

VILLAGE VOICE

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



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Editor's Notes

I will start first by noting the passing of Steve Nowell. Steve was a frequent contributor to Village Voice and he was of course halfway through his latest piece "Rockants". We will never know the outcome.

Also gone is John Bunn. For many years John looked after the sports ground which was always in wonderful condition drawing compliments from those who visited to play. Both gentlemen will be missed.

The Data gremlins have come out to play again. In the list of councillors in the latest edition please note that David Tudor and Dennis Wright have had their details transposed. Whilst on the subject of Data don't forget to get your Village Centre forms back by November 30th to qualify for the prize draw. Forms will of course be welcome a little after that date but can never be winners.

The 6th of October could have been cold, wet and windy but fortunately it was none of these for the unveiling of our new village sign. Dr Simon Thurley, chief executive of English Heritage and a King's Lynn resident, did the honours for us. Before the veil (ok a coarse cloth) was removed he told us how the tradition of village signs did in fact start on the Sandringham Estate around a hundred years ago. From that small beginning the practice has spread not only to Norfolk but around the rest of the country. It's nice to be at the cutting edge. After the deed was done and the crowd of around 60 had done their admiring of the new sign, which had been made in the village by Flights of Fancy at the top of Fern Hill, we repaired to the Social Club for tea and a wonderful spread of cakes which had been baked by the WI.



Clockwise from top left Under wraps, The new sign, Simon wrestles with the veil, County Cllr John Dobson with Simon Thurley.

Enough from me then as your December/January VV awaits your gaze. All the team here wish you a Jolly Good Christmas and a Happy New Year. There is much to entertain and interest within these pages with some old favourites and some new contributors, not to forget our advertisers, without whom we would have a very thin publication so do please support them. Do try the maze and I do have the solution to hand but it will require a large payment to release it. □

Tony

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Dear Village Voice



Bernie Twite is wrong to say villagers have been denied access over the Fen. (Village Voice October) The right to take firewood etc has been denied but the commons are still available for that purpose. In fact access on the Fen has been greatly improved with footpaths being regularly cut, an information board installed and seating provided along the route. The Fen is regularly used by dog walkers, bird watchers and residents who just enjoy walking.

Ruth Mountain Clerk, Dersingham United Charities

Talking with some Dersingham residents recently, it was obvious that one of their “pet hates” is dog mess. But it soon becomes clear during the conversations, that their issue is more about the dog owners who are not “picking up”.

Some grumbled about having to clean their shoes after treading in it. One mum mentioned it ending up on their kitchen floor from their children’s shoes, walked in from a trip to the shops. Leaving it in the road even has consequences, as apparently it ends up on people’s driveways and even garages. Several expressed concerns about the health hazards and chance of infections.

So if your conscience is pricking you at the moment because you are one of the few dog owners who thinks it doesn’t matter – please think on! Using plastic bags from your shopping means you can be doubly smug because you are sort of recycling at the same time. And just in case you don’t know, the little bag of your “doggy do’s” can be put in your wheelie bin if double wrapped if you aren’t walking near one of the many dogs bins the Dersingham Parish Council have provided.

Sharon Ludford, Neighbourhood Officer, Borough Council of King’s Lynn & West Norfolk

I felt it time to put my spoke in again. Regarding the old pictures, I cannot help on the playgroup (far too modern for me). However, some of the choir are as follows:

Teddy Rye, organist and choir master, Sgt. Major Ridley, Billy Andrews, Bernard Riches, John Playford, Billy Playford, Wallace Twite, Rolly Linford. The front row are not so easy but I think they may start off with Michael Whittey, Denis Back, Tony Ridley, Peter (p.p.) Gough. These may get others started.



Regarding the originators of road names, I have asked my brother to send me a map of Dersingham so I can try and name some of them. Clayton Close was named after Billy Clayton who was a local builder and on the Dersingham Parish Council. Hope this helps a little.

Ivan Green

P.S. An after thought. One of the village signs was, I am fairly certain, stolen. Just as a coincidence, until I started working for a living in 1955, I used to live at 3 Post Office Road, opposite the Post Office and almost opposite the now council office.

Has anyone got any concrete information about this alleged sign stealing? At the time of the loss of the first sign in the 70's the “Americans” were blamed. Why? Was there some special connection? We need the facts!

Ed.

SNAP INFORMATION

What is a SNAP?

SNAPs are Safer Neighbourhood Action Panels (SNAPs), a public meeting held jointly by the Police, Borough Council and West Norfolk Partnership, to listen to and work to address local concerns.

When are they held?

Each of West Norfolk's nine neighbourhoods will have a SNAP meeting every two months, held at a community venue within the neighbourhood. To find out where yours will be you can visit www.norfolk.police.uk or call the Council's Partnership Team on 01553 616251.

Future dates for your neighbourhood are:

7pm	31 st January 2013	Gt Massingham Village Hall
7pm	14 th March 2013	Dersingham Infant School

Who will be there?

SNAP meetings are chaired by a local councillor and the panel will be made up of a police representative from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team; a council representative, usually an Environmental Health Officer; and a representative from the West Norfolk Partnership, usually a Neighbourhood Officer.

Other key local agencies which provide a service in the community may also sit on the panel, including neighbourhood managers, housing, health and education officials or voluntary organisations. Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) will also be available should anyone wish to speak privately to an officer.

Who can attend?

Any member of the public living or working in the neighbourhood is welcome to come and have their say at the meeting.

We also encourage organised community groups - such as Home Watch - to send a representative and parish councils, who may wish to send a representative for a cluster of villages.

What issues can I raise at a SNAP meeting?

SNAP meetings are your chance to raise or report any local issues or concerns directly to the local agencies that can help address them.

The issues can range from crime or suspected crime in your street or community to issues of anti-social behaviour that may be affecting you or other nearby households.



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CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE (CBHC) PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) NEWS

From: Tom Morris, PPG Committee

At the October meeting of the PPG, the Chairman introduced two guests to address the meeting and to answer any questions as to their role within the NHS.

Firstly, **Sarah Merritt**, our resident Community Matron elaborated on her role in the practice. Community matrons are highly experienced, senior nurses who work closely with patients (especially those with a serious long term condition or a complex range of conditions) in a community setting to directly provide, plan and organise their care. Sarah gave members an excellent briefing on her role within the practice highlighting, with the aid of slides, the varied tasks she has on a daily basis. She explained that her work is mainly involved with patients who have been recently discharged from hospital or those who are unwell but not necessarily needing hospital treatment. Her remit is to enable, wherever possible, patients to stay at home rather than go to hospital. She also has access to so called 'step-up beds' whereby patients can go to a nursing home on a short term basis if there is no-one at home to provide care – similar to the role played by the old convalescence hospitals. Dr Summers said how very appreciative the surgery is of her work as an invaluable provider of healthcare.

The second speaker for the evening was **Robin Broke** who explained that he was an elected Governor for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation Trust. The Governors Council is made up of 32 governors of which 17 are elected from the public, 6 from the hospital staff and 9 appointed from public bodies such as the council and GP practices. He detailed the role of the Governors Council as being to interact with the hospital trust by:

- representing the interests of the members of the trust and partner organisations
- influencing decisions about spending and developing services at the hospital
- appointing the Chair and Non-Executive Directors to the Board of Directors of the hospital
- setting the remuneration of the Chair and Non-Executive Directors of the hospital trust
- appointing the auditor for the hospital trust accounts.

It's the responsibility of the Governors' Council to share information about key developments with other NHS Foundation Trust members and the public. So, for example, a governor might want to act as the link between the Foundation Trust and a local GP practice patients' group or local community group. He encouraged patients to become Members of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Trust. Membership of the Foundation Trust is absolutely *free* and is open to patients, the public and NHS staff. Further information is available at <http://www.qehkl.nhs.uk>

Next PPG Meeting: Thursday 21st February 2013 at 7.00 pm in the Carole Brown Health Centre



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The Dersingham Christmas Art and Crafts Trail



June Mullarkey

Back in May of this year a few intrepid Dersingham artists and craft-workers opened their studios to the public as part of the 2012 Norfolk Open Studios scheme. To the delight of the artists they had lots of visitors both from the village and further away. So the Dersingham Art and Crafts Trail was born. The event ran for three weekends and at the end of it the artists got together and said 'we must do this again!'



Mandi Beard

Now the clock has moved on six months and once again it's time to follow the Trail. A number of new artists have joined, so visitors can now tour round seven different studios featuring ten different artists, plus they can visit the two Dersingham schools where they will be able to see the work of the artists of tomorrow.

The Trail gives you the opportunity to get to know the artists and craft-workers in our village. A chance to chat with them and see them at work, and yes you may find something to take home with you too, even if it's only a small print or a greetings card. After all, Christmas is coming. For the most part you'll be visiting artists in their homes, where they'll be pleased to welcome you and probably have the kettle on!



Marty Griffin

The Christmas opening of the Art and Crafts Trail is over the weekend of Friday 7th to Sunday 9th December, when you will find all of the participating studios open from 10am until 4pm each day. Most of them are within easy walking distance of the centre of the village, although one or two are a little more outlying. You can find a map of all the studios on the back of the Trail leaflet, which is available free from shops and other venues around Dersingham, or you can view the map and more comprehensive information about each Trail member's work at DersinghamArtTrail.org

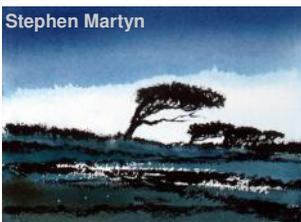
Below is the location of each studio and a brief description. So put the dates 7th – 9th December in your diaries and do take this great opportunity to support your local artists. We all look forward to seeing you!



Sarah Burt

Dersingham Infant & Nursery School, Saxon Way and St George's Junior School, Admiral's Drive.

Call in to the two schools and see exhibitions by the artists of the future. Please note that both schools will be open on Friday but Saturday opening will depend on volunteer help. Check the Trail website for the exact times. No Sunday opening.



Stephen Martyn

Potter & Dibble. 61 Manor Rd. Dersingham, PE31 6LH

The shop is still Potter & Dibble, but not as you know it! Three artists are using the space as a studio during the Art Trail and it will continue as a shop/gallery and workshop venue after its refurbishment.

Sarah Burt specialises in textile crafts and traditional folk art, designing and making unique gifts and individual accessories with natural materials wherever possible.

Jean Mulligan works with natural fibres to recreate her favourite East Anglian views. She also takes on wood carving commissions locally.

Mandi Beard is an artist, working with acrylic paints on large, stretched canvases. She specialises in animal and landscape paintings and uses a variety of textures to capture the essence of her subjects.

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

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

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

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

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

From his garden studio Steve produces atmospheric landscape paintings of Norfolk and beyond. Watercolour, ink, and oil paintings, plus prints and cards. Commissions welcomed. Tuition workshops available in watercolour and oils.

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

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

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

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

Liz Stockley. 30 Doddshill Road, Dersingham, PE31 6LW

Liz started to write books for her grandchildren and decided to illustrate them herself. Through this she discovered the art of illustration in watercolour and other media. Original paintings and cards.

Heather Wells. The White Cottage, 61a Manor Rd. Dersingham, PE31 6LH

Heather designs and weaves her own fabrics using traditional hand looms. She produces fabric lengths, scarves, shawls, throws, rugs and cushion covers. Commissions welcomed.

For any enquiries about the Dersingham Art and Crafts Trail please contact the Trail coordinator Stephen Martyn on 01485 541333. Outside the dates mentioned above you are welcome to visit the artists' studios but please contact them first.

DersinghamArtTrail.org



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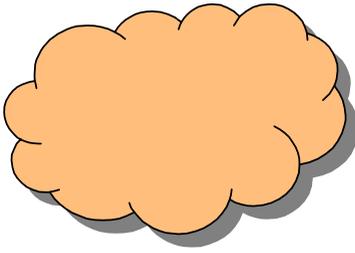
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The Dersingham Weather Recorded by John F. Murray

We certainly did not get the Indian summer that we were all hoping for. I have to admit that I was fairly optimistic bearing in mind the poor summer, but it was not to be.

September proved to be a very uninspiring month. On the one hand we had the highest September temperature that I have so far recorded, at 29°C and on the other the lowest September temperature so far at 2.7°C. The mean temperature was not great. At 13.7°C it is joint lowest for the month, matching September 2008. The rainfall was 42.6mm which is only just below the average for the month.

Before I write of October I have an admission to make. I am reporting on the month purely by looking at the recorded facts and figures as I was not in Dersingham for the whole of the month. In fact I was in Australia where it was springtime. However even there everyone was commenting on how unsettled and unseasonal it was. The weather changed, sometimes quite dramatically, each day. So it would appear to be a worldwide problem. We have America just recovering from a very large hurricane as well. Weather patterns are certainly changing, anyone can see that, but I believe that the changes are normal and natural and not completely down to the activities of man. After all man can hardly be blamed for the last ice age, for example.

The Met office reported the coldest October since 2003 with a mean temp of 8.2°C. Our mean temperature was 9.8°C so we were above average. However the highest temperature for the month was only 18.4°C which is lower than any previous October that I have been recording details. The rainfall was slightly above average at 59.2mm. All these facts indicate to me that October was a dull and overcast month.

With two months of this year left to go we have already exceeded the rainfall for 2011 and 2010 which has to be a good thing. I was beginning to get tired of reporting on the drought conditions of previous years.

Winter is now very close and I can't help but wonder what sort of winter we will get. Last year it was comparatively mild but the two previous years we had really low temperatures and several heavy snow falls. Normally very cold winter temperatures are produced by clear skies but so far this autumn there has not been a lot of that. If the weather continues to be overcast then, in very general terms, we can expect it to be warmer. Unfortunately it isn't that simple.

Very large areas of low pressure although producing lots of cloud, very often drag arctic weather down our way, the result being sleet and snow. Hurricane Sandy which hit the east coast of the USA is a good example of this type of low pressure area. These weather formations very often head over our way after leaving the USA. This is, very simplistically, caused by the revolving of the earth and the high level winds in the atmosphere (the jetstream).

I have failed to make a prediction I know. The reason is because meteorology is not an exact science. There are too many variables to get it right every time. However I am willing to stick my neck out, but only a little, and say that if the weather continues the way it has been so far this year then we are more likely to have a wet winter than a freezing cold one.

Time will tell!

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St Nicholas Church News

A big thank you to all who contributed to our Harvest Festival - the Church looked wonderful. The Women's Refuge were very grateful for all the wonderful items they received.

Christmas Tree Festival – Friday 7th to Sunday 9th December

10am to 4pm Friday & Saturday & 12noon to 4pm Sunday

20 + trees decorated by local Clubs & Societies in the Church.

Friday in the Church Hall where the Coffee Morning will continue all day with lunches being served and teas in the afternoon.

Saturday in the Church Hall is the **St Nicholas Christmas Fayre** and **Father Christmas** will be in his Grotto in the Church, please bring your children to meet him, there will also be craft activities for the children.

The Dersingham Descanters – our handbell group will be playing on Saturday between 2.30pm and 3pm and again between 3.30pm and 4pm.

Sunday in the Church 12noon to 4pm - with refreshments available at the back of the Church.

The Church will also be open the weekends of Saturday & Sunday 15th & 16th & Saturday & Sunday 22nd & 23rd from 12noon to 4pm to see the trees if you missed them during the Festival.

Our Services and Events During December are:

All our Services below will be held among the wonderfully decorated Christmas trees so another chance to see them, so please come and join us if you can.

Sunday 2nd December, 6.30pm – Advent Carol Service

Sunday 16th December, 3pm – **Tea & Carols**, a light informal time

Wednesday 19th December at 2pm – **Carol Service** with the Mothers' Union

Thursday 20th December at 6pm – **Christingle Service**

Sunday 23rd December at 6.30pm – **Traditional Lessons & Carols**

Saturday 24th December at 4pm – **Crib Service**

at 11.30pm – **Midnight Communion**

Sunday 25th December at 8am – **Holy Communion**

at 10am – **Family Service**



Dick Melton

A lot of people have had a guess at the old picture corner in the June (Silver Jubilee) issue of Village Voice. I think that both pictures were taken on the back lawn of the Manor, Mr and Mrs Stanton's house in Church Lane. There used to be a lot of village fetes held there and also Scout and Girl Guide functions to raise money.

The Ghosts of Old Hall and Hunstanton Hall

Now a friend of mine that used to live up Dodds Hill was talking to me and he asked me what I knew about a ghost at the Old Hall in Chapel Road. I had heard that the Old Hall was haunted but I did not know by whom or what. Well he said that every so often a rider on horseback would appear at a large window facing the church. That is all he could tell me so if anyone in the village knows anything about this write to Village Voice and let us know.

Whilst on the subject of ghosts I thought that I would just tell you the story of the ghost of Hunstanton Hall. The ghost in question here is Dame Armine Le Strange and she is known as the 'Grey Lady'. The dame had a treasured possession, a magnificent Persian carpet, thought to have been given to her by the Shah of Persia himself on her deathbed in 1766. She extracted a promise from her son Nicholas, an inveterate gambler, not to sell the carpet. To help him resist temptation Nicholas nailed it up in a large wooden box, and it was still there when he died in 1788.

Eighty years later, Emmeline Austin, newly-married bride of Bernard Le Strange, found the box, with the carpet inside. Generous-hearted Emmeline cut the carpet into small hearth rugs and distributed them among the local village folk. On her return to the hall, a woman's face glared at her from one of the windows: it was Dame Armine. Emmeline, in hope of pacifying the ghost, hastily reclaimed the hearth rugs and returned them to the box. Unfortunately one hearth rug was either lost or mislaid, and ever since then - and there are those alive today who claim to have seen or heard her - 'the Grey Lady' has haunted the rooms and corridors of Hunstanton Hall searching for the missing piece of her beloved carpet.

Old friends

It was very good to see a letter in the Village Voice from my old mate Bernie Twite. We went to school together and lived near each other in Lynn Road. Neither of us live in the village any more: I left in 1966 and Bernie left five years ago, but we both treat Dersingham as our home village and very much keep in touch with it. I visit there once a week and, a few weeks back, I was lucky enough to be asked to give a talk about the village at Orchard Close, which I enjoyed very much. It was nice to see some old faces from the village. As for Bernie he knows more about Dersingham than most people so let's hope we get a lot more letters in the Village Voice from him.

Remembered in road names

In the editor's notes for the October issue of Village Voice he says that quite a few streets and roads in the village are named after past residents, and he goes on to say who was Clayton of Clayton Close. What did he or she do? Well Clayton Close was named after George Clayton who was a builder and lived at Shangri-La in Bank Road. I will tell you about some of the others. Earl Close, if my memory serves me right, is named after Nurse Earl who for many years was our district nurse and lived up Sandringham Hill. Hipkin Road is named after Roy Hipkin who was a builder and parish councillor in the village. James Jackson Road is named after James Jackson, who for many years farmed High Farm. Philip Nurse Road was named after a very popular man and at one time there was over fifteen families by the name of Nurse all living in Dersingham. Reynolds Way is named after one of the Reynolds family, who were nurserymen in Post Office Road.

The next one is Reg Houchen Road. Reg, who ran a coach firm with his brother Tom from a garage in Bank Road, lived in the village all his life and did a lot for the village and the football club. Robert Balding Drive is named after Bob Balding, who farmed Dun Cow Farm and a lot of land in that area and down the marsh. Brenda Collison, who had Brenda Collison Close named after her, lived in the village all her life and

for many years lived down Manor Road in Albert Victor Cottages. Wallace Twite Way is, of course, named after Bernie's father, who was a member of many organizations in the village and served the village well for many years.

Thomas Drew Close is named after my great uncle. In the nineteen twenties he was the landlord of the Albert Victor public house that was in Manor Road. Then he started a building company and built some of the council houses on Gelham Manor and a lot of the houses and bungalows in Lynn Road.

If I have missed some out no doubt someone will write into Village Voice and let me know.

Roy Wagg

In the old picture corner for October the bottom picture is of the choir at Dersingham Church and I would say that the date is some time just after the Second World War, about 1946-48. I can name nearly all of them but I will leave that privilege to someone else.

I would just like to mention a very good friend of mine, Roy Wagg who has sadly passed away. Roy was born in Dersingham and lived at number 40 Lynn Road with his brother Tony (deceased) and his mum and dad. Just after the war his dad had a cycle shop at 40 Lynn Road, then he had a coach hire business. Roy was always known by us village lads as Tiddler. When he left school he worked for his dad for a while, then he was a pin boy in the bowling alley at USAF (United States Air Force) Sculthorpe. He then went as a lorry driver's mate for Throwers, the mineral water firm in Hunstanton. Then he trained to be a plumber, got married and went to work at Manor Park Holiday Village until he retired. I too went to live in Hunstanton and we lived close to each other for over forty years, Roy ('tiddler') was very well known in Dersingham and Hunstanton and he will be sadly missed by his family and all the many friends he had far and wide.

Well by the time you all read this it will be nearly Christmas so I would like to wish all of the many people connected to the Dersingham Village Voice and all the people who read it a very happy Christmas and a very good New Year.□

Hanover Court Dersingham

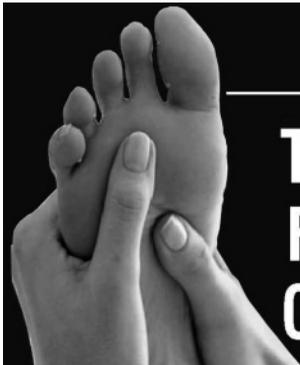
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Dersingham Walking Group

Our group walk from the Dersingham War Memorial, led by Steve & Lindsey on Wednesday 12th September was attended by 22 people. We welcomed 3 people who hadn't walked with the group previously. Our route took us into Dersingham Fen, using a little known path, and emerging near Sandpit Cottage to climb up into Sandringham woods. We eventually reached the Sculpture Trail and paused to view the new carving of a wolf. The rain was quite steady by this time and the remainder of the walk through the area known as Dersingham Wood then back to the start via Sandringham Hill and across the pastures was not as enjoyable as it should have been.

The Cream Tea walk held at Castle Rising on Wednesday 10th October attracted 21 walkers on a glorious autumn afternoon, sunny and no wind. Keith led the group along the bank of the Babingley River, then through Castle Rising village towards Wootton Carr and through Ling Common before returning to the Unique Car Park. Afterwards, 19 of the walkers consumed an enjoyable cream tea at the Castle Rising Tea Rooms.

Details of our next walks are:

Date & Time. Wednesday 12th December 2012. **1-30pm**

Venue & Grid Ref: Peddars Way & Little Massingham. Meet in car park behind the Dogotel Just off A148 at Harpley Dams. L132 /772 255.

Leader. Pat Reed. Tel: 01485 540757

Date & Time. Wednesday 9th January 2013. **1-30pm.**

Venue & Grid Ref: A walk from Dersingham. Meet at the Village Sign, corner of Heath Road & B1440. L132/685 296

Leader. Michael & Valerie Smith. Tel: 01485 540728

Date & Time. Wednesday 13th February 2013. **2-00pm.**

Venue & Grid Ref: Heacham; beaches & village. Meet at "Brays Pit", (Heacham Duck Pond) near the recreation ground. L132/673 374.

Leader. Steve & Lindsey Davis, Tel: 01485 543138

All of the walks listed in our programme will be between **4 and 5 miles long**. If you have any queries regarding any of the walks please contact the leader. All grid references given are for Ordnance Survey Landranger (L) or Explorer (E) series maps.

The full programme can be viewed on the parish council website. www.dersingham.org.uk/ announcements

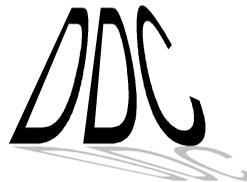
*There is **NO CHARGE** for these walks: just turn up on the day wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. **WELL BEHAVED** dogs are welcome provided they stay at the rear of the group.*

The leaders are happy to organize and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety.

If you would like more information please contact me or the walk leader.

Michael Smith, 01485 540728. e-mail. mival.smith2@tiscali.co.uk

Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly by Alice Worth



We are well into our Autumn Session now, having started our weekly meetings again on the 5th September and as always it was nice to see our friends again after the summer break. Three new lady members joined us and I'm pleased to say they have settled in very well.

On the 3rd October Members and Volunteers visited the Ffolkes Arms for lunch. This is always a popular venue and the lunch lived up to our expectations and everyone enjoyed the change of scenery.

On the 17th October we were visited again by the Village Fryer. We were ready for its arrival at noon and Members were seated, hot plates ready and volunteers lined up to collect and serve the meal. Cod, haddock, scampi and chicken were on the menu and mushy peas were provided again by one of our volunteers – thank you Victoria. Blackcurrant or strawberry flan and cream followed. It was surprising that we all managed to stay awake during the afternoon session!!!

On October 20th we held our Autumn Fair at the Dersingham Methodist Church. Volunteers had worked hard on the Friday evening getting the stalls ready and we got off to an early start on the Saturday morning. The weather wasn't too bad for getting out and about and we had a lot of people popping in for coffee and a look around our stalls. We had one stall of gifts made entirely by some of our members including greeting cards, crocheted blankets and woollen hats etc; as well as a large collection of "good as new" jigsaws, games and books. The cake stall which also included jars of homemade marmalade, was soon sold out, despite it having a much bigger assortment than in previous years.

The refreshments, prepared and served from the kitchen, did a roaring trade with a variety of hot drinks, sausage rolls, mince pies and biscuits. It was a real team effort and, as you can imagine, we were all very thrilled to learn that we had raised £405.65p including donations. The Day Centre wishes to thank all those who came to support us on the day and to all those who worked so hard to make it a success, as well as members of the Methodist Church for their help and support.

Members have already started making decorations for the tree we have sponsored for the Church's Christmas Tree Festival in December. Under the guidance of our craft lady, Carol Drew, they are making some very pretty and unusual items and having fun doing so. As last year, we will be taking all our members to the church to see the Christmas Trees on the Wednesday following the event.

We have lots of activities planned for December, two special lunches, live entertainment etc., which I will report on in the next Village Voice.

The members and volunteers of the Day Centre wish to thank all those in the village who have supported and encouraged them in so many ways throughout this last year, and we wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. □



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Old Picture Corner

Bernie Twite has sent this picture of Dersingham Primary School sports team at the West Norfolk Schools Area Sports, held on Snettisham sports field, round about 1950.

Back row l to r John Bunn, Bernie Riches, Joan Ebert, Tony Borly, Stella Hipkin (Crisp). Bernie Twite, Betty Emmerson, Beris Davison, John Melton. Front row - Kay Skipper, Joyce Daniels, Ann or Mary Brown?, Nora Casey, Does any one know if Ann or Mary Brown is correct and the name of the last girl. Does anyone know anything of Joan or Betty.

John Bunn went on to the Norfolk Schools finals at Great Yarmouth and finished second in the 100 yards. When he was at St Georges John was in the Norfolk finals as part of relay team and in the long jump.



On a more seasonal note a frosty morning on the green with some chilly residents.



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PLAIN TEA SIXPENCE

by Doreen Linford

Whenever I asked my father what he would like for his tea, as I was looking after him during his last illness, he would invariably say "plain tea sixpence" (2½p today). He was referring to the teas which my grandmother used to serve on the lawn beside Glebe House, now the Fish Shop by the traffic lights in the village. There are now 2 bungalows on this site. The tea would probably have consisted of a pot of tea (with strainer of course as this was long before the tea bag was invented), some bread and butter and a piece of cake.

My grandfather built the house in 1902 with a shop for my grandmother to sell sweets, gifts, crested china, etc, while he carried on his job as a builder and decorator. In fact he was a "Jack of all trades", including plumbing, signwriting and cabinet making, and although self-taught he was really a master in these trades. The triptych over the Memorial Chapel in St Nicholas Church was made by him just after the first world war, and he also did the gold-leaf work on the names.

My father told me that the Princes and Princess Mary, with their governess, would cycle down from Sandringham to buy sweets there and, as far as I know, without any escort.

The House was the first in the village to have electric light and a bathroom (complete with a flush lavatory), and it was built with Heacham hand-made bricks. This is hard to imagine now, especially during the time when it was painted a bright green! It had 5 bedrooms and 2 staircases.

Eventually my uncle Rowland took over the shop and turned it into a grocery store, complete with bacon slicer and biscuit tins on a shelf in front of the mahogany counter. When he retired the Co-op purchased it, but it has since changed hands and is now an excellent village amenity. It is still remembered by older residents as "Linford's Corner".

Does anybody remember seeing the circus animals walking through the village on their annual trek to (I believe) Hunstanton? Apparently one of the elephants would pause at the shop to receive a bun from my uncle. This must have been some spectacle. □



News from West Norfolk Mind Opening their doors to the community

West Norfolk Mind held an 'open day' at its Poplar Avenue, Heacham, day centre in October where staff, volunteers and service users spoke to both members of the local community and to visitors from other local health and community services about the centre and its services. More than 40 people streamed through the doors of this popular, friendly and recently-refurbished support centre to find out more about what's on offer now the launch of a range of new services are open to the entire local community over the age of 18 for the whole of West Norfolk.

Three monthly recovery and support packages are still available for those struggling with their mental health, however 1-1 personal assistant support and intensive support can now be purchased on an hourly basis. Anyone who feels they would enjoy, or it would help their wellbeing to attend our Mind centres in Heacham, King's Lynn, Downham Market or Swaffham to socialise, learn new skills or crafts or develop their confidence in a supportive environment can do so from £20 per half day. Carer support services are still available free of charge.

New leaflets about centre-based, community-based and home-based services can be picked up at Mind Centres or requested directly by telephoning 01553 776966.

West Norfolk Mind has also recently launched a brand new website, which readers can find at www.westnorfolkmind.org.uk and the charity has just started tweeting under the twitter name @WestNorfolkMind

A hot meal is available at our day centre for our older persons groups however we are currently looking for a new volunteer cook each Wednesday morning for 3-4 hours. If anyone feels they would be suited to this role in our friendly centre please call Volunteer Co-ordinator Zena Penty on 07585 279215. □

Zena Penty

News from Ingoldisthorpe School

Ofsted pays a visit.

Ingoldisthorpe C of E Primary School had an Ofsted inspection on the 3rd and 4th of October. We have now received the report in school and we are absolutely delighted with its findings. The school was found to be outstanding in all four categories. These are: Achievement of pupils, Quality of teaching, Behaviour and safety of pupils and Leadership and management. Everybody at school is absolutely delighted with this report. We are very pleased that all our hard work and efforts to ensure the children have the best start possible has been recognised.

Oak class re-enact World War Two

A couple of days after our Ofsted inspection Oak Class paid a visit to the North Norfolk Railway at Holt where they experienced an air raid, learnt about evacuation, rationing and dug for victory. The following is an account of the day by William in year 6.

Our World War Two Evacuation day started of on a wonderful steam train heading from Sheringham to Holt. We were being evacuated away from the bombing. However when we were about half way along the track the train stopped, there was an unexploded land mine near the track. The ARP warden on the train told us to take up the recovery position whilst the bomb was defused. We were soon on our way again. When we arrived at Holt we could hear the air raid siren wailing and we were taken into a dark shelter. We could hear the enemy planes overhead as well as our own guns firing. There was a loud bang when a bomb landed near the shelter. After the all clear had sounded we did some gardening collecting potatoes and planting seeds digging for victory. We then had a lecture from the ARP warden learning how to put on our gas masks.

The children really did have a wonderful day learning first hand about the home front in World War Two. □

Keith Twaites, Head teacher

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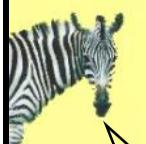
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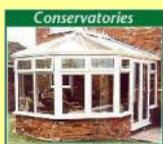


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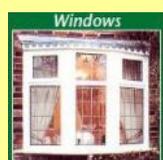
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The Sandringham Newsletter

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

This year's extraordinarily difficult weather still dominated many of the activities on the Estate in September. In the Gardens, grass and weeds continued to grow strongly, so mowing and hoeing were still needed. The areas where grass had been left to grow long to encourage wild flowers and to provide safe havens for the young of ground nesting birds were cut short, and hedges and the round-headed evergreen oaks at the Visitor Centre were trimmed.

On the Farm, although the harvest started in hot and dry weather, this didn't last quite long enough and the wheat harvest in particular was disappointing here, as it has been nationwide. The wet season also encouraged weed growth in the crops, and farm staff started autumn cultivation under the "stale seed bed" technique – fields are prepared for drilling but left for a while; this encourages weed seeds to germinate and they can be dealt with either with herbicide or by cultivation. Only then are seeds sown, into what should continue to be clean ground. This technique is also useful in gardens and on allotments, just requiring a little forward planning, and it usually means that the new crop can get well away before weeds start to try to take over again.

One of the Royal cars left the Museum briefly in September, as HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's 1961 Alvis TD 21 drophead coupé was invited to take part in the Diamond Jubilee Concours d'Elegance at Windsor Castle. We also had an additional exhibit called "All The Queen's Horses" set up in the stable area until the end of the season; it looked at Her Majesty's life-long interest in horse racing, including pictures of many of her significant winners and other special occasions that reflect her passion for the sport. The display contained more than 50 images, including several rarely seen photographs from the 1940s and 1950s showing the then Princess Elizabeth at the races with the Queen Mother, and other pictures capturing her delight in the winner's enclosure or in conversation with famous trainers and jockeys.

In early October we were delighted to welcome to Sandringham some 30 injured servicemen undertaking a six-day cycle ride round the coasts of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, finishing at the Cutty Sark in London. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh met the British and American serving and veteran disabled servicemen who were using a mixture of modified bikes, hand cycles and standard road bikes, and then officially started the ride, which had been organised by The Soldiers' Charity, BLESMA – The Limbless Veterans, and the Wounded Warrior Project. Between them, the three charities provide support and rehabilitation to serving and veteran service personnel, both injured and disabled, on both sides of the Atlantic.

The gardeners spent part of October pruning and tying in wall shrubs like cotoneaster at Sandringham House, and trimming the topiary holly in the Walled Garden and the evergreen oaks at the Visitor Centre to keep them in shape. Glasshouse pests, such as whitefly and red spider mite, are being managed this year in a non-chemical way using parasitic wasps and predatory mites. The vegetable plot this year produced a bumper crop of pumpkins and squash, as well as herbs, beans, courgettes and rhubarb earlier in the year. Some of the pumpkins needed two people to lift them, but they are all being used in soups and other dishes in the Visitor Centre kitchens.

In Sandringham House, the Housekeeper and her team were also trying to cut down on the amount of chemicals they use. Using water-soluble preparations for their cleaning tasks, which arrive in bulk and are then diluted in re-usable containers, cuts down on transport and storage, and the preparations are thought to be gentler than normal commercial formulations.

The Royal Pigeon Lofts welcomed visitors from Japan recently; a leading Japanese racing magazine interviewed the loft manager about his pigeons' training and feeding routines, and also spoke to two young members of the Wolferton and District Pigeon Racing Club.

September and October were very busy with events in the Country Park and in Sandringham Park. The Game Fair coincided with glorious hot and sunny weather and was very popular indeed; shortly afterwards Sandringham hosted the ten mile National Police Road Race, a 10km run through the Country Park organised by the Rudhams Little Owls Pre-School, a charity horse ride

and a sponsored walk for the RSPCA, as well as a caravan rally and an orienteering event. At the end of November, the Christmas Craft Fair will be returning to Sandringham Park, bringing a host of ideas and suggestions for Christmas shopping. This event is a firm favourite locally, and it's well worth a visit.

Finally, we are looking forward to welcoming another event back to Sandringham, this time to the Visitor Centre Restaurant; the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House, are arranging another "Light Up A Life" service there at 4.30pm on 10th December. This is a very simple service of readings and carols, and an opportunity for people to spend a little time remembering those they have lost. It is open to everyone, whether or not they have needed to use the hospice, with coffee and mince pies served afterwards.□

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The Dersingham Butterfly Recording Transect

I suppose it would be best to explain what a butterfly recording transect is and why they're done! A transect is a route walked once a week from April 1st to September 30th. As you walk you count the butterflies of each species that you see in a imaginary 5 metre box that travels with you! There are rules about weather conditions that either allow or prohibit recording. Most transects are divided into sections that reflect the habitat in that section.

The purpose of recording is to monitor relative changes in butterfly abundance from

year to year so the longer a transect is walked the more valuable the data becomes. The first transect was established by Pollard and Yates at Monk's Wood in Cambridgeshire in 1973. Since then a large number have been set up and the data is collated by the local branches of Butterfly Conservation and then Butterfly Conservation nationally. The exercise is valuable in that butterflies are good indicator species of environmental quality.

We moved to Norfolk in October last year. We moved from Bedford where we'd set up and recorded two transects over a period of some years. We spent a while hunting around for something suitable that we could do on foot from home and settled on the Dersingham - Ingoldisthorpe section of the disused railway line that ran from King's Lynn to Hunstanton. A quick phone call to Chris Dawson of the Norfolk branch of Butterfly Conservation followed and she and Alan Dawson came over in late March to look at the proposed route. We'd thought that confining it to the actual line would be best but Chris noted a short section of unmade road that leads to the start and said: "If you see something interesting here you're going to be very annoyed if you can't include it!". She was right of course so we added another 60m.

There's quite a lot of variation along the route - the unmade road, an open section past paddocks and allotments, a green lane flanked with shrubs, woodland with oak and birch (rather shady),

another green lane with gorse and an open gravelly section, which is the only section where the ballast of the railway is visible. The start is at Ingoldisthorpe (TF682326) and the finish at Dersingham (TF680308). There are six sections.

Sadly it's been a poor year for many butterflies, especially those with a spring brood but things did improve a bit. Perhaps the best sighting was a White Admiral in July. I also saw a Purple Hairstreak on the route but not while doing the transect! The later season was notable for a large number firstly of Peacocks and then of Red Admirals - and also the only Painted Lady of the year.

Chris said that doing a transect is a commitment. So it is, but you do get to do a nice walk every week! □

Brian Anderson



Sudoku No 26 solution								
7	2	8	3	5	6	4	9	1
3	1	5	4	7	9	2	8	6
9	6	4	8	2	1	5	7	3
6	3	1	7	9	5	8	2	4
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1	7	6	5	3	2	9	4	8
8	9	2	6	1	4	7	3	5
4	5	3	9	8	7	1	6	2

Dersingham Methodist Church

Giovanni Francesco di Bernardone was born in Assisi in the 12th century son of a wealthy cloth merchant and led the high spirited life typical of a wealthy young man including some time as a soldier fighting for Assisi. While going off to war in 1204 he had a vision directing him back to Assisi where he lost his love for a worldly life and went on a pilgrimage to Rome seeing how others lived in poverty. He later returned to Assisi and began preaching on the streets. At Christmas 1223 Francis began to tell the story of the first Christmas taking the part of each character, he was determined that ordinary men and women should understand what it meant for God's son to be born in a poor and dirty stable. After that Francis's nativity scene became a special occasion every year and in the centuries that followed St Francis of Assisi's idea spread first all over Europe and were set up in churches and in homes and eventually spread round the world.

Many of us will have taken part in a nativity play or have seen the nativity scene in many different forms, or perhaps have a set of figures to display in our homes. The scene portrayed is not just to make us feel the 'aah moment' but is a reminder, as St Francis wished, that all will know that Jesus was born to be the Saviour of the world bringing love, joy and peace for all. Celebrate this by attending a Church service this Christmas. You are very welcome at our celebrations.

Sunday 23rd 10.30 a.m. morning service. 6.00 p.m. Carols by candlelight.
Christmas Day Service 10.30 a.m.

We at Dersingham Methodist Church wish you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.□
Elizabeth Batstone

Santa Dash – King's Lynn

100's of Santa's will be seen dashing around King's Lynn's 'The Walks' on Saturday 1st December as they take part in The Norfolk Hospice's annual Santa Dash. This is the hospice's second Santa Dash, which last year took place at Sandringham and attracted lots of Santa's and elves who ran through the trees to raise money for the Snettisham based charity. It is hoped that this year's event in King's Lynn will grow on the previous year's success and raise thousands of pounds for the charity. This year's dash will be slightly more challenging with the distance increasing to 5km and Santa's are asked to raise sponsorship money for the charity.

The dash is open to anyone of any age and ability – a 1.5km dash can be undertaken by anyone who feels that 5km is a bit too far to be dashing and dashing is not essential – a slow gentle walk may be preferred.

Registration for the dash can be completed in the following ways

1. Online - www.norfolkhospice.org.uk/
2. By picking up a registration form from any of the Hospice shops
3. By calling 01485 542891

Registration costs £10 per adult and £5 for under 16's. Children under 5's are FREE! Under 16's are invited to dress in festive costume and there will be a prize for the best dressed on the day.

The Santa Dash will start at 11am with Santa's needing to sign in from 10.15.

The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House is always looking for volunteers to support it with fundraising activities, if you are interested in finding out more about the hospice and how you can help or would like to hear more about our fundraising events in the area, please contact the Fundraising Office , 01485 542891 or fundraising@norfolkhospice.org.uk

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A One Off Community Lunch by Stella Gooch

July 2011 was the last Community Lunch owing to Bob Tipling's illness and subsequent logistical difficulties. So what a delightful surprise it was when Bob's email announcing another Dersingham Community Lunch to be held on 21 September 2012 arrived. I quickly confirmed my attendance and joined the throng at St Cecilia's Church on the day.

It was wonderful to see Bob and a number of other familiar faces among the lunch guests. I was particularly pleased to see Bob looking so well too. Bob, as usual, warmly welcomed lunch guests and introduced Jonathan James of James Gravens Budgens as the sponsor for the lunch. Mr James also welcomed everyone and proudly announced that James Gravens Budgens had just won a national award and had been down to Park Lane in London to receive it the evening before. If my recollection serves me well, I believe the award was for the most environmentally friendly petrol station - since environmental issues are high on most agendas these days we should not be surprised that such an award exists!

Mr James had us all chuckling with tales of his recent experiences and then reminded us that Budgens offered a FREE home delivery service and this was perhaps of real benefit within the village during the winter months. He explained that the community lunch concept had begun some years ago and it had successfully brought the community together. He went on to thank the ladies of the Women's Institute for preparing our rustic ploughmans lunch (including cheese, gorgeous ham, chunks of wholesome bread and salad followed by apple or cherry pie with cream or ice cream).

Bob interjected on several occasions throughout the lunch to say "this is a one off lunch" - this being an assertion that he would not organise a follow up event. Naturally we all hope he doesn't mean it. Having said that, I later learned his wife's health was not very good so we should perhaps be understanding if Bob feels he needs to bow out whilst keeping our fingers crossed he can make another comeback in the future.

All monies raised at the lunch were destined for the WI ladies and £52 was raised on the door (somewhat less than was anticipated as some booked lunch guests did not show up on the day - shame on them for not informing Bob). The proceeds of the raffle totalled £170. When Bob announced these figures he also told us that the WI ladies had decided to donate these funds to the Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly instead of keeping it for themselves which elicited an applause of approval from the gathering.

The guest speaker at the lunch was Walter Blaney from Dersingham United Charities who eloquently informed the gathering of the charitable origins of Dersingham United Charities. Mr Blaney explained that over many years, long before the days of Social Security, the poorest people in Dersingham were helped by the generosity of a few wealthy individuals. These people left money or lands in their wills, usually in the care of the Parish Church, to provide funds or goods for the poor, provided they were 'deserving poor.'

With some helpful visual aids, Mr Blaney announced that one of the earliest bequests on record was in the will of Jeffry Bummer in 1689 and, over time, several similar bequests were brought together under the title of Dersingham United Charities. Naturally, some of the conditions in the wills became



redundant and thus impossible to continue enforcement of them as Mr Blaney demonstrated when he mentioned Elizabeth Pell's bequest - namely that a specific amount was given for the church warden who were to come to church with 16 penny loaves and leave these loaves in full view of the congregation. At the conclusion of the church service, the church warden had to decide which 16 deserving souls were nominated to receive each of the 16 loaves and distribute them accordingly.

As a result of changing times and attitudes, under the surveillance of the Charity Commissioners, amendments were made as deemed necessary to ensure the spirit of the charitable bequests were honoured. In 1960, the Charity Commissioners decreed that the United Charities should become the property of, and be administered by a Board of Trustees. The composition of this Board is still used today: 5 members are appointed by the Parish Council and serve for 4 years, 3 members are co-opted and serve for 5 years, the vicar of St Nicholas Church is an ex-officio member, and a clerk is appointed by the Board.

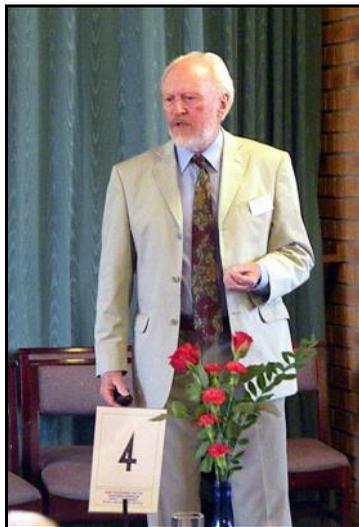
In 1986 the Commissioners updated the aims of the Charities to enable the Board to offer relief to individuals or groups in need by giving grants or providing facilities to suitable candidates, who apply in writing. Instructions for this are given in the annual report to Dersingham Parish Council and are repeated in Village Voice and Dersingham Data. Annual accounts are also sent to the Council and to the Charity Commissioners.

Mr Blaney explained to us that, in recent times, the Charities have given grants to 7 young people from Dersingham who were starting courses at the College of West Anglia and had to buy tools for their practical work. Grants have also been given to 6 local groups or organisations providing care and facilities for the elderly and the sick, donations to Day Centre for the Elderly, the Phobbies Club and more. We were also advised that the United Charities Trust own a number of pieces of land in and around Dersingham which are rented to farmers and others to raise funds (ie the allotments are rented to the Allotment Society which administers the gardens and pays rent to Dersingham United Charities).

He went on to say that a different category of land owned by the Board of Trustees is the Commons and the Fen (a rare and nationally important nature site which used to be managed by Norfolk County Council but recently that support has been withdrawn). Apparently, the Board of

Trustees have obtained a Government Stewardship scheme which is now administered by Natural England. However, the Board has to pay to maintain paths and bridges here and on the two commons to keep them in good order and available as an amenity for the exercise and enjoyment of the people of Dersingham.

He also confirmed that the common land which was beset by fire last year was now re-growing and burned boardwalks had since been replaced. He also pointed out that the lowest tender for the boardwalk replacements was £2,000.



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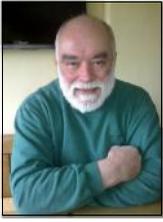
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Ion Trewin Ponderings 5

In the year since Sue and Ion Trewin first tackled the neglected pond and garden that came with the house they moved to just north of Dersingham, much has happened as they have related in previous issues of the Village Voice. But now with winter approaching, the first stage of clearance, remodelling and design is nearly complete.

As summer fades into the memory our pond is responding to the weather becoming substantially colder, even if just as wet. The cloudiness of the water has disappeared, the blanket weed and water buttercup have subsided. Now falling leaves from the trees are making their own kaleidoscopic patterns on the water surface. To think that a year ago when we had yet to dredge our pond a heron could walk across and barely get its ankles wet.

The two big developments since the last issue of Village Voice were the arrival of Sue's pedalo and the return of our contractors. The blue and white pedalo will be familiar to those who once enjoyed them on park ponds and the call 'Come in number one your time is up'. It arrived late one summer evening and was launched the following morning. Let Sue take up the story:

'Stepping into a pedalo is not straightforward, as I found to my cost. My first attempt ended up with me in the water, not on it! Two of our grandsons, aged six and two, were given life jackets. One sat there like a statue, the other dragged some blanket weed using a net. My daughter had to be taken to the side as she felt sick! Personally I prefer solo trips until it comes to docking the pedalo which is a tricky operation, and then there is the "getting out" operation. Time for another dip?'

The contractors came partly to tidy up, but in particular to add one major touch: the digging of a channel from the small round goldfish pond. This has always been fed from a spring. At first we had a pipe to take the overflow into the big pond, but after the sad story that I related last time of a duck that got sucked into the pipe mouth it seemed better to restore what had been an original feature, an open stream between the two ponds. The contractor used a mechanical digger, but instead of running the channel in a straight line we have given it a curve and in the process picked up water from a spring under the lawn. As I write the channel still looks a mite naked on its sloping sides, but that won't be for long. The edges will be planted out: perennial geraniums, arabis, yellow water irises, to name but a few thoughts. Maybe we shall also create a bridge to cross the channel? But we shall not rush such design features. Let's live with what we have for the moment.

The water from the goldfish pond is not the only supply. On our eastern boundary springs from the adjoining field allow water to dribble in. One imagines that it was this ready supply of water that was a reason for the creation of the pond in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Our duck and moorhen population think the new stream was made for them. As I write three mallards and their mates are paddling up and down, pecking at this and that and obviously enjoying themselves. However we are not sure that we really want sixty or so ducks in and around the pond. The grass on the far side where they often chatter to each other or simply snooze, suffers from their presence (no details necessary I'm sure!). We are however delighted at the modest increase in our moorhen population. We had a pair when we first came here last year; they bred and now there are four. They are just as timid as their parents, but they add welcome variety.

Not long after our contractors first graded and seeded the pond surroundings west Norfolk suffered one of those Niagara-like storms with rain falling in stair-rods. The drive that crosses our garden became a river, overspilled and before we knew what was happening top soil was being washed into the pond. However you would hardly know it now. Some fresh topsoil and grass seed and we are beginning to see what our new lawn will look like. We have also been giving thought to flowers and shrubs. A wild flower meadow on one side perhaps?

In the meantime we have been planting large quantities of bulbs. There's a silvery willow which seemed an ideal site to be circled by daffodils. Tulips too have been planted in profusion. Nor have we forgotten the wooded area to the south and west of the pond. Hellebores, hardy cyclamen, bluebells, snowdrops will, I hope, soon proliferate. And against three trees – including a long dead monkey puzzle tree, surely a perfect host? – have gone in rambler roses. In a couple of summers' time these should look a treat.

We have other plans: a woven willow fence where once there was an unattractive and overgrown hedge. Mark Leech (ex Dersingham and now living at Holme) is a garden designer; he walked the site and has now gone away to produce ideas for us to consider. But for the moment the garden is in hibernation. Personally I can't wait for spring when it all begins to come alive again. But that's another story.□



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Route 66 Road Trip - part 1

by Stephen Martyn

“You’re going to be doing a lotta drivin’ on mountain roads and over long distances” says the clerk at the Alamo desk, with an avaricious gleam in his eye. “You need a real comfortable car with a good engine. I can upgrade you for just . . .” He pauses to massage his calculator keys, “twelve bucks a day, everything included.” He grins expectantly at Margaret and myself as we stand there surrounded by our suitcases and rucksacks, perspiring from the exertion of having wrestled with Chicago’s public transport system on our way from downtown back out to the airport. “Errr, can we just have the Toyota that we ordered from



Chicago skyscrapers

England, please”, I ask, attempting an air of confidence. The clerk changes down a gear, “you can’t do a road-trip across America in a *Toyota*, you need a proper automobile with comfortable seats and a good engine, like a Chevy Malibu or a nice Ford. Here, let me check out our special deals, I might be able to work something for you for . . .”, more jiggling with the calculator . . . just five dollars a day AND you don’t have to bring the car back with a full tank of gas”. He plays his ace with a triumphant smirk, as one who knows that these couple of sixty-somethings from England will be as putty in his hands at the thought of riding in a Chevy for just five bucks a day and no hunting round for a gas station when we get to Los Angeles. Meanwhile, I think of the 320 miles from Chicago to St Louis that somewhere back in time we confidently thought we could cruise through in a day’s drive. It’s already 10am and we’re not out of the airport yet. “Okay”, I

hand over my credit card, “let’s go”.



Chicago reflections

Well it goes through St Louis, Joplin Missouri, Oklahoma City is mighty pretty; you’ll see Amarillo, Gallop New Mexico, Flagstaff Arizona, don’t forget Winona, Kingman, Barstow, San Bernadino; get your kicks, on Route 66.

Ah, the romance of the road. And no road is more romantic, well no American road anyway, than Route 66, where you can get your kicks all the way 2448 miles from Chicago to LA. So it was that we found ourselves poring over maps and guides to the “mother road” as it’s sometimes known, when we decided that we

liked going to the Grand Canyon so much last year that we must plan some *other* American trip that’s bigger, longer and even more exciting. Believe me, that takes some doing as the Grand Canyon is very big and very exciting, but everyone of our age knows that Route 66 lyric, originally sung by Bobby Troup and since covered by every crooner from Nat King Cole to the Rolling Stones. And with that song comes a vision, a dream of riding in some old Cadillac the size of a tennis court, with the hood down and the radio blaring out the hits of the 50’s and 60’s as you cruise into an crimson sunset before stopping for the night at a cheery roadside motel, which should be preferably one that the Eagles sang about or even better still one that Elvis actually stayed in.

However, we have a Chevrolet Malibu and the only hood it has is the one that Americans insist



Gateway Arch

the engine lives under. But it goes, not unfortunately powered by some gigantic V8 but by four cylinders that in this country would live under the hood, sorry bonnet, of a Vauxhall Insignia. With a bit of whooshing and sighing it manages to waft us out of the rental car parking lot, as I try to remember the last time I drove a car with automatic transmission. Ah yes, 'D' that will do for anything going forward, and anyway never mind 'D' just keep to the right. Yes, the right! Within a few hundred yards the nice friendly single lane road that leads from Alamo's depot at O'Hare airport makes a sharp turn and we're on the ramp of the Interstate highway, with five lanes of traffic careening past us as we hug the nearside lane and attempt to look inconspicuous.

Route 66 was constructed in the 1930's to link the centres of Chicago in the mid-West and Los Angeles on the Pacific coast. Before then the way west was on mostly dirt roads that not so long ago had been used by wagon-trains of gold

prospectors or others seeking their fortune in California. Many of those were escaping from the drought and dust of the prairies, in search of a better life or perhaps just any life at all. The story of those Okies (from Oklahoma) is told and retold in numerous museums along the route today. In driving Route 66 you are not just driving a road, you are driving the history of America. The road itself was decommissioned in the 1980's when the last of the network of Interstate highways was completed. But, at least most of the time, it is still there, usually a single carriageway of sometimes rather bumpy tarmac that winds through the towns and villages of eight States for the best part of 2500 miles. And we've got three weeks to drive it.

Margaret and I flew to Chicago in mid-September and spent three nights in the city. A fine place it is too, with a host of amazing skyscraper architecture, beautiful parks and an impressive river flowing through it out onto a lake that's as big as a sea. Even from the top of the Willis Tower at over 1000 feet high we couldn't see the other side of Lake Michigan. The people are friendly and helpful, we didn't witness any drive-by shootings, and it felt a good place to begin our journey. Mind you, despite the obvious wealth of many Chicagoans there's a sharp have-have not divide which is clearly visible in the number of people sleeping rough, begging, or simply sitting, staring at their feet and muttering incomprehensibly. I've travelled to many places but I've never seen so many homeless on the streets of any Western city. Not until we got to Los Angeles that is.

Heading South-west from O'Hare airport we do battle with the network of roads that surround Chicago and seem unwilling to release us into the wilds of Illinois. Tolls must be paid every few miles on this first stretch of the route, and there's much fumbling for change at each tollgate. Americans are a patient and agreeable race - unless they're in their car and you're holding them up. We're definitely holding up the guy behind as his blaring horn and a finger pointing wildly at his watch make all too clear. Like a cork from a bottle we shoot out of the tollgate and mercifully spot the sign for Highway 53 to Joliet, enabling us to swerve out of the clutches of the madman and enter a more pastoral landscape.

Joliet had a lot of road works so we saw little of the town except 'diversion' signs. Never mind, we leave the urban sprawl behind and start to pick up 'Historic Route 66' signs,





so we must be on the right road. A stop at a family diner for coffee and a huge omelette imparts a pleasantly full feeling to the stomach, and the sky is blue, the weather warm. The countryside looks much like home, in fact are we really in Illinois or has some mysterious gateway to the fourth dimension spirited us back to Norfolk. The fields are very green with leafy trees and brown cows dotted around. This was to be the landscape for the next, well about a thousand miles actually.

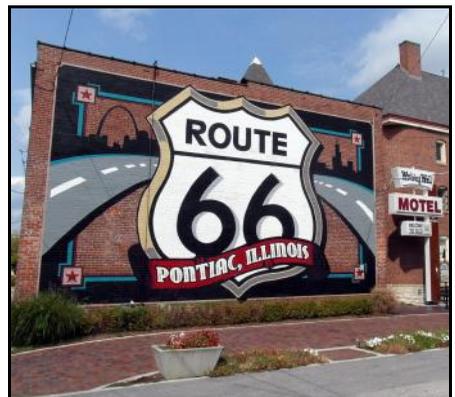
Although everyone knows that America is a huge country it still comes as a surprise just how long the distances are. Chicago to St Louis is around three hundred miles. Okay if you're whistling along the Interstate at seventy-five miles and hour, but on a single lane road that reminds me of the one from Snettisham to Great Bircham, this is one long drive. Added to that there are things to see, museums urging us to visit. Pontiac is a big Route 66 town, not big in size but lots of museums and murals depicting old scenes from the Route, painted by Bob

Waldmire who was one of a small group of Route 66 angels who refused to let the old road die and lobbied long and hard for the historic status which it now has. All this is fascinating history, but there is a lot of it. We'll be seeing a lot of murals and passing a lot of museums, so it's farewell Pontiac and onward towards St Louis.

We make St Louis (to be pronounced Saint Lewis, not St Looey) soon after dark and are very relieved to find our hotel without too much difficulty. En route we passed a few more museums, an assortment of olde worlde gas stations with very quaint looking pumps, and various ruined motels and diners which once served the old road but now serve only to remind us that those that live by the road can also die by the road. Very easily, if your little business is bypassed by the Interstate and nobody goes past your front door anymore.

We've got a day in St Louis to do the tourist thing. An ascent of the spectacular Gateway Arch, a six hundred and thirty foot high creation of stainless steel built to celebrate the fact that St Louis was once the traditional gateway from the east to the west. Those that ventured beyond were in uncharted territory where a flaming arrow or a tomahawk might be coming your way at any moment. We ride up the arch on a 'tram' which is like a train of little white cells on wheels, rattling and swaying up the inside of steel tube of the arch. There's room for about five people in each one although you have to almost crouch rather than sit as it's so small. From the tiny window, dimly lit metal staircases are just visible, presumably providing a means of escape if the mechanism falters. The view from the top is great though, through little slots of windows, with the huge expanse of the Mississippi River on one side and the city stretched out on the other.

The next morning we head west ourselves, along 'Historic Route 66 Missouri'. The Route closely parallels the Interstate, switching from one side to the other or sometimes sweeping away to service one of the eye-blink towns along the old road which provided gas and eats for pre-Interstate travellers. To entice those early motorists in their rattletrap Model T Fords many establishments boast some eye-catching attraction, usually billed as the 'World's Largest' something-or-other. We pass the World's Largest Rocking Chair - over forty feet tall, the World's Largest Covered Wagon - over forty feet long, and a variety of huge model men, usually cheery Desperate Dan style cowboys chomping on





burgers, or spacemen clutching a hotdog the size of a Saturn five rocket.

Our destination tonight is in the Ozark Mountains, where the scenery is reputed to be ever more eye-popping as each mile rolls by and there are bound to be good ol' boys plunking banjos on every corner. The reality is that the scenery would only pop your eye if you'd lived in the Mojave Desert all your life, as it is principally low hills covered with trees, trees and more trees. Nicely rolling, but hardly our Lake District. There is however a very large lake, the Lake of the Ozarks, created when they dammed the Osage River for a hydro-electric scheme, producing a network of waterways that stretch over hundreds of miles. On

these waterways every type of recreational boat imaginable is either carving a wake across the water propelled by some thunderous engine, or is moored at one of the lakeside bars awaiting their owners who are within consuming the World's Largest supply of beer. Or so it is in high season, but luckily we are there outside that time so everything is pleasantly peaceful. No hillbillies twanging banjos, but a few rather out of key guitarists/vocalists who entertain the clientele at the huge hotel which we have pre-booked from England. In the summer this must be one rowdy place, but in late September it is a very comfortable experience and the salmon that I have for dinner is washed down with an excellent pint of India Pale Ale from one of the many micro-breweries in Missouri. Margaret has a chicken concoction with some exotic sauce over it, as Americans seem to feel that no food is good food unless it is lavishly garnished in some way. Unless it's steak that is, which appears to be the nation's staple food and can be had in a profusion of different cuts and sizes including, naturally, the World's Largest.

We spend two days in the Ozarks and manage to hike a few trails in the hills, which although just gently rolling are quite pretty and contain an interesting selection of wildlife. Numerous birds of prey soar overhead, some enormous so presumably eagles, while on the ground we spot deer, racoons (mostly run over at the side of the road), lizards and a huge long snake which apparently feeds on the aforementioned lizards. Oh, and a tortoise, stomping purposefully across the highway. They are quite common it seems and like to bask on the warm asphalt, which is a distinctly unwise move. We manage to swerve round one and see a woman rescuing another from the middle of three lanes of Interstate traffic, which miraculously parts to allow her to carry the creature to the relative safety of the grass verge.

Only tortoises walk here, the universal means of going anywhere is the motor car. Even in the deepest countryside the terrain is criss-crossed with multi-lane highways all with very confusing names. Do we want the Ozark Parkway or the Parkway of the Ozarks, and should we be heading east or west. Pass me my compass, but it's too late we've missed the turning again – turn around where possible. Signposting in the USA can be tricky and often relies on you having the hawkeyes to spot a small sign right on the road junction, by which time the junction is already in the rearview mirror, receding at fifty-five miles per hour. A good knowledge of the points of the compass is essential because roads are often signed simply State Route D East, without any indication of the town of destination. Fortunately there are free maps generously given away at tourist information centres and anyway we are only heading one way – west. Cue Gene Pitney on the radio . . . 'only twenty-four hours from Tulsa'. Yep, that's where we're heading, from the hills of the Ozarks to the prairies of the Mid-west.

to be continued--



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The World of Antiques

by John Vost

When I first started in the fine art business I used to spend hours researching an item I wasn't sure about, what we would call today carrying out due diligence. I was to learn over many years that this research often led me round in a circle and back to my original thoughts as to what an item was and its value, frustrating but unsurprising (with hindsight). Forty years on I mostly go with my instinct backed up with experience, so less and less research is required but, every now and again something turns up that quickens my pulse and I set about trying to establish answers to the following questions:

- Who made it?
- Who designed it?
- When did they make it?
- What was it made for?
- What's its value?

An item doesn't have to be fabulously valuable to intrigue me, I'm driven by curiosity - I have an insatiable desire to know the answers.

One such item turned up recently in the form of a little silver dish (see illustration), triangular in form and measuring just 4 inches along each edge, at a glance it looked as if it originated from the Middle East and the owner confirmed this was where it was bought in the 1960s, but there was something about it that aroused my curiosity, perhaps because it was unusually heavy for its size.

Turning the dish over tiny marks could be seen, but I had to use my most powerful loupe to discern them. I confess I was amazed to see that they were English silver Britannia standard hallmarks for the year 1874, with the makers mark DWJW for David and John Welby; furthermore the corners were overlaid with high carat gold devices.

This combination of design, date and the fact the item was clearly hand made with a slight crudeness was, to say the least, unusual. This period of the 19th century was the period of mass production and the dish didn't fall into that category at all. Puzzled, I decided that it fitted in with the ideals of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

Arts and Crafts was an international design movement that flourished between 1860 and 1910, especially in the second half of that period, continuing its influence until the 1930s. It was led by the artist and writer William Morris (1834–1896) during the 1860s, and was inspired by the writings of John Ruskin (1819–1900) and Augustus Pugin (1812–1852). It developed first and most fully in the British Isles, but spread to Europe and North America. It was largely a reaction against the impoverished state of the decorative arts at the time and the conditions in which they were produced. It stood for traditional craftsmanship using simple forms and often applied medieval, romantic or folk styles of decoration. It advocated economic and social reform and has been said to be essentially anti-industrial.

The makers of the dish, the Welby brothers, are well recorded but, they were not innovative silversmiths so they became tangential to my quest, it was the designer I was trying find and there were few contenders of the period. Clearly it was someone of high ideals, the extravagant use of heavy gauge Britannia silver and high carat gold indicted this, perhaps wealth played a role as the materials used were not cheap.

The first person to come to mind as having made artefacts with an Islamic influence at the time was William Burges (1827-1881). His work is extremely rare but, despite extensive research and consultation, I couldn't confidently say it was designed by him, so who else could have designed

it? Perhaps it was Owen Jones a leading light in the Arts and Crafts movement with a great interest in Islam, but no evidence could be found of him ever designing any metalware. Maybe it was a wealthy amateur artisan but I thought not.

Next I turned to the question of what was the dish used for? Some colleagues have suggested a salt for the dining table, but I think, because of its Islamic design, it may have been used to burn incense in powder or oil form.

The truth is, having spent numerous hours on research, I don't know - it's an enigma. How the dish turned up in the Middle East is anybody's guess. The only way to get some sort of conclusion is for the market to decide. The dish has been consigned to auction and hopefully there are at least two people out there that have the answer to the questions raised.

Even after forty years there are still things I have to learn, but that's what I enjoy despite the frustrations.

If any readers require advice or information about a particular item then please contact me, John Vost, on 01485 542174 or with a photograph if at all possible at enquiries@vosts.co.uk



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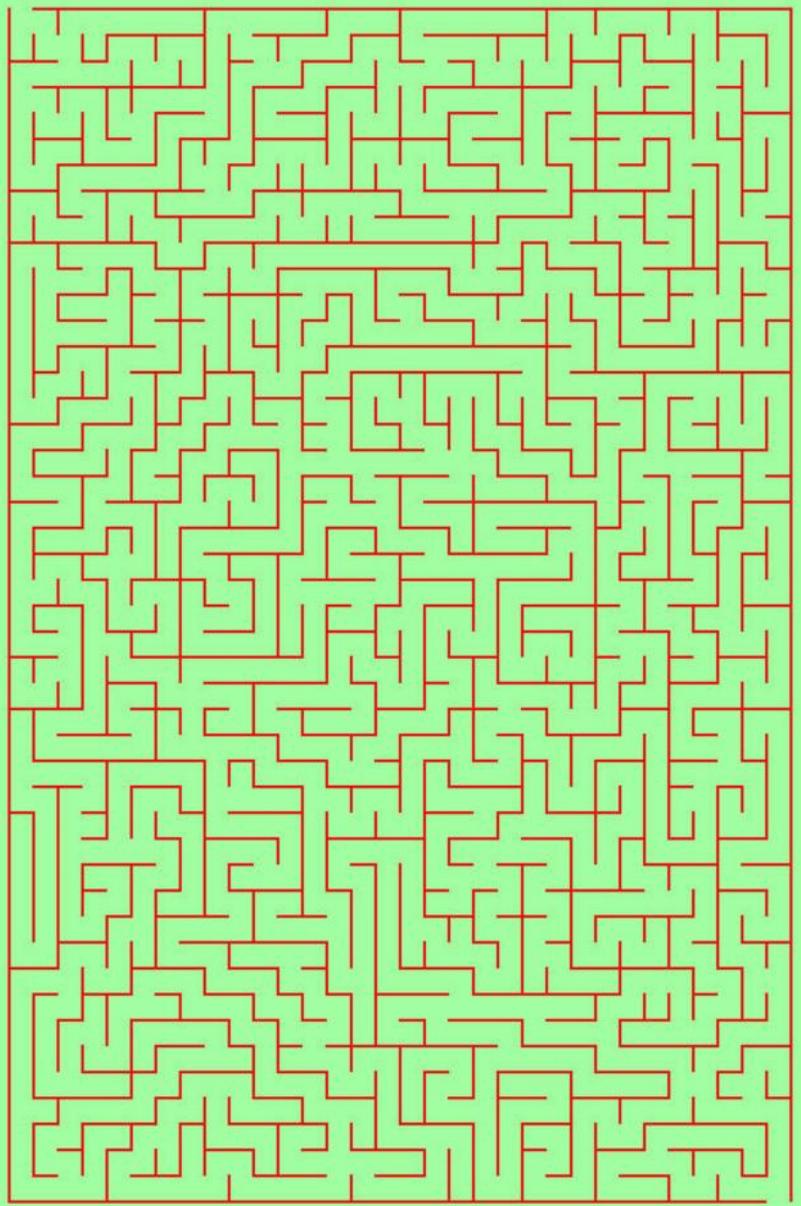
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A Christmas Maze

There is a Christmas feast waiting for Santa if only he could get there.
Can you show him the way?



GARETH MALONE TYPE CHOIR TAKES ON NEW MEMBERS

Gareth Malone has shown the nation that Choirs can change peoples' lives and **Snettisham Community Choir** runs on the same principles. The Choir is once again opening its doors to new members as it moves into its 4th year and offers everyone the opportunity to sing for wellbeing in a warm welcoming group where auditions are not necessary. Starting on 9th January the 12-week term runs on Wednesdays from 10am – 12pm at Snettisham Memorial Hall and is accessible to all ages and abilities.

“There is nothing like a Community Choir for forging friendships and having fun,” said The Choirs founder and musical director Carol O’Neill who has been running choirs and groups for 18 years. “The sessions are designed to introduce people to their own voices and enable them to blend with others to produce stunning results but no-one ever has to sing on their own unless they choose to.”

“Over time a great sense of wellbeing and belonging develops when a Choir works together to achieve something that they wouldn’t have thought possible. Choir night becomes sacred to many people because it adds another dimension to their lives. Singing is also a great way of improving your health as the lungs expand to support the heart, oxygenating the blood, nourishing our organs and lifting the spirits,” continued Carol.

People who are interested in belonging to the choir should call Carol on 01328 838316 or visit www.singforwellbeing.co.uk.

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Great Grey Shrike



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Bog News

by Tom Bolderstone, reserve warden

NATURAL
ENGLAND

In the last few days winter seems to have arrived on the reserve with cold northerly winds giving the reserve an icy feel. Pink footed geese are now regular over the reserve in quite big numbers and in the surrounding arable land the sugar beet fields are being harvested attracting the geese in to feed.

We have had a volunteer group from Construction Skills on the reserve last month helping out on the site as part of a project of theirs called make a difference. The group of eight joined us for a day of rhododendron clearance. This involved cutting and removing some very large dead rhododendron bushes and burning to get rid of them. The group managed to clear quite a large area in the time they had

which in turn will allow the woodland floor to flourish once again. The rhododendron bushes are very vigorous and shade out a lot of the traditional understory plants and young saplings. It can take up to three years for any plants to grow where the rhododendron bushes have been. The rhododendrons, although pretty, don't provide much habitat for insects and birds because of this shading out of the soil. In areas where we have cleared whole bushes we have seen that within a couple of years there are a large amount of saplings and bramble and other understory plants appearing. These in turn will provide a bit more structure to the woodland fringe and allow replacement of older trees when they die. The group really enjoyed their day on the reserve and were pleased to be helping to restore Dersingham Bog NNR.

Some of you will have noticed towards the middle of the reserve two large areas of slightly smaller and greener vegetation than the surrounding area in the bog. These areas of vegetation are actually bog restoration areas. You may have noticed the large areas of grass out in the bog. This grass is actually called Molinia or Purple Moor grass. This grass without management can form large tussocks in the bog which shade out the bog plants such as Sundew, Cotton Grass and Sphagnum mosses.

Each year we go out and cut these areas to reduce the amount of Molinia in the restoration plots. Once we have cut the material we then have to either rake up material or collect it in a specialist machine designed for use on wet areas. Once the material is raked we then remove the arisings from the restoration areas so that a very minimal amount of nutrients are left on the ground. The areas were cleared on two separate years and have shown good signs of recovery with a lot of specialist bog plants appearing back in the areas. The areas took quite a bit of clearing. The way in which this was done was with a large 360 excavator and a specialist attachment called a bird-eye. The bird-eye is actually an American piece of equipment used to break up wooden houses and consists of a large round spinning disk with teeth on. This was used to break up the tussocks of grass to water level and the water over topping the flailed roots would reduce the chances of the Molinia growing back.



This time of year can be quite quiet for wildlife on the reserve but with a bit of perseverance Roe Deer and Stonechats can be seen quite regularly. We occasionally have winter visits from birds such as Rough Leg Buzzard, Waxwings, Great Grey Shrike and some wildfowl. This tends to give the reserve quite a wintry feel. This is a fantastic time of year and the purples of the heather have made way for impressive browns and greys.



Female Roe Deer

© Dean Siskin / naturetalk.com

I look forward to seeing some of you out on the site this winter.
Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.

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Greetings from the manse Rev. Kim Nally

In his autobiography, "An Only Child", the Irish writer, Frank O'Connor, tells how one Christmas Santa Claus brought him a toy engine. On Christmas afternoon his mother took him to visit the local convent. As the engine was the only present he had received, he took it with him to show it to the nuns. While he was in the convent one of the nuns brought him to visit the crib in the chapel. As he looked into the crib he noticed something that upset him very much. What upset him was the fact that the Child Jesus was lying there in the manger without a single present. He knew exactly how that child felt - the utter despondency of realising that he had been forgotten, and that nobody had brought him anything. Turning to the nun, he asked why the Holy Child hadn't got any toys, and she replied, 'His mother is too poor to afford them.'

That settled it. His mother was poor too, but at Christmas she had always managed to buy him something, even if it was only a box of crayons. In a burst of reckless generosity, he took the toy engine, climbed into the crib, and put it between the outstretched arms of the Child. And he showed him how to wind it as well, because a little baby would not be clever enough to know a thing like that.

This story shows us the power of Christmas. Through Christmas God gives us an opportunity to show what we are capable of. Of course, he set the example himself. He began by making us a gift of his most precious possession - his only Son. God's Son could have come in power and wealth. Had he come in power, we would have bowed down in fear before him. Thus he would have made us feel small and weak and insignificant. If he had come in wealth, he would have made us aware of our own poverty. Thus he would have evoked a feeling of envy in us, and done serious damage to our hearts.

But he didn't come in power and wealth. He came in weakness and poverty. By coming in weakness, he made us aware of our own power. By coming in poverty, he made us aware of our own riches. His poverty evoked in us a feeling of compassion, thereby bringing our hearts to life. It was the poverty of the Child Jesus that evoked that reckless act of generosity in the young Frank O'Connor. It was the poverty of Jesus that awed the Magi to 'open their treasures' and lay them before him. The poverty of Jesus is a challenge to us too. It gives us an opportunity to open our hearts. Jesus no longer needs our gifts. But other people may. He wants us to share ourselves with one another.

Christmas is a feast of the heart. It reveals to us what the heart of God is like. At the same time it reveals to us what the human heart is capable of. Christmas causes us to open our hearts. And to open our hearts is to begin to live. What makes us human is not so much our ability to think as our ability to love. To the extent to which we open our hearts to God and to one another, we will experience something of the 'great joy' the angels announced to the shepherds. Joy is the fruit of love. Joy is an overflowing heart.

Christmas joy to you and yours,

Kim Nally

Wild Norfolk - Wildlife Talk *Witches and Devils*

Friday 14 December, 7-8.30pm

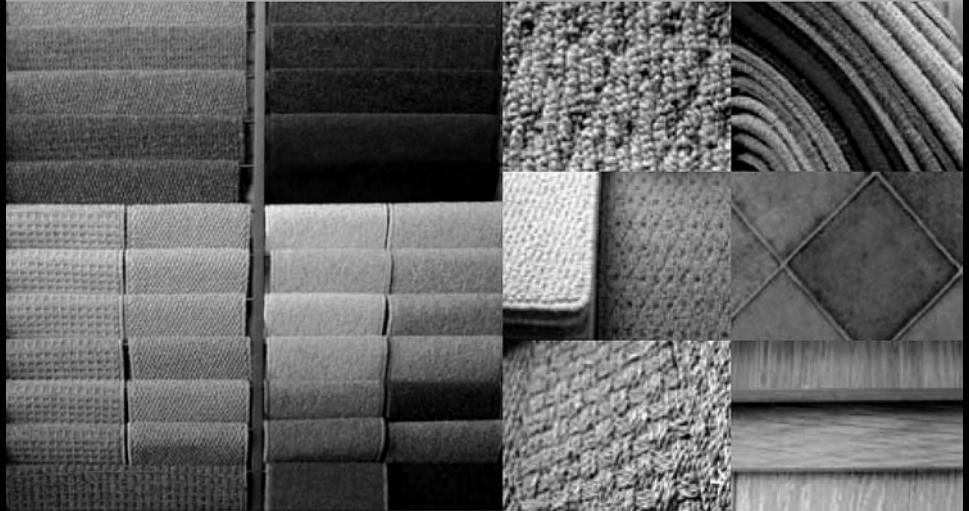
This illustrated talk by Tony Leech will reveal the darker side of fungi through a look at their folklore and toxic reputation.

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On behalf of both of our schools that make up the Dersingham Learning Community, we are happy to announce that there will be an amalgamation of both schools to form one all through Primary School from April 2013. This is an exciting time as we look forward to celebrating and building on our successes together.

A recent visit from Judith Dawson, a Registered Ofsted Inspector, recognised the Infant School as being **OUTSTANDING** in all areas. She found the children to be making above average progress. Along with this, the provision of a popular Breakfast Club and After School Club has added to the achievement of the School.

At the Junior School, refurbishment has made for a fresh new look. The new front entrance has given the school an easier first access point. Along with the re-created smart yet functional Reception area, new carpets, flooring, blinds and even new stage curtains have added to the welcoming atmosphere in the school. Amazing work on Dragons has enhanced the school further – see below!



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Village Voice Live

The Lavender Hill MobTheatre Company

On the evening of Tuesday 2nd October, Village Voice Live veered away from its usual format as we were entertained by the very endearing *Lavender Hill Mob*, a local theatre company that prides itself in “*making a difference to those who need a difference*”. Founded in 2001 by the enthusiastic, visionary and hard-working trustee and team worker Les Miles they have grown from a drama club to a full-blown musical theatre company that anyone is welcome to join regardless of ability, and where everyone is respected and encouraged to take part regardless of how small a contribution they can make.



This particular evening's entertainment was given over to an abridged performance of their revue “*Wish Me Luck*”. We were treated to a party of children dressed as WW2 evacuees parading in along with a station master, ARP Warden, cleaner ladies, canteen workers and the odd shady character or two whilst they delivered a series of WW2 favourite songs encouraging hearty audience participation, and punctuated by brief sketches and solos. Modern sound equipment provided quality backing

tracks, but what really radiated out from the whole company was the sheer delight and fun they had in performing together. A thoroughly enjoyable occasion that brought out the simple pleasures of community entertainment and togetherness.

Leaflets on forthcoming Lavender Hill Mob events are available from all the usual information sources and their website at www.lhmtc.com is well worth a visit.

Brucie



Norfolk From The Air

A cold and wet November evening did not deter a good crowd from attending a fascinating talk by Derek Edwards. The audience was greeted by two projection screens and two projectors. Why? Well Derek, an aerial archaeologist, after introducing the story of aerial photography proceeded to show early and up to date pictures of many Norfolk landmarks. From redevelopment in Norwich to crop marks in local fields he held the rooms attention for the whole evening. “A pity there were no pictures of King’s Lynn” someone was heard to remark, but then you can’t have everything. With a later finish than usual the audience seemed very satisfied with the evening and after the traditional replacing of the chairs wended their way home.

Dumpling

A LAD AND A LANCASTER

by John Delanoy



Time will tell, but counting, all the centuries which have passed and leading up to the present day and beyond, it may be proved that one period alone offered the optimum time to come into this world: the early thirties.

I was born in 1930 in King's Lynn at a time when few would have agreed. Times were hard. Relatively few people were aware of the rapid progress being made in the realms of science and engineering, or of the benefits which this would bring. Changes were taking place. For instance, the steam locomotive was a very sophisticated device, well ahead of its time. In aeronautics, progress was unbelievably rapid. Help was at hand, but we had to wait a little longer. Meanwhile, we all had a clear understanding of what was right and what was wrong. Alas!, some of the clarity has since been lost.

From an early age, I was fascinated by anything that either flew, floated or ran on wheels. I was in the right place! In the local docks, coasters of every kind were always to be seen. On the dock's railway, the little 0-6-0 shunters pulling strings of trucks were a regular feature. Steam lorries were another attraction usually carrying grain in large quantities. When the steamroller was at work, it was particularly thrilling, eclipsed only by the aeroplane!

Aeroplanes passing over Lynn were to be seen in ever-increasing numbers. The reason for this expansion was unhappily because of the threat of all-out war. But I was born in 1930 so I was too young to know about that.

Time went by and war came. My father had served in the first war (Royal Engineers) and was outside the draft age, but because he had skills which were deemed useful in times of conflict, father was on a special reserve. He was called up in 1941. A qualified engineer, he was fluent in French and Arabic. More later.

We moved to Ely, where my Mother's parents lived. This move particularly suited me. In what was to be the greatest civil engineering feat in history, aerodromes were built in large numbers. Among these, one was built at Witchford a village a mile of two from Ely. For an innocent lover of aeroplanes, this was in the Christmas-day-every-day category. The airfield being within easy cycle-range, meant that I would spend countless hours there, monitoring the war's progress.

To cut a long story short, when the airfield became fully operational, Lancaster bombers were the resident aircraft, and one hardstanding area was surprisingly close to the highway. An aircraft was allotted to this base, having the registration IL-A. From the road, most aircraft movements could be clearly seen. It was there that I witnessed the comings and goings of these magnificent machines. Attending school was a terrible nuisance!

Having earlier seen the bombs loaded onto the aircraft, I would then watch the planes struggle into the air with their heavy loads, unaware of the feelings of the crew. They would doubtless be hoping and praying that they might, against all the odds, be lucky enough to return.

In peace-time, talk of bombing sounds like a grizzly business, but it must be remembered that the grown-ups (if not the school children) were living in constant dread of a Nazi invasion, with all the



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Dear John,

We received your letter a few days ago, & wish to thank you very much for your interest in IL-A & crew.

We are pleased you picked on 'IL-A' as we consider it the only best friend & aircraft we have on the squadron.

The skipper will be in to see you at the first possible opportunity to have a chat about experiences in general & our mutual friend 'IL-A' in

2

particular.

We are trying to have a crew photograph taken & if we succeed you will certainly receive one.

Thanks very much for the good wishes John. We also are looking forward to a speedy end to this war.

Yours Sincerely

RAAF

(John Skipper)

RAAF

Don Lester, Winton Gk.

Reski, Rosseter, NAV.

Walt, Ballant, ENS.

Nick Barton, Gunnar.

Sid Adamson, Air Bomber.

L. Elger, Gunnar 1/4

horrors that this would entail. Bearing in mind that most wives and sweethearts, including my Mother, were parted from their loved-ones, any means of retaliation were welcomed and applauded. Coventry set the standard.

Hearing of nothing but IL-A, my Mother suggested that I should write to the crew. In those days we were conscious of what was and was not 'allowed' and I hesitated. When I did pluck up the courage to write, I had a wonderful letter in reply, signed by all the crew, each noting his particular station within the aircraft. This letter is now among my most treasured possessions.

I learnt later that, on receipt of my letter the Commanding Officer summoned the pilot to his office. Since such a summons usually meant trouble, the skipper was busy searching his conscience.

The years passed and in 1987 I had a 'phone call from a Mr. Mike Garbet, who together with Mr. Brian Goulding, compiled a series of very detailed books devoted solely to the Lancaster bomber.

Now the pilot of IL-A was an Australian and Mr. Garbet had been to Australia seeking information for the forthcoming volume. He returned with among other things my schoolboy letter! Astonished that my letter had survived, I told Mr. Garbet that I still had the original reply. He was delighted, and both letters are recorded in the fifth volume. (Lancaster at war Volume 5 - Ian Allen).

In addition to the letters, I was asked to submit for publication an account of my experiences of life as a lad living in wartime Britain, with special reference to local air activity. This I was pleased to do and in 1995 I was invited to the launch of volume 5, which took place at East Kirkby. There is an aircraft museum at this ex-RAF base and the prime exhibit is a Lancaster bomber. Although not airworthy at that time the bomber was taxied on the runway and the glorious sound of the Rolls-Royce engines brought back a flood of poignant

memories.

Sadly, my Father, wounded in the evacuation of Crete, suffered complications and he failed to return. It was not until 2009 that I heard details of some of the work in which he was engaged. Militarily, the fear was that the Germans might capture Cairo, and the contingency plan was for the allies to make a tactical withdrawal into Palestine. My Father's task was to negotiate with the Bedouins to secure a water supply for the retreating armies. Fortunately, Field Marshall Montgomery turned the tide, and photos of my Father alongside a huge well, illustrate a plant which, I am sure he would have been delighted to consign to history. □



Sandringham Squirrels by Alan Coleby



Girl squirrels

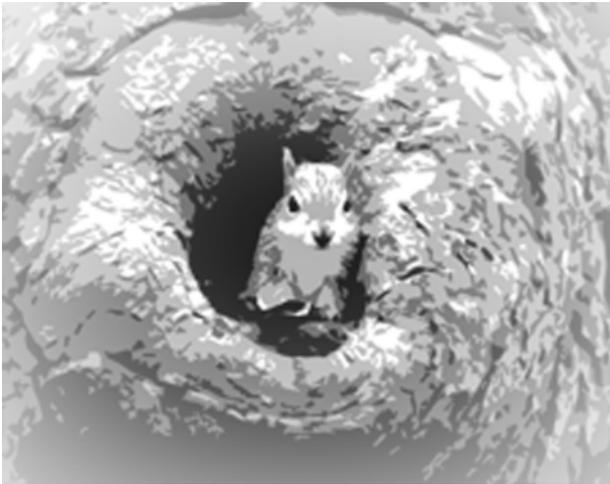
Ella
Eve
Cassie
Thora

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

Boy squirrels

Scout
Chip
Barney
Gus

Lights in the Winter



Scout had woken up in the winter because he was hungry. He had left the drey to go and find a nut store and had taken some acorns and sweet chestnuts back to Ella, Eve, and Mum who were also awake.

They had all woken up because the weather had turned a little warmer. There was no ice and snow, and so Scout had left the beech tree area, and was going along by the pine trees.

To his surprise, he saw Cassie in one of the pine trees, with Barney nearby. In the winter, everyone kept moving to keep warm, but Cassie was just sitting,

because she must have been warm enough.

‘What are you doing, just sitting?’ asked Scout.

‘I came out to have a feed, but it was not too cold, so I thought I would just watch the people,’ said Cassie. ‘Barney was out and about, too.’

‘People?’ asked Scout. ‘Why watch people? They don’t like us much, so we usually stay away from them.’

‘But they’re so funny.’

‘Funny?’

‘Yes. They’re all so different. There are tall ones, short ones, some that carry sticks to help them walk. Others run around and kick footballs. Most go around in groups, but some are on their own. Some have dogs and you have to watch out for them. If they catch you on the ground they’ll chase you, and Mum says they could kill you if they caught you.’

‘But dogs can’t climb trees, so they are easy to escape from.’ Barney joined in the talking.

‘There are a lot of people walking about, though, on that hard path through the pines.’

‘I think they’re going along to where those wood and glass buildings are,’ said Scout. ‘If you want to watch people, there are a lot along there.’

‘Oh, no!’ moaned Barney. ‘We can’t go around there.’

‘Why not?’ Scout and Cassie looked puzzled..

‘Don’t you know what that is?’ asked Barney, beginning to shout. ‘It’s the visitors’ centre, and people would come after us if we sat and watched them there. I’ve run along the roof, but I wouldn’t hang about there.’

‘No,’ said Scout. ‘Mum says they think we don’t do any good. She has heard they sometimes shoot us, just for the fun of it.’

‘Yes,’ said Barney, ‘but they don’t carry guns around with them unless they go out specially to shoot. Then they shoot birds like partridges and pheasants, because they’re good to eat. Nobody wants to eat us,’ he added, with a laugh.

‘Why are there so many people at that centre?’ asked Scoot.

‘Don’t you know who lives near here and why the visitors come?’ asked Barney.

‘No.’

‘The Queen!’ Barney shouted at Scoot. ‘Fancy not knowing that!’

‘The Queen?’ asked Scoot timidly, feeling rather ashamed, because Barney seemed to think that he should know all about the Queen and where she lived.

‘Oh!’ Barney held his head. ‘This great big wood where we live is called Sandringham. The Queen owns Sandringham and lives in a big house. These woods surround the house and lots of people come to visit the Queen.’

‘Is she very important, then?’ asked Scoot.

‘I’ll say she’s important,’ went on Barney. ‘She owns the whole country. She rules over all the people. She has big armies, and that’s why we can’t cause any trouble in her visitors’ centre.’

Scoot did not really know about countries or armies, but did not ask.

‘This is a good time of the year in the middle of winter,’ said Barney, who was now keen to tell Scoot and Cassie all he knew. ‘The Queen has a big party in the big house and you can see all the big cars coming along the drive. They go round to the back entrance of the big house, and the guests go in carrying lots of parcels wrapped in bright, coloured paper.’

‘Hey,’ said Gus, who had joined the group, ‘I saw a pine tree being carried in by the gardeners a few days ago. Is that anything to do with the party?’

‘You bet,’ said Barney. ‘They stand it at the side of one of the front windows and put little winking lights all over it: red, green, yellow, blue. They look super. Let’s go and get through the wire by the church and then look in the front windows.’

‘But what about the people?’ asked Cassie? ‘They won’t like us looking in their windows.’

‘Oh! Come on,’ said Scoot. ‘We’ll just watch from inside a bush, and nobody will see us if we keep still.’

So, when they got there, they gazed very happily at the shiny windows at the front of the house and at the tree at the side of one of them. It was full of flashing lights, and silver, glittery stuff was draped all over the branches. Little boxes and parcels hung from some of the branches. People moved about with smiles on their faces, and they seemed to be still decorating the tree. There was food on the table and the sound of people singing was in the air.

‘I’ve never seen people so happy,’ said Cassie. ‘People usually scurry around being busy all the time, and with their heads down.’

And so the squirrels gazed in silence and stillness for some time, just enjoying people being happy. When they went back to their dreys to carry on with their winter sleep, the woods seemed very dark.

Bang! Bang!! Bang!!!

‘Oh, heavens! Wake up. Everybody out and run for it,’ shouted Mum. ‘The men are out with their guns. They do that every winter. Keep moving around fast.’ Mum was really scared.

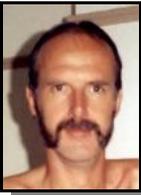
‘Barney says it’s not us they’re after,’ called out Scoot. ‘It’s those tall rabbits with the long ears that they are shooting.’

‘Maybe,’ said Mum, ‘but they’ll have a go at anything that moves when they’re excited. Move around fast, everybody, but keep the tree-trunks between you and the shooters. Stay close to each other. Don’t run too far.’

It was a fearful day. There was a sharp, smoky smell everywhere. The air was full of noise and shouting and dogs running and animals bolting for their lives. Some of the squirrels ran so far away that they couldn’t find their way back to the drey.

‘You did say people were funny, Cassie,’ said Scoot.

‘Funny? Yes. All so different.’ □



Steve Davis Not taking offence!

It is with dubious thanks to my son that I can show you this picture that he had kept hidden for the past twenty years or so. I hasten to add that it was taken during an intermediate stage in the shaving off of a full set for I really don't think that I would have lasted long stood up in front of my students looking like that! However, by the time you receive this towards the end of the month of "Movember" I trust that I will again be sporting some reasonable attempt at growing a mo' in support of *Movember & Sons* (uk.movember.com), an international charity dedicated to "changing the face of men's health" and proudly supporting prostate and testicular cancer initiatives. Perhaps the styling, not to mention the dark colouring shown here would be more than I could dare hope for now though! If I haven't yet caught you, I would be very pleased for you to support my endeavour by visiting my *MoSpace* page at mobro.co/stevedavis1, and even more so if you'd sponsor me by making an online donation (which taxpayers can also *GiftAid*). Alternatively I will gratefully receive any cash donations and enter them on your behalf. It is prickly and somewhat itchy way to raise funds and awareness, but I must say encouragingly lucrative so far and certainly a lot less effort than sponsored bike rides! Anyway, moving on...

Each day I go onto the Internet the little gadget on my *iGoogle* homepage plies me with a series of four random *Quotes of the Day*, (taken from www.quotationspage.com). Some are frivolous and amusing, like the one by the late heavily bespectacled, cigar smoking George Burns who said "You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there." Some are mildly offensive and just occasionally some are quite thought provoking and inspiring. To be able to draw on such pearls of wisdom at the appropriate moment can give the illusion at least that one is well informed! Only yesterday I was given the quote by Sir Winston Churchill that said "It is a good thing for an uneducated man to read books of quotations." Well, I probably would not go that far, but certainly the daily dose on my computer screen works for me.

One particular quote that came my way recently and made quite an impression, though for the life of me I cannot remember or track down who said it was: "There is more damage caused by people taking offence than intentionally giving it!" I don't know about you but I seem to come up against more and more evidence of this. I guess few of us would say that we have not at some time or other perhaps deliberately but more often unwittingly given or caused offence, some more so than others. These days, we do well to think about what we say, write or do before we say, write or do it, especially in our highly charged, politically correct age. When I check through the articles I write before sending them off, as well as spelling and grammatical errors, I do try to address the question: have I said anything that might inadvertently offend anyone or any group? Invariably I find myself having to strike bits through or reword them in a less potentially offensive way. On the whole I like to think that communicating and relating to others is a large part of what life is about and I find nothing more enjoyable than good, relaxed, respectful and productive dialogue both face to face and through the variety of media available. How sad, tense and debilitating it all becomes when offence is taken, grudges start to brew and counter offensive ensues. Issues of gender, age, ability, background, rights, race and religion are just a few of the prime target areas where offence is taken and I would certainly not want to condone any wanton giving of offence in any of these, but neither do I like to see unforgiving and overly sensitive reactions to or perceptions of offence that was never intended as such. Some just seem to be bristling and geared up with ways to take offence at the least opportunity and then try to stir others up into doing the same!

The celebration of Christmas can be a target for the offence takers. We read of councils and organisations, banning public carol singing and the display of any Christmas decoration or imagery, or declaring that Christmas be replaced altogether with a Winter Festival, since it might cause offence to other faiths, or rather perhaps more to those of no faith at all. Christians in turn can be

offended by such measures so taken. It's a no-win situation. During my years teaching in an increasingly multi-ethnic college, my experience had been of staff and students of other ethnic backgrounds happily embracing Christmas as a festival, without feeling they were compromising their own faith and culture. Indeed I was often quite touched to receive Christmas greetings and even nativity scene Christmas cards from my ethnic colleagues or students. I in turn was pleased to learn something of their faiths and cultures and to recognise their own festivals, though I must confess that the convergence of cultural festivals involving the use of loud fireworks night after night could be a bit wearing!

Whilst trying to research the origin of my earlier quote regarding not taking offence, I came across several including this slightly harsher one from the famous Mormon pioneer Brigham Young who said: "*He who takes offence when offence was not intended is a fool, yet he who takes offence when offence is intended is an even greater fool for he has succumbed to the will of his adversary.*" That can hurt a little, but think about it. Less harshly, Abraham Lincoln said "*We should be too big to take offence and too noble to give it.*" Several passages from the Bible came up on the subject too. Many people took offence at a lot of the things Jesus said (and still do of course!) Although not actually using the words "*not taking offence*" as such, the implication is there in verse 5 from the famous passage on the subject of Love from *1 Corinthians 13* which states that: "*It (love) does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs*" (*New International Version*). Actually as you might expect, there is no shortage of online material on the whole subject of giving and taking offence (or *offense* if you want to include American material), including those who would say that taking offence is a natural human reaction and should not be suppressed! Well, it is perhaps right at times to let someone know in as calm and collected a way as possible that you find something they do or say offensive, but then to let go of it! Other texts and indeed books major on the health damaging effects that taking offence and the build-up of long-term grudges can have.

I once had to smirk at a tee-shirt slogan that a rather dejected looking American tourist had brazen across their chest that said "*Every day I'm forced to add another name to the list of people who p*** me off!*" On the back it embellished the insult with "You're on the list!" I know it is really very sad, and we might not want to put it in quite such brash terms, but unchecked we can allow ourselves to get a bit like that and end up rather lonely! I remember my boss once telling me over some insignificant dispute: "*Steve, we'll put the words on your tombstone saying 'I WAS RIGHT!'*" However loosely or distantly we connect with the meaning and subject matter of Christmas, amongst all the nativity, tinsel glitter and commercialisation, there is surely some glimmer of encouragement to all to express love, peace and goodwill toward one another. The words of the song written in 1955 by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson may be considered a little sentimental these days but do make the point worth considering: "*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*" You can find many renditions of this on *YouTube*. But really, those words do sum up the season if not an approach to living in general. Each of us has the power to make the first move in making peace with that neighbour, work colleague, estranged friend or family member. Let us have the grace to apologise to those to whom we have given offence and forgive those from whom we have taken offence and move on to new things with a spring in our step.

So with Advent almost upon us, apart from having a clean-shaven top lip again, I can look forward to our various celebrations at Church and around the village (hopefully advertised in this magazine), plus taking part in the *RSPB's Pinkie Breakfast Walks* (rspb.org.uk/snettisham), and of course Christmas with family and whoever else happens along. May I wish you too a very Happy Christmas with family, friends and neighbours and an Offence-Free New Year, and if by any chance I am on your 'list', then do please at least consider my removal!

Email: steve@davista.co.uk or visit www.davista.co.uk for links to docs, photos & videos.



News from St Cecilia's Church

A very successful Coffee Morning was held at the Convent in Hunstanton on Saturday 27th October. There were Tombola, Bric-a-brac and Cake stalls and a Raffle. Over £600 was raised for 'Michael's Mission'. Michael's Mission is a charity set up by our resident Priest, Father Michael Ryan, who worked for many years with the very poor people of Peru and continues to raise funds to aid the poorest and most in need.

Saturday November 24th is when the ladies of the Parish get together for our ladies Shared Lunch. You do not have to be Catholic to join in, all are welcome. All we ask is that you bring a plate of food to share.

Mass times for Christmas 2012 are as follows:-

Christmas Eve, Monday 24th December - **8pm** at Hunstanton. This will be the liturgy of Midnight Mass and will be preceded by carols and readings.

Christmas Day, Tuesday 25th December - **9am** at Dersingham and **11am** at Hunstanton. For other Mass times please see Church notice boards, website or phone.

Refreshments are served after the 11am Mass every Sunday at the Church in Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, and 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. We would love to see you and you will be most welcome.

Resident Priest: Father Michael Ryan, 81 Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, PE31 6YE

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



Norfolk Wildlife Trust



Thursday 13th December – 7.30pm
The West Norfolk members group invites you to

A Christmas Miscellany
Members' wildlife presentations,
a wildlife quiz & seasonal refreshments

Thursday 24th January – 7.30pm
an illustrated talk by Richard Hobbs,
a botanical tour leader -
Mountains and Meadows of Slovenia

Venue: Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street
Cost: £2.00 members / £2.50 visitors



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“What have the Romans ever done for us?”

*He gave the order for the Britons beyond the shores of
The familiar sea*

And the Brigantes with their shields of blue

To submit their necks to Roman chains

And Ocean itself to tremble

Under the new governance of Rome. Seneca



Rome made a couple of military forays into Britannia under Julius Caesar in 55 and 54 BC. He came, he saw, he won a few battles - but then he went home. The conquest proper began in 43 AD, when the Emperor Claudius arrived – possibly by invitation but he was certainly not welcomed by all. The Iceni people, who lived in this part of the country at the time, allied themselves with Rome at first. However, this changed when they were forced to disarm in 47 – 48 AD because the Romans were worried about threats from the rear when they were campaigning towards the Trent and the Severn. There was some fierce fighting but the Iceni were defeated and the region settled down. The Iceni king was Prasutagus (possibly put in place by the Romans following the revolt) and finds at Gallow’s Hill in Thetford clearly show that a prosperous royal enclosure was located there containing a lot of luxury goods. Things really began to kick off when Prasutagus died and was succeeded by his wife Boudica. He left half his wealth to Rome (ruled by the infamous Emperor Nero) and half to Boudica. This wasn’t enough for the colonial authorities who wanted it all and they also called in the debts run up by Prasutagus. Boudica was whipped, worse was done to her daughters and the leading men of the Iceni were stripped of their possessions.

The Iceni were in open revolt against Rome and in 60 AD they sacked the lightly defended town of Camulodunum (Colchester), showing no mercy to the Roman citizens. The last refuge of the defenders was the Temple of Claudius - but this (and the rest of the town) was burnt down by the Iceni and an ash layer is still visible under the foundations of the Norman castle, which was constructed on the site of the temple. Boudica also marched on Londinium (London) and caused more havoc. The Boudican rebellion was well timed because the governor, Suetonius Paullinus, was in Angelsey with the bulk of the Roman army, dealing with the druids. He hurried back south but it was too late for the unfortunate colonists in Camulodunum. The final battle took place somewhere in the Midlands but we don’t know exactly where. The Romans were heavily outnumbered (Roman figures gave it as 10,000 Romans against 230,000 Iceni, but this is likely to be an exaggeration). The Iceni held the high ground with the camp followers watching, what they expected to be a rout, from the safety of the baggage train arrayed around the battlefield. The Romans were tactically far superior and went through the Iceni like a mincing machine. The baggage train hindered the retreat and victory was complete. Boudica escaped but was never heard of again and probably killed herself.



The remnants of the Iceni tribe limped home and this part of the country never regained its pre-conquest affluence under Roman rule. This is not to say we have nothing to see from the time of the Roman occupation. The Roman fort on the banks of Breydon Water, known as Burgh Castle, is very impressive and the walls are still massive. The location of Roman towns and fortifications is often given away by place names containing ‘caster’, ‘caister’ or ‘chester’. In Norfolk we have Brancaster and Caister. Brancaster was the site of

another Roman Fort situated just past the last house in Brancaster going east but there isn't much to see here. Both Brancaster and Burgh Castle were forts on what is known as the Saxon Shore. The Romans also built a town called Venta Icenorum (Market of the Iceni) near Caister St Edmund's and there is some masonry from this settlement still showing above ground.

The clearest reminder of Rome that can be seen near Dersingham is Peddars Way. This road was constructed during the Roman occupation and runs south from the fort at Brancaster. It is a fine place to walk on a clear day in autumn and winter, when flocks of fieldfares and redwings can often be seen feeding on berries in the hedgerows. Peddars Way follows part of the route of a much older track known as the Icknield Way. Under Roman control the Norfolk section of the Icknield Way coalesced from a broad meandering trail into a sharply defined straight line. I haven't walked all of Peddars way but I once spoke to someone who had, on a sponsored walk in aid of the British Heart Foundation. The walk was somewhat spoilt because he had a heart attack after crossing the finishing line.



A few Roman villas have been unearthed in Norfolk but, so far, they haven't matched the splendour of villas and palaces found in less traumatised regions further south. Fishbourne Palace and Bignor Roman Villa in Sussex have some very impressive mosaics showing how affluent this part of the world was during the Roman occupation. Also in the south, the Romans made good use of the natural hot springs in Bath. The sulphur springs were originally dedicated to the ancient British goddess Sulis. The Romans rededicated them to a new goddess, Sulis-Minerva. This type of pragmatic approach to local deities was commonplace at the time.

Northern England can also boast of some spectacular Roman remains – most notably Hadrian's Wall. The stretch near the Roman fort of Housteads is particularly impressive. Writing tablets have been found at the nearby fort of Vindolanda with very mundane messages, which are not much different from entries on modern social media sites. One of them is from a soldier and starts:

'I want you to know that I am in good health, as I hope you are in turn, you neglectful man who have sent me not even one letter. But I think I am behaving in a more considerate fashion in writing to you...'

The city of York was an important Roman town (Eboracum) and the powerbase of the Emperor Constantine – whose victory at the Milvern Bridge near Rome under a Christian banner was the beginning of the Christianising of the empire (and the end of the tolerance of local deities). There are places in York where you can go down beneath the streets and get a glimpse of Roman life. A

wealthy Roman couple of black African origin lived in York. They may well have had white British slaves. Race does not seem to have been an issue and full Roman citizens came from every corner of the empire.

I have also visited various Roman sites further south in Europe. Some on purpose, such as the Pont du Gard aqueduct and the amphitheatre in Arles, some by chance, such as the Roman remains in Marseille and the temple in Nimes. I can't say that I have seen it all because, contrary to popular belief, all roads don't seem to lead to Rome! □



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Regular events

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Dersingham Library Knit and Natter group Thursdays 10:30 - 12:00

A weekly drop in morning for those who knit or crochet (or those who are interested in learning how to do both). If you are a knitter and are interested in helping others learn or if you would like to learn a new skill then please give us a call. Coffee and tea provided.

Dersingham Library Crime Book Club 2nd Monday of the month 6-7pm

Details of the books being read are available in the library or by calling 01485 540181

Dersingham Library Book Club 3rd Monday of the month 6-7pm

Details of the books being read are available in the library or by calling 01485 540181

Special events

Christmas Toddler Time 6 December 2012 14:00 - 14:30

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Shopping online - all you need to know to shop safely 7 December 2012 10:00 - 12:00

Learn about the risks and safeguards of shopping online and what you have to do to make a successful purchase. This is a free course run by Norfolk Adult Education Service. Places are limited so please book by calling the library on 01485 540181

Coming in the New Year - Join up January.

If your workplace has employees who aren't library members or you belong to an organisation with few library members, then please let us know. We want to arrange pop-up library visits so that we can show the wide range of books, magazines, DVDs and much more that libraries can offer. Please contact Alison at the library or email alison.thorne@norfolk.gov.uk

New Books to look out for in November and December

The Forgotten, David Baldacci - The Age of Doubt, Andrea Camilleri

The Potter's Field, Andrea Camilleri - The Black Box, Michael Connelly

Notorious Nineteen, Janet Evanovich - Wicked Business, Janet Evanovich

Rome's Executioner, Robert Fabbri - A Sixpenny Christmas, Katie Flynn

A Trail of Fire, Diana Gabaldon - The Misfit, Rosie Goodwin - The Fatal Frost, James Henry

Softly Grow the Poppies, Audrey Howard - Siege, Simon Kernick

The Secret Daughter, Catherine King - I've Got Your Number, Sophie Kinsella

Wartime Brides, Lizzie Lane - False Friends, Stephen Leather

Angels at the Table, Debbie Macomber - The Templar's Secret, C M Palov

Merry Christmas, Alex Cross & James Patterson -

The Christmas Wedding, James Patterson Standing in Another Man's Grave, Ian Rankin - The Kissing Gate, Susan Sallis

Love for a Soldier, Mary Jane Staples - The Key, Simon Toyne

A Half Forgotten Song, Katherine Webb

Happy reading, Alison

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Dersingham Evening WI

Meetings and Activity Groups have resumed after the usual summer break.

For the first time our W.I. took part in the annual Art and Craft Exhibition held at St Nicholas Church. Our participation was by way of a display, at the back of the Church, of member's art or craft work done in their spare time. We produced quite a variety of high standard pieces for the display - none of which were for sale but visitors were most impressed by our work!

The monthly meetings still prove to be interesting with a variety of local speakers, competitions and raffles mixed with coffee and chatting. At these meetings members can sign up for the activity groups where members can meet and socialise in smaller numbers. Many members find this an excellent way of visiting local restaurants and enjoying assorted venues with like minded company.

The ever popular Activity Lunch group went to Gressenhall Workhouse which proved most interesting - followed by lunch! The Group next went to

Hunstanton ten pin bowling – fish and chips were enjoyed afterwards! The following month lunch in King's Lynn was followed by seeing 'We'll Meet Again' at the Corn Exchange.

The Theatre Group have been to see 'Blake' and the ballet 'Sleeping Beauty' both held at the Corn Exchange.



The Walking Group managed a circular route at Hunstanton under the cliffs (the tide was still up) and on the Cliff Top. The Yellow Trail in Sandringham woods was the next venue. Congratulations to those who braved the wind to join us and coped so well with unexpected mud in places especially 'Daisy'!!

The Sunday Lunch Group is a blessing for members who are on their own and recent lunches have been enjoyed at The Dukes Head and Silk Road.

A special lunch is being held for members at King's Lynn's Riverside Restaurant. A report should follow.

Coffee mornings continue to be well supported and members really enjoy visiting various homes for coffee and a chat.

The Craft Group has been occupied decorating bags and knitting Xmas puddings!!!!

The most unusual and exciting event this year is a two day trip to Hanover, Germany for the Xmas Markets and shopping. More of that next time!□

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Christmas Trees
will be available from
the 28th November**

A John Arlott Summer
© Hugh Mullarkey October 2012

As a boy you were younger
Let's say you were ten
You could only aspire
To the strong world of men

But now you are older
In years quite a lot
Though something seeps through
Of the days you forgot

The sounds of the summer
Now winter is here
Are reluctant to leave
So bid them appear

The sounds of summer
In a broad Hampshire voice
John Arlott, Test Cricket
Cheese and pickle the choice

My boyhood returns
With the joy of a pup
John Arlott, the summer
The wireless warms up

The smell of grass cuttings
The clank of the roller
Preparing the ground
For both batsman and bowler

The sky that is clear
The breeze that is teasing
John Arlotts word pictures
Are vividly pleasing

His rich Hampshire tones
As they sum up the play
Make the listener long
For another fine day

Unbridled aggression
He bridled with humour
He starts with a fact
Turns it into a rumour

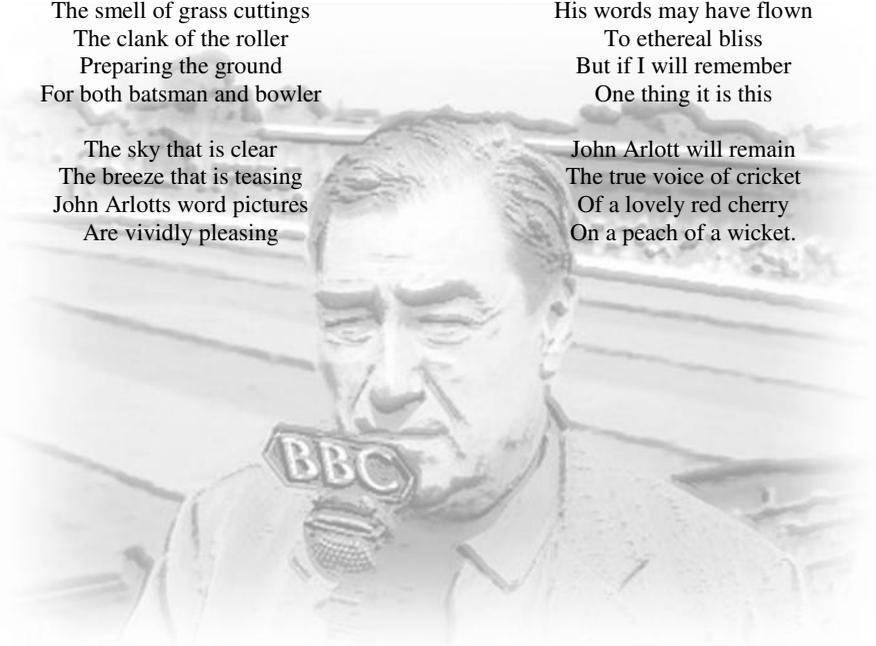
His sweet tone of voice
Always conjured up calm
White no doubt around him
There was general alarm

At the state of the pitch
The state of the ball
And now did he snick it
And was that a call?

John Arlott alone
Could inspire summer thoughts
Even when batsmen
Were all out for noughts

His words may have flown
To ethereal bliss
But if I will remember
One thing it is this

John Arlott will remain
The true voice of cricket
Of a lovely red cherry
On a peach of a wicket.



The Old Biddie and her Cottage Garden

Valerie Anckorn

I used to be a wasp whisperer – maybe I still am – and this is how it happened. In the good old days when I was young and the kitchen had swarms of flies circling around waiting to lay their eggs on unsuspecting legs of lamb and horrid wasps in their yellow and black striped jumpers buzzed in too, enticed by the smell of stewed apples or plums, I had the grizzly idea of burning them to death with the gas lighter – a portable device with a battery, designed to light the gas stove. I got very adept at directing the flame at an incoming wasp and was delighted by its instant demise. However, guilt set in at some stage and I realised that I had become a mass murderer and what I was doing was very cruel and wrong.

So, how was I to continue stopping the wasps coming in then, where they weren't wanted? I decided I would tell them that if they did, then they would be blasted by flame and be-no-more. I informed them mentally, when they flew in the kitchen door all innocent and unappealing. I just sent thoughts out to them saying 'if you come in any further, I will kill you with the gas flame - so just get out and don't come back – tell your friends'. And, out they flew. The method was tried and tested time after time, and ever after I was never scared of wasps again. Whenever they came nearby, I would just tell them to go, and go they did.

I think I must still have the knack, for when I first started to bend the long willow wands this year to weave them back into the fedge, I noticed that masses of wasps were buzzing throughout the willow, keenly getting something from the branches. Maybe it has sweet sap, but knowing that I had got 'something going' with wasps it didn't deter me, so I started my work, ignoring the wasps, and they ignored me. I wondered where so many were coming from, and looking up at the bare branches of the poorly conker tree opposite I noticed what looked to me like wasp nests high up. I wonder now what made me look up there – maybe the wasps told me somehow. Well, I worked for some time feeling quite secure that the wasps would not attack me, and nor did they. I didn't tell them I would kill them – I had got past that stage long ago, having found that if I just told them to bog off, or leave me alone, then they did. However, I decided in the end on caution, and left the rest of the fedge until the wasps had finished garnering whatever it was they were garnering, which was about a week later. As usual, when I am writing my articles and don't know the answer to something, I google it. It turns out that wasps are keen on willows as they collect the excrement of aphids. Don't ask me what for – the explanation wasn't clear! Another is that aphids secrete honeydew which the wasps like – but whatever the real reason, the aphids are the key. So, if you have a willow and notice wasps next year, just tell them to keep out of your way.

Call it coincidence if you like, but recently I picked up a book at the library called 'Pet Whisperer' by Sarah-Jane Le Blanc. I found it fascinating in that one of her first forays into 'whispering' was when a butterfly was beating itself to death against the window inside her house. She decided to try 'whispering' and mentally told the butterfly to follow her, when she would open a door for it to fly out. And the butterfly did. She has proved to herself that we *can* communicate with the animal kingdom – the animals are adept at telecommunication, it's us, the humans that are not so good at it and need to be taught. Knowing how my experience with wasps worked, and that I have also had a few extraordinary 'meeting of minds' with animals I didn't know (a fox in a wood, and a horse, and amazing telepathy with my own horse) I decided to find out if she would like to come and do a workshop here in Norfolk. If any of you are interested, please phone me on 01485 543280 for details. Dates and locations have not been decided but her workshop fee per person is £90. I need to find interested people first before I do anything more.

We really have had a rotten summer, haven't we, and not much of an Indian summer either. A few sunny days in October, but nothing worthwhile, though nice to get out in the garden and do some much needed tidying up. My constant battle with mareetail gets me mad. As I have said

quite often, it does look pretty and makes a nice background to the flowers, but if left it takes over. Yet again I pulled out loads and loads, knowing the blighters would soon be back – but with winter coming, at least the beds will look neater. I tried the wasp-test whispering on the marestail, muttering to it “I don’t want you here – go away and don’t come back”. However, I doubt it will work, because I didn’t believe it myself, and in all things of a ‘magical’ nature, you have to believe. I nearly exterminated my neighbour who strolled over and casually said, “Would you like some cuttings of marestail?”.....just as well I didn’t have a flare gun nearby!

I managed to get the majority of the fedge woven back in to itself, but still have a little bit more to do. I thought it would be nice to have an archway over the entrance to the garden, so just bent some of the wands over and voila - a little archway. The clematis I had planted with the fedge has now got quite lengthy, so after gently unravelling the curly bits that had latched onto the willow, I re-threaded the clematis Montana to go over the archway. It should look lovely when that comes into bloom in May. I had also planted a wisteria and some evergreen honeysuckle along the fedge when I first established it, and in a couple of years they should be blooming really nicely. It’s so good looking forward to the culmination of what you have planned for the garden. I love Clematis Montana, and have got some growing around the house too. It’s not a good idea, because it can cause a lot of damage and block up gutting and get into the roof, but I ignore all that, foolishly perhaps, because I just love to see the plant. When it blossoms, it’s so beautiful, and when that goes, the leaves are very pretty.

Since writing the above I’ve had a ‘nose job’. I had some skin cancer that needed Mohs surgery at Norwich. You would think I have been in a fight with Tyson – my whole face is bruised and the colouring quite fascinating – I need to change my colour co-ordination daily. Unfortunately I have been told not to do anything strenuous for at least eight weeks, which means that the garden is just not going to get sorted - yet again - before the winter. It also means that while it will look untidy, there will be a huge source of sustenance and nourishment for the wildlife that visits, so therefore it is a good thing.

Instead of working, I am taking up watercolour painting – my first foray, and am attempting to recapture with paints some fairy Woodfolk I once saw in my garden. You are perfectly entitled to believe I am mad – but I really did see them.

They were watching me from within a hedgerow, and almost disguised as they were the colour of nature themselves. Small, not pretty, no wings, no Walt Disney, no smiles, just curious as to what I was doing, which was giving Reiki healing at the time. If the painting is any good, I’ll include it in my page, Editor willing.

The michaelmas daisies are brightening the garden at the moment, blending in with the russets, reds, yellows browns and oranges, so I googled them to see what kind of herbal use they had. I didn’t know of any. Interestingly, I found out that the Chippenwa Indians used Michaelmas daisy in hunting magic, smoking the dried roots as a way to attract game. The Iroquois employed it as a hunting medicine and also in love charms. The Meskwaki and Potawatami made a smudge with it to awaken unconscious people (wafting the smoke with a feather).

Another source said that the leaves of the young plant can be cooked and are nutritious, containing vitamins A and C and were useful against the onset of scurvy. Mediaeval herbalists used this plant to treat tumours, obstruction of the bowels, hysteria and epilepsy. The plant has anti-inflammatory properties and can help eliminate toxins from the body. They can be used to treat bronchial and chest complaints and check bleeding.

So there we have it. Winter will be setting in soon – let’s hope it won’t be a cold one. Have a fantastic Christmas and good fortune in the coming New Year. Cheers. □

Isn't Technology Wonderful

Following Steve Davis' article on computing and not having a big enough garden to construct a pond in 47 episodes I thought the following might amuse.

At a recent computer exhibition (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the car industry and stated,

"If Ford had kept up with technology the way the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon"

In response to Bill's comments Ford issued a press release stating:

" If Ford had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

- 1) For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash.....Twice a day.
- 2) Every time they painted the lines in the road you would have to buy a new car.
- 3) Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car , restart it and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
- 4) Occasionally executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine
- 5) Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive but would only run on 5% of the roads.
- 6) The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced with a single " This car has performed an illegal operation" warning light
- 7) The airbag system would ask "Are you sure" before deploying.
- 8) Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio aerial.
- 9) Every time a new model was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old model.
- 10) You'd have to press the "Start button" to turn the engine off .

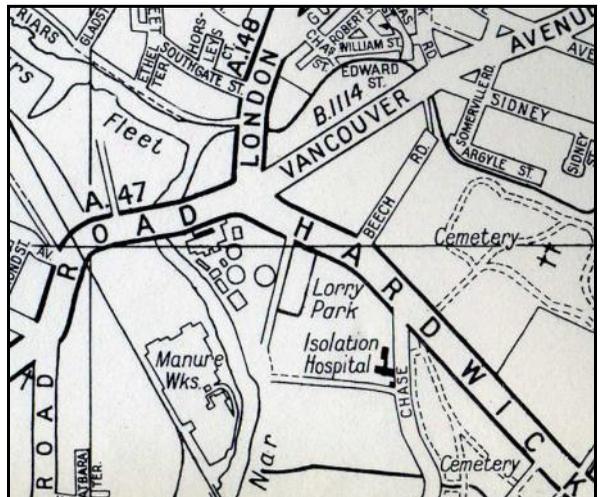
Barry Beales

Glorious Isolation

This extract from a 1968 street map of King's Lynn shows an isolation hospital next to Horsley's Chase. Now completely erased from the town, can anybody remember it or were you even isolated in it? It was very handily placed next to the cemetery and just down wind of the muck works, lovely!

Where is it? What is it?

This is one of the two bronze age barrows near Harpley - TF767279 - and is visible from the Anmer to New Houghton road.



Old Girls Patch by Meetze



Sorry for not keeping you up to date, but we had hectic weeks. First of all, Sir Lancelot moved in. He looked like a coat hanger with fur. Totally bony and loads of scabs on him. I did not dare look at him in case my breath threw him over. I can honestly say that I have never seen such a skinny cat. After two weeks staying with us, he went into a box and away. A few hours later he came back with a lamp shade around his neck. That made him walk like a race horse and ramming into every doorframe.

He kept that lamp shade on for 4 weeks and when it came off he had put on some weight and looked absolutely stunning. The best feature is his purr. And he loves everything. The doorframe, the corner of the cupboard, the plant pot, the bin, everything. But he has a strange toilet habit. He is using the same toilet as our humans. Ours doesn't seem to be good enough for him. He actually looks like Armani on long legs.

Just as he had settled in, Nelly (the elephant) moved in. The tiniest cat ever. A very elegant lady with a real fur coat in black, white gloves, white fur boots (real) and a white scarf. After a couple of hours she put all the teenagers in their place and took residence on Johnnie's shelf over the radiator. Johnnie is not keen on this change and tries every day to recapture her spot, but so far no luck.

Night time's logistics have changed as well. Beauty is still first in bed and stays there all night, but then Nelly comes and nobody else is allowed in it (except our 2-legged friends). Once she is asleep, Sidney and Vladimir are sneaking onto the bed and curl up in one corner, all the time watching Nelly in case she wakes up.

One morning we had to leave our playground because loads of 2-legged females turned up, all chatty and well dressed. They all sat in our playground and drank tea and coffee and had some cake. After a while they left all of a sudden and we were allowed to go back. It was hard work to smell all the new scents before lunch not to mention to sort out our cushions the right way. The humans fluffed them all up and put them upright. They are so unpractical some times. How are we supposed to sleep on them this way?

I went for a little nap and when I woke up, I noticed that I missed lunch. Very annoying, but Christmas is coming up and it might be a good idea to loose a few pounds before the goose and carp left over's.

Sidney has a new spot. Because he is scared like a little girl to get caught by Nelly in bed, he now crawls under the duvet and snuggles up with the female human. And when she leaves, he stays there until he can hear Nelly jumping off the bed. What a big wuzz he developed into. Armani has a new spot too. She now curls up in the bread basket on the work surface in the utility room. The strange thing is, she does not really fit. The basket is much smaller than she is, but she does not bulge. All her paws and her tail are sort of hanging over the edge of the basket. Looks very wrong. And when she turns in her sleep, she sometimes falls out because the bread basket tips over. That is funny to watch. She has no idea where she is when she wakes up in the middle of a fall. And she sort of paddles with her paws to get some grip, but because it is a polished surface, she keeps slipping.

Christmas is coming soon. That means we are getting a tree in our playground where we can climb onto. Can't wait. ☑

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 80	Wednesday 23rd January 2013	Monday 11th February 2013
No 81	Wednesday 6th March	Monday 25th March
No 82	Wednesday 1st May	Monday 20th May

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 £17.20 for an eighth of a page black and white or £26.00 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, 4a Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP **by Wednesday 23rd January 2013**

Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

E-mail — villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

Articles for publication in the next edition of Village Voice must reach The Editor c/o Dersingham Parish Council, 4a Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP or e-mail; villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 23rd January 2013 for publication on Monday 11th February 2013**. (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 magazine of Dersingham Parish Council

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

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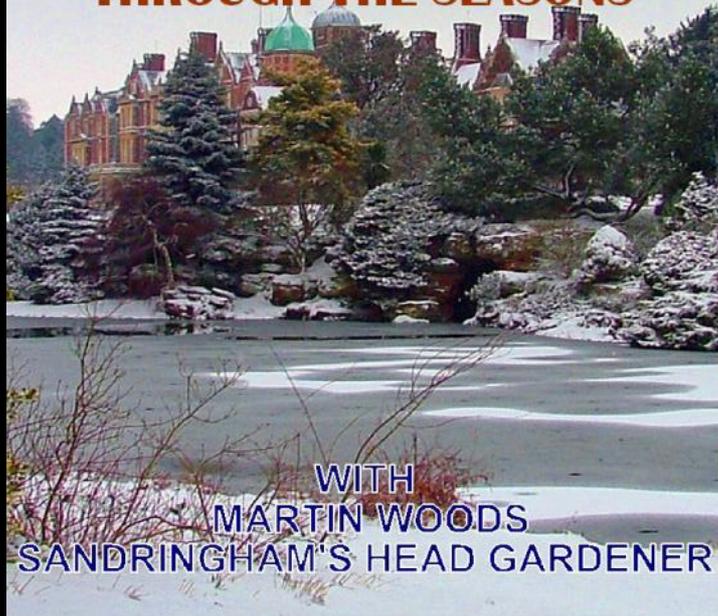
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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday December 4th

THE GARDENS AT SANDRINGHAM THROUGH THE SEASONS



WITH
MARTIN WOODS
SANDRINGHAM'S HEAD GARDENER

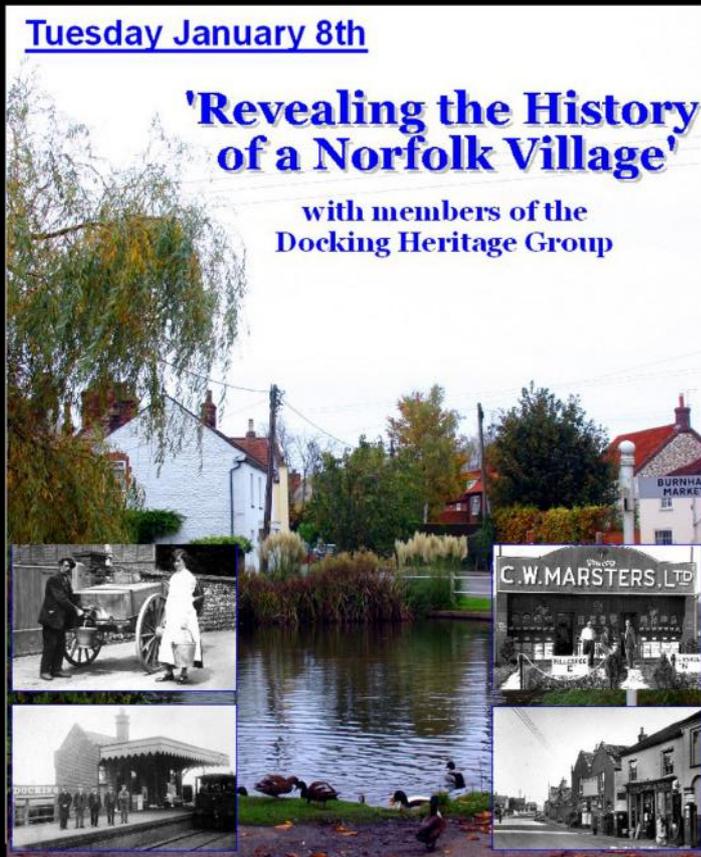
St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.50 including refreshments & raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday January 8th

'Revealing the History of a Norfolk Village'

with members of the
Docking Heritage Group



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