoghurt (Greek is good)

Cook gooseberries with 2tbsps water, either in microwave or pan until soft. Add sugar to taste. Leave to cool.

Whip cream until fairly stiff, add yoghurt, stir well, and then add gooseberries.

Refrigerate until really cold and set a little then serve.

Alternatives: Add a little elderflower cordial or use rhubarb and vanilla instead of gooseberries.

Servings: 6 (moderate!)

Wendi's Lip-Licking Lemon Pie

200g digestive biscuits, 90g butter, 250g Mascarpone cheese, 175ml condensed milk, 2 lemons strawberries and chocolate to decorate.

Crush biscuits, melt butter then mix and press into base of large dish. Put in fridge to cool.

Put Mascarpone and condensed milk into bowl; add juice and grated rinds of lemons. Beat until smooth and thick. Spread over biscuit base and chill for at least 1 hour.

Just before serving decorate with strawberries and grated chocolate.

Servings: 12 (possibly!)

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The annual canvass for the Register of Electors begins at the end of August, when a form and reply paid return envelope will be personally delivered to every property in West Norfolk. Completion and return of the form is both obligatory and important because the Register is used not just for electoral purposes but also by many financial service providers dealing with, for example, mortgages, loans or new accounts. Anyone whose name is not on the Register will not only be unable to vote at any elections there may be during 2012 but will also be likely to have problems using any service that involves a check of the Register.

The form is intended for the present occupiers of an address. The name of anyone expected to be resident at the address on 15th October and who is already 18, or will reach that age by 30th November 2012, needs to be on the form and the names of anyone no longer at the address crossed out.

Forms received by owners of properties which are either already empty or are expected to be so on 15th October simply need the "Property empty on 15th October" box ticking and returning. This will avoid the issue of reminders.

In the event of any queries when the form arrives, householders can telephone 01553 616773 and any of the electoral staff will be glad to help.

Early return of the form or, better still, confirmation by freephone, internet (if you have a Community Information Point in your village a terminal is available there) or SMS (details on the form) will avoid the need for reminders and help to keep costs down.



The Golden Oriole

David Bingham

Picture by Mike Langman (RSPB Images)

Yesterday I stood listening to the song of a golden oriole. The place was the Lakenheath Fen RSPB reserve on the Norfolk/Suffolk border. It had been raining and I heard the oriole soon after the clouds cleared and the sun came out. The bird was probably no more than fifty feet from me but it was well hidden by the foliage of a poplar

tree- within a wood that had been planted in rows like soldiers on parade. For such fantastically coloured birds, golden orioles are notoriously difficult to see and their presence is usually given away by their call - a melancholy fluting song in which it is possible to pick out a phrase that sounds like 'oriole', although I believe that their name comes from the Latin 'aureolus' meaning golden rather than their song.

Lakenheath is well named - being a combination of a wet and a dry place. The fen is the wet bit before the ground rises towards the dry sandy heaths of Breckland. Fifteen years ago, the reserve was a carrot field but after lots of hard work it is now a marvelous wetland with breeding bitterns and cranes - reminiscent of the rich Fenland landscapes before the drainage schemes turned them into boring, but productive, farmland. Orioles were here in the poplars before the RSPB arrived and the one or two pairs that return each spring from their African wintering grounds make up the entire British breeding population.

While I stood listening to the song and trying to locate the bird, more in hope than expectation, my mind wandered back to a time BC (Before Computers) when I worked in a Kafkaesque office 'somewhere in Norfolk'. The room was a fug of cigarette smoke and a local chap would come to my desk every morning pushing a trolley stacked high with files for my attention. The bringer of the files (I've forgotten his name) was the only other non-smoker in the building and I would sometimes wander into his 'room of files' to get a breath of clean air. It was there that he told me about his fame as '*the man who once saw a golden oriole*'. He said that he had disturbed the bird as it fed on the ground and how he saw the flash of yellow as it flew away. Since that day his house had become a shrine to the golden oriole with golden oriole paintings, ornaments, sculptures, place mats, birthday cards, Christmas cards and general golden oriole related bric-a-brac. I knew straight away that what he had actually seen was the yellow rump of a green woodpecker that had been feeding on ants because I often walked in the place he described and it was a favourite spot for feeding woodpeckers. I didn't say this and I'm not sure whether this was so as not to burst his bubble or because I didn't want to be barred from an oasis of clean air. Perhaps my motivation was mixed. I could have told him about a few good spots to see golden orioles in Norfolk at that time - such as a bridge at Fordham where they would regularly fly over the river from one patch of poplars to another. Maps in old bird books show a splotch of colour for the summer range of golden orioles in south east England - this has now shrunk to a pin prick. I don't know why they have declined in this country, but the serried ranks of poplars that are their preferred breeding habitat in Norfolk were often planted as a rotational crop by companies like Bryant and May to turn into matchsticks. My coughing colleagues were probably doing more for the golden orioles than all of the conservation organisations combined. Matches are imported these days so if you have been smoking to save the golden oriole you can stop now - it's too late. The RSPB have planted more poplars at Lakenheath but these can't compare with the commercial scale planting undertaken in the past. It would be a great shame if we were to lose our remaining golden orioles but they were never a common bird in this country and they do exist in reasonable numbers on the continent, so their disappearance from England is of local rather than global concern. One less bird to enjoy along with the red-backed shrikes that used to return each summer to breed a few miles from Lakenheath at Santon Downham until the early 1990s.

I was joined in my watch next to the plantation by a photographer with a mega big lens on his camera. He said that he had tried several times before and had yet to see a golden oriole - let alone photograph one. He told me that the word on the street was that the RSPB had fastened a loud speaker in a tree to fool the public. I know that this rumour is untrue but you will have to be lucky to see a golden oriole. I can't explain why because they are a reasonable sized bird – about as big as a blackbird - and they are coloured brilliant yellow and black. This is the colour of workplace warning signs that are designed to be very obvious. Golden orioles just seem to melt into the foliage. I gave up after a while and left the photographer on his lonely quest. If you want to become famous in your family as a golden oriole spotter I would recommend an early spring morning at the RSPB Lakenheath reserve. Choose a fine day and loiter with intent around the poplars listening for their telltale call. If you fail to see an oriole the sight of fifty plus hobbies hunting over the reedbed should be compensation enough. This is a regular sight during early May at Lakenheath Fen these days and it sure beats a field of carrots – unless you happen to be Bugs Bunny.□

ICS

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Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

Due to staff sickness, the Parish Council Office at 7b Hunstanton Road will be open at the following times until further notice:

Monday, Tuesday 10.30am - 2pm Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm

Please telephone the office on 01485 541465 to check it is open before calling in, or to leave a message. You can also email to dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk.

In case of emergency, please ring the Acting Clerk on 07950 169244

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this .

Orange Trade Refuse Sacks - £50 inc. VAT per roll of 25,
Tags for Black Refuse Sacks £1.00 each,
can be obtained at the Council Office during the above times.

DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS

Do please let us know if any of these details change.

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Every Monday	2.00 pm	St. Cecilia's Church	Rosary Group	St. Cecilia's Church
Every Monday	2.00 pm or 7.30 pm	Freebridge Community Housing	Bingo	Orchard Close
Every Monday	6.30 - 8.00pm	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 Monday in Term Time	12.45 to 2.15 am	Sticking Together	Toddler Craft Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
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	10 to 3pm	Lavender Lace Makers	Lace Making	?
Every Tuesday	7 pm	Dersingham Bridge Club	Bridge Evening	?
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	?
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	?
2nd Tuesday in Month	6pm	Dersingham Library	Crime Book club	Library

Last Tuesday in month	6pm	Dersingham Library	Book Club	Lidrary
Every Wednesday	10.00 am to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly	Recreation & Leisure and Mid-day Meal	St Nicholas Church Hall
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	St Cecilia's Church Hall
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 10.45am	Puddleducks Toddler Group	Toddler Group meeting	Scout & Guide HQ
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 to 12 noon	St Nicholas Church	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every 3rd Saturday of the month	10 to 3 pm	Lavender Lace Makers	Lace Making	?

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
No 72	Wednesday 7th September	Monday 26th Sept
No 73	Wednesday 9th November	Monday 28th Nov
No 74	Wednesday 18th January 2012	Monday 6th Feb

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

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 £15.10 for an eighth of a page black and white or £21.25 for colour per issue, to be very cost effective. (Prices include VAT)

Advertisements for inclusion in the next magazine should be in the hands of Anita Moore, Dersingham Parish Council, 7b Hunstanton Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HH by **Wednesday 7th September 2011**

Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

E-mail — villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

Articles for publication in the next edition of Village Voice must reach The Editor c/o Dersingham Parish Council, 7b Hunstanton Road, Dersingham PE31 6HH or e-mail; villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 7th September 2011 for publication on Monday 26th September 2011**. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication). Should you be providing graphics to accompany advertisements or articles, it would be appreciated if these could be in JPEG format.

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

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

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

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 - Gay Watt, Distribution - Steve Davis

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James Graven's

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All orders to be placed by 11am for same day delivery.

Deliveries will take place Tuesday to Friday between 12 noon and 2 pm.

*There will be a charge of £5 for orders under £20 or outside the five mile radius. This service is only available to customers over 18. Please ask in store for details.

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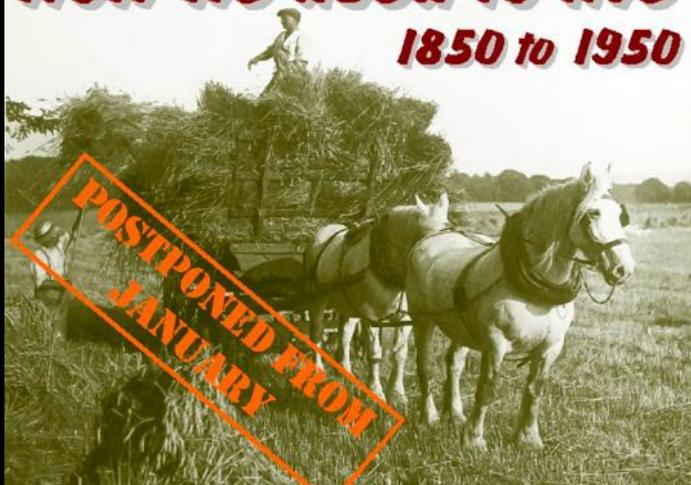
Fax: 01485 543508

Email: dersingham@jamesgraven.com

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday August 2nd

How we used to live 1850 to 1950



A slice of history in words and pictures from

David Grimes

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.00 including refreshments & raffle.

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

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A Musical Evening

showcasing local musical talent

on

Tuesday September 6th



proceeds in aid of the Norfolk based charity

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St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.00 including refreshments & raffle