

Number 82

June 2013

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



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Editor's Notes

Welcome to the 82nd issue of Village Voice, my first since taking over as Editor. I suppose that in truth I never imagined the full extent of what was involved. It has been, as they say, a *steep learning curve* for me, albeit both an enjoyable and at times humbling challenge. "Things will get quicker with time" I am assured by my predecessor Tony Bubb whose support and expertise I have been very thankful to draw on.

I was very interested to speak recently with Edgar Cooper who was chairman of the dedicated pioneering Village Voice Committee of the Parish Council that produced the first issue in December 1999 along with Teresa Southam (*editor*), Peter Mirich (who had to move to a new job in Kent after just one issue) and the late Stella Caunt. Budgets and resourcing were tight back then and the introduction of advertising was the means of financing its quality development. Teresa continued as editor until issue 23. Bob Tipling's and Tony Bubb's successive editorships of course continued that process of quality development to its current standard. In short, I have taken this task on not in my own strength but on the shoulders of those before me!

But a magazine such as this relies on its contributors to make it worthwhile. It has been a pleasure getting to know some of our regular team (if only by *electronic* means), but I am sure they will not mind me saying that they are really just ordinary folk with ordinary lives who have taken the trouble to write down their thoughts and feelings. If you have a tale to tell or get inspired by something why not share it with us? It is of course important to hear about and publicise up and coming events as well as share their successes afterwards, but reading someone's thoughts, feelings or inspiration on a subject, place or event is what really brings it to life! Expressing complaint or sadness can come more easily to us than expressing positive pleasure in something, but without wanting to bury my head in the sand, I know which I would rather read! Why not have a go, or get in touch to discuss possibilities? Don't worry if you feel that your spelling or grammar may not be up to it; we'll do our best to worry about that! (Actually, it took me *five* attempts before I scraped through my O level English, so who am I to judge anyway?) Making a start at writing on a subject can be the difficult part, but once you have done so, it can be surprising how much more will flow and come together.

Anyway, back to this issue, the response to the can of worms that my predecessor opened regarding the Muntjac around the village is the subject of several short letters to Village Voice not to mention phone calls to the office. They get a mention too in a couple of our regular articles. In truth I suppose I like to see them, but then they haven't invaded my garden! Here's another photo I took earlier of the muntjac I saw swimming along Wolfeton Creek that appeared in the last issue.

We always aim to publish the June issue early enough to accommodate what's on over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend and I trust that this year will be no disappointment as we see the return of Open Gardens, along with an Art Trail, a Flower Festival, the chance to try your hand at Bowls and more besides. The following weekend we have our own 'Big Lunch' arranged here in Dersingham in line with the national event. Please share your photos and experiences with us. As for puzzles, as well as our usual Sudoku and 'Where is it?' photo, we have responded to a request for a Wordsearch.



Quite apart from our local readers, it is encouraging to receive comments and input to Village Voice from those further afield, who either have been sent a copy by friends or family or who download the version that contains more of the photos in colour from our website at www.dersingham.org.uk. I must say that it looks particularly good and smooth when viewed on an iPad or similar e-reader tablet.

So, apprehensive as I am about living up to the standards and expectations of others in the editing of this magazine, I'll leave you with the comforting words I read the other day from that fount of memorable quotes: Oscar Wilde who said "*Be yourself; everyone else is already taken!*"

Steve Davis – editor@dersingham.org.uk

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Dear Village Voice



Following the interest shown in the old Isolation (fever) Hospital I found this rare picture of it. Even David Grimes, the avid collector of old photos, did not have one although he did remember parking near it to eat his lunchtime sandwiches. It was thought at the time that the proximity of isolation hospitals to gas works was done by design, the thinking being that the fumes from the works would somehow be of benefit to the inmates. Of course it could just be that no builder would want to put houses in such a place so the sites were cheap. The picture shows that indeed there was a gasworks near the Lynn hospital. Which went first?

Tony Bubb

My name is Chris Clark, my Mum Stella and Dad Tom moved to "Excelsior" Brook Road, Dersingham during 1955 where they lived until both died during 2005. They were well known in the village throughout those years and many will remember them.

Tom was in the RAF from 1939 until 1964 and during those 25 years he had many diverse roles and most people who knew him knew a small part of his career. However, no one including his friends, former colleagues, or his family had any idea of the extent of his career; and I only became aware of it after his death when I sent off for his Personal Record. I then realised what an incredible career that he had, and decided to write a book based on his career which I have offered as a fitting tribute to him and the men whom he served with.

Tom joined up during June 1939 and trained in Air Signals and during 1940 he was an Air craftsman Ground Signaller in France working with the BEF until Dunkirk and escaping back to England before training as an Air Gunner; and then as a Sergeant joining a Sunderland Flying Boat Squadron at Sullom Voe in Shetland whose role was Atlantic Convoy protection and anti U-boat patrols. Tom was involved in the search for the German "Bismarck" during May 1941 and also became involved in the Atlantic Ferry, bringing aircraft over from Canada. During August 1941 a Sunderland he was on during a flying operation crashed into the sea with a crew of twelve on board, killing five. Tom was injured and hospitalised and during October his Squadron had moved to Northern Ireland. Upon release from Hospital Tom joined a new Air Sea Rescue Squadron at Bircham Newton in West Norfolk during November 1941 flying the Hudson as a dorsal gunner. During 1942 he met Stella who was from nearby Stanhoe at one of the Base dances and they courted throughout that year.

During late 1942 Tom trained as a Gunnery Leader and during early 1943 he was posted to Gianaclis in Egypt as an Air Gunner Instructor, training others for roles within the Desert Air Force; during May he received an emergency commission and was promoted to Flying Officer. During January 1944 he joined a Baltimore Squadron in Northern Italy under Wing Commander "Cookie" Leon and was a formation Gunnery Leader and a dorsal gunner, mainly flying night operations against German supply and communication lines, bombing road and rail networks, and enemy held positions.

Three weeks after "D" Day whilst on a night operation, Tom's aircraft received "ack ack" fire and was attacked by a German Me109 and the crew of four had to bale out some 100 miles behind the German held "Gothic Line". Tom and the rest of the crew landed by parachute in separate areas. The Pilot and W/Op made their way back to the Squadron on foot, evading capture. Tom and his Nav/Bomb Aimer, who had an injured shoulder, were kept hidden for some seven weeks by ►

the local people in Florence, before the Allies broke through at the end of August. Tom rejoined his original crew and continued flying operations.

At the end of the war with Germany, Tom trained to be a Flight Lieutenant Signals Officer and in the August just before the surrender of Japan he joined a Dakota Squadron whose role was bringing back time-expired troops and former PO W's from The Far East. During 1946 he trained to be a Signals Leader and filled in on "The King's Flight" during the Royal Family's tour of South Africa during 1947.

Tom was involved during "The Berlin Airlift" on Hastings and then on roles flying VI P's and eventually a stint from June 1952 until October 1953 on "The King's Flight" when he was involved with flying all of the senior members of the Royal Family. October 1953 showed him during the tail end of the Korean War and the Malaya Campaign, joining The Far East Air Force VIP Wing and he flew the Commander in Chief and other VI P's around the vast area of India and the East Indies, Indo China to Japan and the Australian Islands. Eighteen months later he was posted back to the UK on compassionate grounds and was a Air Electronics Officer at RAF Swanton Morley, where he taught recruits Morse Code amongst other things. It was during this year that he and Stella bought their house in Dersingham.

1956 saw him at RAF Marham with the Valiant Bomber Squadrons, Britain's Independant Nuclear Defence aircraft, on a State Visit by the Soviet Leaders, which included Khrushchev, Tupolev their Aircraft Designer; and their Nuclear Weapons expert. Tom's brief was to stop Tupolev from getting info on the Valiant's true capabilities and cloning one as he did with Comet and later Concorde. At this time the Soviets did not have an aircraft capable of flying nuclear weapons to drop on The West. Tom's role continued as an Air Electronics Officer and during the latter part of 1958 he was posted for five years to the Central School of Electronics at RAF Watton, where he had roles on Comet and Lincoln and was involved in spying on the Soviet Union's Radar & SAM Missile systems along air corridors just outside of hostile territory. At this time Gary Powers and other CIA U-2 Pilots were also based at Watton. During May 1963, due to failing eyesight brought on by the events of WW2, Tom became the Families Officer at RAF West Raynham and eventually retired in November 1964.

He became a keen landscape gardener, and a bee keeper, as well as grave digger, before eventually joining the Council's Hunstanton Parks Department, where he worked with Dick Garwood of Heacham, whose son "Dick" Garwood later joined The RAF, a Tornado Group Captain at RAF Marham, flying operations during the First Gulf War and still serving an illustrious career as Air Marshall and Deputy in Command Operations. It is his Foreword that I have obtained as a tribute to Tom.

For anyone wishing to purchase a copy of my book, it is entitled "From Hitler's U-Boats To Khrushchev's Spyflights" and has an ISBN number: 9781781590546 and will be available soon on line and in bookshops; this can also be pre-ordered from Pen & Sword Aviation in their Coming Soon Section.

I now reside in County Durham and if necessary I can be contacted by e-mail at sirhclark@btinternet.com



Chris Clark

I was saddened at April's Parish Council Meeting to learn of the resignation of Tony Bubb as a councillor and chairman of the council.

Tony has served the village for many years as a councillor, as a past Chairman, Vice-Chairman and on all its committees. He has also edited and put together Village Voice and Dersingham Data which I understand he will continue to be involved with.

The village will however be the poorer for his lessening of involvement and in months to come the council will realise just how many odd jobs Tony took on to ensure they were done.

Thank you Tony for all you have done in the past and, I am sure in the future, to support the village.

Chris Moore

I too am amazed by all the work Tony has put into village life! Ed



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My brother came down to lunch 10 days ago and once again brought The Village Voice for me. I was absolutely amazed to find that my last letter to Village Voice was put into print.

As I have said before, I love your mag and in the last issue (April 2013) I found yet another poem, this time by K Mellor entitled WITH ONE ACCORD.

Once again I can totally agree with his/her sentiments. Those who live in Dersingham, I sometimes wonder if they know how lucky they are. I shall reiterate by saying that I feel extremely relaxed in Dersingham when I am able to stay with my brother.

I would dearly love to move into Dersingham, but due to my husband's disabilities and how much we should have to spend to get any property sorted for him it is totally impossible financially. BUT what a wonderful place you all live in and I wish I were able to join you all.

Also having read Steve Davis's article especially about being a Parish Councillor I can only completely agree with his sentiments, having been on our P C for approximately 15 years, until ill health. My feelings are that residents believe that the Parish Councillors are paid (not true - it is voluntary work) and those residents who do not attend only complain if they are not happy but will not attend a meeting to put their thoughts forward.

Look forward to reading the next edition, either by my brother bringing it down to me or me being able to drive the 80 miles up to Dersingham.

Please residents, realise that your Parish Councillors are only trying to do their best for the whole community, but unless you attend a meeting you will never know what is discussed.

Pamela Dixon

Thank you! Ed.

In response to your article on Muntjacs in April's Village Voice, I regularly have Muntjacs visiting my garden in Dodds Hill. Even though there is a wire fence at the bottom of the garden which is taller than they are, I have seen them jump over it. They use the garden as a route to the disused allotments opposite, and also use a very overgrown corner of the garden. I once disturbed one in this corner, and it shot past me, almost brushing my leg. I understand they can be dangerous when cornered, because of their horns/tusks. I have also seen a mother and foal in the garden. I have not had another sighting since I disturbed the Muntjac in the corner, about a month ago.

Chris Watson

One night a few weeks ago, at approx 0300, I was standing outside my bungalow. A muntjac slowly walked in an easterly direction down the footpath between 11 and 15 Earl Close, across the road and down the footpath between 18 and 20 Earl Close.

Stephen Kirby

Sudoku No 30

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

About a month ago we had a roe deer in our garden and the next day two muntjacs were wandering around. We live at 20 Kingscroft and they must have come across from Sugar Lane direction at the back.

Helen Johnson

**Sudoku No 29 Solution
(in Issue 81)**

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



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Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly

by Alice Worth

DDC

On Wednesday 6th March one of our Members, Betty Edey, celebrated her 97th birthday. She invited Members and Volunteers to be her guests at a fish and chip lunch that day provided by the



Village Fryer. It was a lovely jolly occasion enjoyed by us all. Thank you Betty. We finished off the day with a very special birthday cake depicting Betty's favourite butterflies.

Just before Easter we were pleased to welcome Chris Rossiter to the Day Centre. He came to present us with a cheque representing donations received in memory of our friend and Volunteer Victoria Valentine. This was very much appreciated, as was his promise to provide the mushy peas for our future fish and chip lunches, as Victoria had done in the past.

On the 26th March we celebrated with our Easter Party. We had a lovely lunch followed by our usual entertainment with Leigh Murfet and our Easter Bonnet competition. This year Harry Thompson won first prize for the best decorated gentleman's hat and Jenny Horniblow won the first prize for the lady's hat. Both were presented with a special Easter Egg. Tea and hot cross buns finished off the afternoon and each Member was given an Easter Egg as they left for home.



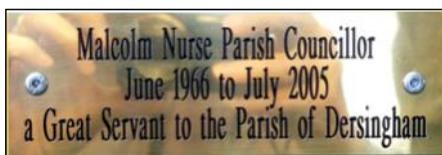
We are now into our summer term and we plan to visit the Ffolkes Arms for lunch at the beginning of June. Members continue to enjoy their day out at the Day Centre, playing games and, most importantly, talking to friends and having a laugh. The happy faces and buzz of continual chatter is proof enough that the Volunteers are doing a good job.

Now, could you cook 30 meals for us once a week?

From September onwards the Dersingham Day Centre will be without a cook. We meet once a week on a Wednesday and our Members are served a hot two course lunch cooked on the premises at the St. Nicholas' Church Hall. There is a modern kitchen with all the necessary equipment and regular help available from amongst our volunteers. Our present cook, who has been involved with the Day Centre for many years is retiring in July. We close for the summer school holidays which might appeal to someone with children at school. Our elderly members look forward to their weekly lunches and it is an important part of their day with us. Working at the Day Centre is very rewarding and worthwhile. If you are interested and think you can help us, please contact Alice Worth on 01485 544673 for further information. □

Malcolm's Bench

On Friday 26th April, friends and family paid tribute to the memory of Malcolm Nurse who served on Dersingham Parish Council from 1966 to 2005. Daughter Gill Eglen and granddaughter Charlotte cut the ribbon across the bench seat on the corner of The Green to reveal the plaque:





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Paralympic Cyclist Jody Cundy Backs Launch of West Norfolk's Exciting New Charity Cycle Ride

Funds raised will go to Park House Hotel for the disabled in Sandringham

Building on the growing popularity of cycling, the charity Leonard Cheshire Disability has launched Cycle Together, Sandringham, bringing a brand new and unique cycling event to West Norfolk. Unlike other similar events, this is perfect for people of all ages and abilities. There are short, gentle rides suitable for families or recreational cyclists, or even people who have never cycled before; while the longer rides up to the North Norfolk coast will challenge experienced club and sportive cyclists. Another attractive feature is that, although the event is being organised by the highly professional Leonard Cheshire Disability national events team, all the money raised will go to its local respite hotel, Park House, Sandringham.

Norfolk-born Paralympic gold medallist Jody Cundy, who gave up professional swimming to pursue his successful cycling career, said: "I will never forget the day I tried cycling for the first time. I immediately fell in love with it and before I knew it I had broken my first record. I would encourage anyone to take part in this event. Cycling is fun, accessible for loads of people and a great way to keep fit. Leonard Cheshire Disability's Cycle Together is a great idea, an opportunity for everyone, beginners and experienced cyclists alike to get active. So why not sign up, get cycling and raise some funds for the excellent work that Park House does for its disabled guests and their carers."

The routes have been created by experienced local cyclists, and are designed to stay away from busy roads and enjoy the charms of Norfolk's back roads and villages. There will be free food and drink stations at selected intervals, and there are plenty of great pubs and cafes along the way for those planning to make a leisurely day out of it.

Cycle Together, Sandringham is on Sunday June 23rd, almost the longest day and hopefully a day when the sun will shine. All rides start and finish in the grounds of Park House at Sandringham. There will be ample free parking, the routes will be clearly sign-posted, and there will be mechanical and medical support along the way for those that need it. Above all, we expect a tremendous atmosphere, with hundreds of cyclists taking part in a day to remember.

The event is receiving generous support from local businesses, including Adrian Flux Insurance, Masterfoods, Stream Foods, Jordans Cereals, Fat Birds Don't Fly and Steve's Taxi Service, Dersingham.

For full details and on-line entry visit www.lcdisability.org/cyclettogether, or text CYCLE to 80878 (standard text rates apply), or phone 020 3242 0239 for a postal application form.



For more information, please contact Phil Davies on pasdavies@btinternet.com □

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Bernie's Bits

As usual somebody puts something in Village Voice and memories go in all directions.

David Seaton mentioned Bill Quick: Bill came to England during the war as a Newfoundland soldier. He married Mary Prime whose parents kept the Feathers and lived in the village for the rest of his life. Besides fishing Bill played cricket for the village. I think he was brought up on baseball. He was the wicket keeper, but as a batsman he carried his bat like a baseball bat and used it the same way! Every stroke was a cross swing; not many people told him to go in and play a straight bat, but he was a great character.

John Riches wrote of the youth of the village spending evenings in the shoe shop. I must be one of the last left of that group. How did it start? I can't remember. Probably we went in to buy something; it was a bad night and we stayed, and it went from there.

There was a chair which customers used and we sat on pop crates at the back of the shop. Sometimes we stepped out of line and we were out, but the next night back again all forgotten and forgiven. The other side of it was Ernie did a good trade in pop crisps and sweets. I still remember when Ernie was nailing a sole on he always carried the nails in his mouth, and still wonder how he never swallowed any, especially if he was laughing at something that had been said. He didn't use a hammer to knock the nails in, he had a small metal bar. I suppose at that time nobody had a car or could drive, as John said there wasn't a lot to do in the village in the evenings. The Chippy was where the Chinese is now, so there wasn't far to go for some supper on the way home.

A bit more about Joe Painter: when he had a chimney to sweep, if there were any children at home they were always sent outside to see if it's there; that is to shout when the brush came up out of the pot. I remember my father always put soot round the greens in the garden to keep slugs away. Joe also grew tobacco. When it was ready the leaves would hang on the side of the shed to dry, and when they were cured they were crumbled down and put in bags. I can't remember whether he smoked them neat or if he mixed them with bought tobacco, but like all roll-your-own men, he always had an unlit dog end in his mouth. As a bricklayer he was one of the best around at working with carrstone which I have been told is a skill where you need a good eye to pick the right stone for the right place. Dersingham has a carr pit, on the corner of Shernborne Road crossroads. This was always known as Carr Pit Corner and the chalk pit is a bit further up the road on the left. Both these are looked after by the trustees. My house in Lynn Road had a carr gable end with a chalk inner wall which was known a lump wall, when I had a window put in I couldn't believe how thick the wall was.

Bernie Twite

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Bill Hemmings – Chairman

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The Dersingham Weather recorded by John F. Murray



Remember how in March last year everyone was saying how lovely the weather was and how it was the start of the summer. The down side was that we had just started with a hosepipe ban. Although we didn't know it at the time it was all about to change. Well this year was in complete contrast. My wood burner was running right up to the end of March

as the winter refused to let go. Any thoughts of putting in the early potatoes were put on hold.

The mean temperature for last March was 7.8°C with a high of 21.4°C. This March it was a miserable mean of 3.0°C and a high of 12.6°C. The lowest recorded temperatures were -1.8°C for last March and -5.6°C for this March. That makes it, by a long way, the coldest March that I have so far recorded.

The rainfall for this March was 41.6mm, compared to 30.4mm for last year, but the average for the month is 47.7mm so we were below average again. Although we had a few inches of snow, when this turns to water again and it is measured you get a lot less water than there was snow.

Another feature of the weather was the strong winds caused by quite deep low pressure areas. In March this caused the very low temperatures. The wind caused something I haven't seen for a long time in April.

This April was very dry. Last year, you may remember, the hosepipe ban came to an abrupt end when we had 108.6mm of rain in the wettest April for years. This April produced 14.2mm! The lack of rain and the high winds produced dust storms. Along the bypass and down the area of

Knights Hill it looked like a scene from Lawrence of Arabia. Fine soil was piled into the kerbs where it had blown off the fields.

The rest of the figures for April were pretty much average with the mean being 8.1°, the high at 21.9° and the low at -4.9°. These figures compare favourably with other years.

A third of the year has now passed and if we look at rainfall figures, so far this year we have had just under 128mm. Last year, which was a wet year, in the first four months we had 196mm and in 2011, a very dry year, we had 113mm.

So far then, if the trend continues, we should be looking at a more 'normal' year for rainfall. No promises though!

One thing I can say with certainty is that my garden is growing crops at more or less the right time. This contrasts with last year when everything was a struggle and the produce was greatly reduced. As usual however time will tell and I hope to be reporting on nice summer weather in my next article. Keep your fingers crossed. □

Where is it?

This masonry is less than 15 miles from Dersingham
as the crow flies, but where?
(answer on page 53)



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Old Picture Corner



The above photo is another offering from the late Gordon Anckorn. This time we know little of the subject but Gordon has written on the back :

This proud car driver of almost a century ago has a posy in his top pocket. He is outside the White Horse public house and may have been waiting for a newly married couple having their reception inside. The ribbons on the car tell their own story.

The White Horse was on the site of Boots and the other shops and offices in that area.

Can we shed any more light on the driver or those gents in the background or even the date?

Below is another former village pub, The Albert Victor. Possibly taken around the same time as the other picture it probably shows the landlord, the van driver and others who need naming.



All information welcome. □

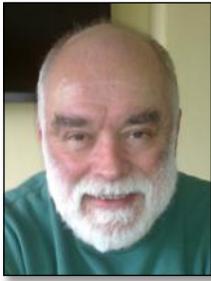
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Ponderings

by Ion Trewin

Our pond springs to life. Ducks and ducklings, but the dreaded blanket weed, too.

'How's your pond?' While flattered that some readers have missed progress reports from the past two issues of Village Voice let me say immediately that there has not been much to write about with our pond enjoying its seasonal hibernation. However it is easy to be lulled into a false sense of security. As the winter rains finally eased so the pond surface erupted with a nasty green

bloom. Blanket weed! Not just a few patches. Within weeks the infestation covered the best part of three quarters of the pond.

Our expert was called, and as I write we have yet to confirm the cause. Nitrates are the most likely villain, but perhaps more of this another time.

Meanwhile our duck population of never fewer than sixty last autumn fell spectacularly to less than a dozen. Do ducks - and we have a broad range of which only mallards I can readily identify - dislike blanket weed? And where did the others go? Our moorhens remained, however, and a pair of geese became regular visitors.

Just as our new editor was in touch about the deadline for this issue, the two female ducks, who had had to fight off the not always welcome rival attentions of competing males, began parading crocodiles of ducklings. Where were they nesting? I can't be certain, but we think in the garden next door. However it was quickly obvious that introducing their offspring to water was a prime objective. As Sue observed, newly-hatched ducklings look a little like bumblebees. And once on the water they can move faster than their parents. At times it is as if they are jet propelled.

Ducks are not the best of parents. We lost count of how many times we had to rescue ducklings who, left to their own devices, had gone plop into our small round goldfish pond, but then discovered they could not get out. Although I installed a wooden plank as a kind of rudimentary ladder the ducklings didn't necessarily catch on. Pond watch became part of our daily routine. Within days we did, however, wonder whether it had been worth the bother. One mother duck who on a Wednesday paraded thirteen ducklings was by Friday left with only five and by the weekend none at all. The predators? We didn't actually witness attacks, but based on past experience we would point a finger at crows, herons, hawks and the like. Duckling is a feast for raptors of all kinds.

Meanwhile the area around our pond has been transformed. Regular readers may recall that when we first took possession it was impossible to walk the circumference thanks to an infestation of brambles that had been allowed to grow unchecked. Once removed along with decaying tree trunks and general debris we dredged the pond and spread the glutinous contents wherever we could. Months passed, the surface was graded and seeded and by the beginning of April I was grass cutting.

Some judicious daffodil and tulip planting around a willow has already paid an attractive dividend. The garden design does not end there. In due course the willow will be a centrepiece for a large flower bed. Along one boundary some cuttings of forsythia are already flowering, alongside a mix of wild roses and alder.

The west and part of the south side of the pond is dominated by trees, some ash, holly, sycamore and an imposing but long dead monkey puzzle among them. Several rampant climbing roses have been planted and we shall hope that before long they soar into their hosts. But even the best kept woodland needs looking after. Take a look at the tree picture alongside the text. Sue took the photograph when I was away from base. Emailing it to me she asked if I could spot the tree surgeon. Can you? □



Dersingham Evening WI by Maggie Guest

The monthly meetings continue to be well supported and we now have over sixty members. The meetings consist of various business matters: Group Leaders presenting future activities and outings for members to sign up for during the coffee break if they wish and an invited speaker entertaining us. These speakers talk on a variety of subjects. Of great interest to us all was a lively talk by Tim the King's Lynn Fire and Rescue Service Station Manager. Most of us were unaware that we could ask for our homes to be checked for fire-safety for free. They do an impressive and very varied job of work that we only become aware of if we have a time of need for them. We also had a most amusing talk by Elaine on the time she had met The Queen. Another speaker gave us information on the many local round tower churches.

Quite a few Dersingham members went to the Group meeting with local WIs at South Wootton and were treated to a most entertaining talk by Matthew Collins who is a TV travel presenter and author

The main meetings are a time for all members to meet together but our smaller group meetings are an excellent way of getting to know other members.

The well supported, monthly coffee mornings held in different homes create a good atmosphere to chat to and meet other members as tea, coffee and biscuits are enjoyed. Thank you to our hostesses and members who support them!

Always popular are the 'Events and Lunch' outings which are superbly organised by Wendy Snell. A lot of work goes into them and our thanks to her. As well as a trip with lunch to Les Miserables, how innovative to take us to the Hunstanton Sea-Life Centre. The following outing was a talk in, and on, our local library followed by lunch at Thaxters. This was a good introduction to local facilities for some newer people. Another trip to Hunstanton saw us at The Princess Theatre listening to nostalgic musical memories. It was lovely that a group were able to go to a Charity Coffee Morning and fashion show at Briarfields to support a local teenage Table Tennis player who has great potential in the sport as well as disabilities. We all wish him every success in the future.

The M.A.D. (Make A Difference) group continue to knit blankets as well as chat to each other in group member's homes.

The afternoon Craft Group, led by Babs, now moves to different homes each week. This seems to be working well. Sadly we no longer have our Keep-Fit teacher but the 'Walking Group' resumed after the winter break and began with a river walk at Fakenham. Walks are varied and mostly up to three miles long.

The Dining Group, the Lunch Group and the Sunday Lunch Groups continue to thrive and visit a wide assortment of venues. Another much appreciated social function as well as being able to enjoy a meal. How lovely for the members who live alone to have such a great opportunity. Well done Olive and Shirley! Olive gave a Pancake Party at her home which was great fun!

The Theatre Group went to the Corn Exchange to see Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat followed by dinner at Knights Hill.

Small groups have entered two WI competitions. One called 'The Rose Bowl' was won by Dersingham WI and another called 'The Cator Cup' was entered but not in the top places. Win or not, they are a good team effort and well done to Diane, Wendy, Olive, Stephanie, Gilly and Maggie.

A great day out was had by a coach load of WI members and friends who went to Tutbury on the 8th May to see Mary, Queen of Scots. The next main trip will be later in the year in the form of a short holiday to Germany visiting Berlin, Dresden, Meissen and Colditz. The group are lucky to have Antje, who is German, to organise the visit.

Future event for all the village----- A fashion show by the shop Artichoke. This will be held on 18th October at the Church Hall. Although this will be organised by the WI everyone will be welcome. Do come.

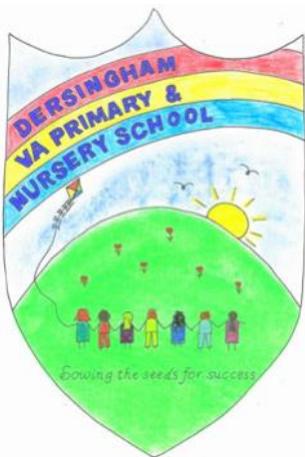
If you think you might enjoy the WI do come along on the third Wednesday to St Cecilia's Church and make yourself known at the door as 'new'. No need to actually join straight away. □



Woolly Gift to Infant School by Helen Bell

In mid-January 2013, a phone call from Dersingham Infant School asked "Would the St. Nicholas' Knit and Natter group like to knit one or two farmyard animals for the reception class?" The challenge was met with enthusiasm and Tuesday 26th March saw a small number of the group present over 20 assorted farmyard animals to the class. The children were delighted, as were the staff and we were most warmly welcomed. The

children had baked biscuits and we enjoyed them with a cup of tea after being entertained by the little ones with play-acting, singing and dancing. St. Nicholas' Knit and Natter group are pleased to be linked with the school in this way and have enjoyed the project immensely. □



Dersingham V.A. Primary & Nursery School

Since the start of the new term after Easter, the Primary, Infants and Nursery schools in Dersingham have become one school

Our new School Badge logo has been based on a combination of ideas from two of the children Elise Barber (Year 2) and Eve Hipkin (Year 3) shown on the left. The final version, as it appears on our school sweatshirts and cardigans is displayed on the front cover.

This design is not only our new school badge but it will also be printed on the School's headed paper.

You may see children in their new uniforms as they all received new jumpers at the official opening of the new School on Thursday 2nd May.

There has also been a jumper exchange, where one old jumper could be exchanged for a new one. The old jumpers are being recycled to raise further funds.

Contact details for the current two sites of the school remain as:

Infant and Nursery – Saxon Way, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6PN –Tel: 01485 540022
email: office@dersingham.norfolk.sch.uk

Juniors – Admirals Drive, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6LR – Tel: 01485 540308
email: admin@dersingham.norfolk.sch.uk

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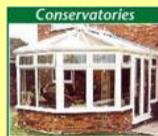


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The Sandringham Newsletter

by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate
compiled by Helen Walch

New stock arrived non-stop during March at the Visitor Centre Gift Shop and Plant Centre in preparation for the start of the visitor season at Easter, and Sandringham House, Museum and Gardens opened to the public on Easter Saturday, 30th March.

The exhibition in the Ballroom this year looks back to last year's Diamond Jubilee; we have been fortunate in obtaining on loan from the Royal Collection some of the 60 photographs of Her Majesty The Queen which formed a very popular exhibition at Windsor Castle last year.

Also on display are some of the more than 100,000 cards which were sent to Her Majesty from people across the country and around the world to congratulate her on the Diamond Jubilee. The cards are all handmade in a wide variety of materials and styles, and are testament to their makers' creativity and skill. A new exhibit will also be arriving at Sandringham soon – the world's largest hand-cut wooden jigsaw puzzle, measuring some 19ft by 8ft and made up of around 40,000 pieces.

The continuing wet and very cold weather hampered work across the Estate. On the Farm, saturated soil made cultivation difficult last autumn and winter and after a high infestation of thistles last harvest, it has been difficult since then to get any reasonable control of the thistle roots. The sugar beet harvest was also made more difficult, and the yield was disappointing – the continuous wet weather and lack of sunshine in 2012 lowered sugar content and the slow growth in the spring allowed more bird damage than normal.

On the Fruit Farm, some 25,000 blackcurrant cuttings have been planted and the Forestry team have continued planting trees and hedges as part of an ongoing cycle of renewal and improvement.

In the Gardens, the delicate work of pruning and training the red-twigged limes that make up the pleached lime avenues surrounding the North Garden has been completed. The cold weather held back the flowering of the many thousands of daffodils in the Gardens, so it looked unusually green when Sandringham first opened to the public, but when sunshine eventually returned there was a stunning display to greet visitors.

The very long cold and dry spell continued well into April and continued to cause difficulties across the Estate. Crops sown on the Farm included organic wheat and barley and conventional sugar beet, but low soil temperatures meant that these were very slow to germinate, and winter cereals sown last autumn are not managing to put on much growth either.

In the Gardens, flowering of all the normal spring favourites was delayed by as much as a month and many evergreen and semi-evergreen shrubs also suffered leaf damage from cold winds. There were almost no daffodils in flower when the House and Gardens opened for the 2013 season, which is highly unusual.

When the weather changed in the middle of the month, trees and shrubs responded almost instantly, putting out leaves and bursting into flower; the magnolias in particular were spectacular this year, and the daffodils and other spring bulbs (including stands of snakeshead fritillaries) also put on a fine show – all the more welcome for having been delayed for so long. The first ducklings have also been seen on the lakes in the Gardens. □

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

From: Tom Morris, PPG Committee

USE THE INTERNET TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

For those with access to the internet, the VIDA Healthcare site provides a wealth of useful information and facilities. Go to www.vidahealthcare.nhs.uk and you will find a convenient and easy way to seek or to cancel appointments, to request repeat prescriptions, to take part in a Patient Survey, to subscribe to an e-mail edition of the Patient Newsletter and to change an address or telephone number and to help the practice keep your clinical records current. In the not too distant future, patients will be able to obtain their patient records and blood test results etc. on the system.

It is in your interest to use this system if at all possible. To access the system you will need a 'user-name' and password and these can be arranged at Reception. You will need to have photographic evidence of your identity.

QUIZ NIGHT

A big thank you to all those who participated in the annual quiz night which the PPG shared with the Friends of St Nicholas Church. Some 100 keen competitors dug deep to answer the 100 questions set and it was obvious that many knowledgeable people reside in Dersingham. The night yielded £600 to be shared between the two organisations.

PPG MEETING – 18TH APRIL

Debbie Craven, the Prescribing Advisor to the West Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group, gave members a most informative talk on the management of prescription medicines. The prescribing team consists of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who work closely with GP practices, care homes and community pharmacies across Norfolk. Her talk included the following:

- ◆ Why do medicines get changed. This may be because of cost, a more appropriate product being available, another medicine may be easier to take or in light of new evidence
- ◆ Branded & generic medicines
- ◆ Waste – see later in this article
- ◆ Antibiotics and how they are ineffective against a virus infection and when prescribed the complete course should be taken so as to kill all the bacteria in an infection
- ◆ Message in a Bottle scheme where a copy of repeat prescriptions can be left in a small bottle - available at the surgery - so that in the event of an emergency those attending are aware of what medicines are being taken by the patient.

WASTE

Below is a picture of prescribed medicines found in one patient's house when visited by a health professional. The cost of these to the NHS was £4,500, incurred because the patient continued to submit repeat prescriptions even when the previous issue had not been used or had ceased to be taken. Nationally, the problem of prescription medicine waste is represented by the following:

- ◆ Over £5 million is wasted on medicines every year, in the UK
- ◆ The most expensive medicine is the one that's not taken
- ◆ £5 million could pay for:
 - 1,294 hip replacements
 - 1,621 knee replacements
 - 316 drug treatment courses for breast cancer

Returned medicines have to be destroyed and cannot be re-used



NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the PPG will be the AGM on 4th July at the Carole Brown Health Centre at 7.00 pm.

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Rotary Matters

From Phil Newell and Rene Rooth

While a lot of our efforts involve helping others, especially with our charity work, we are strong believers in the importance of fellowship and enjoying what we are doing. Rotary is a massive organisation with over 1.2

million members and we like to know what other Rotarians and Rotary Clubs are doing.

A short while ago we received visits from speakers who are well versed in the international work of Rotary, and the work of Rotary Foundation (Rotary's own charity). We learnt of the 'Lend with Care' organisation where, in South Africa, donations are given as small loans. These are used for small business projects by local villagers. Repayment is monthly and the success rate of repayment is practically one hundred percent. We heard too of projects abroad where clean water was pumped up to replace polluted water. Other projects involved medical care of the elderly and children learning English with the help of a computer – and lots of other projects.

With so many Rotarians and Rotary Clubs throughout the world it is necessary to organise Clubs into 'Districts'. Our Club, for instance is one Club out of 77, based in the east of England. The advantage of 'District' organisation is that it allows Clubs to apply for special financial help to fund particular projects. We learnt from our speaker how best to go about this and consequently how best to help others.

In late March, Daniel Evans, a Royal Geographical Society Scholar gave us a superbly illustrated talk of his travels in North America. Funded by the RGS, he was one of the few scholars chosen from 5,000 applicants. Clearly spoken and articulate, he described beautiful scenery in Alaska. This was background to wild caribou, moose, a black bear, wolves and foxes. His travels continued to Toronto, Seattle, San Francisco, Monterey, Santa Fé and Los Angeles. He was awe-struck by the power of the Niagara Falls. Hollywood, however, did not inspire him at all. He is now giving talks to other Rotary Clubs and is in the process of writing a book. He aims for a professional career. Although still only aged 19 years we felt sure that his dreams of further travel and a successful career would come true.

Our fellowship experience in Rotary was enhanced by our Presidents' Night celebration where both the Rotary and Inner Wheel Club Presidents were hosts to 40 guests. Following a meal at the Le Strange Hotel, we were entertained by Alison Walker-Morecroft and Karen Stewart with 'Come to the Cabaret', a medley. This, besides music, also contained recitations. Rotary's own Past President, John Nudds, entertained us with some delightful original poetry to enhance our enjoyment.

We have two events planned for later this year. One is a 'Pot-pourri of Poetry' to be held at St. Edmund's Church Hall on 29th May. Proceeds will be going to charity. The other event will be on 11th October at the Hunstanton Town Hall, where our 'Autumn Medley' will feature various musical contributions, particularly local choirs. Again the prime aim will be collecting for charity and we are hoping for good support and a thoroughly enjoyable event.

Presidents' Night photos show, from top:

1. Inner Wheel Vice-President Margaret Swann, President Linda King, Ron King and Dorothy Newell
2. Dorothy Newell and Rotary President Phil Newell
3. Rotary Past President John Nudds entertaining us with his poetry.

For more information about Rotary or how you can become a member, contact Rotarian Phil Newell on 01485 533864 or Rotarian Mike Warnes on 01485 534392. □





1st & 2nd Dersingham Brownies go on Holiday to the Seaside by Lynn Wheeler

Twenty-seven members of 1st & 2nd Dersingham Brownies, 2 Guides and 8 leaders spent four very enjoyable, but windy days on their annual Brownie Pack Holiday at the Seaside. This year we stayed at Sheringham Primary School, with names and activities based around our theme of "The Seaside". The brownies were divided into 5 sixes containing a mixture of ages and experience. They were called: Jellyfish, Seahorses, Octopus, Turtles and Dolphins, while the leaders were named after characters from "The Little Mermaid" and "Finding Nemo".

During the 4 days the brownies took part in many different activities, indoors and out. They went on outings, earned badges, completed challenges, learnt new skills and further developed their teamwork skills. Everyone gained their Seaside Challenge badge, which involved them making a starfish pin cushion, making an ice cream sundae, decorating a gingerbread man in a swimsuit, finding out about their Six's creature, visiting the seaside, playing "fishy" games and singing "fishy" songs amongst other things.

The Brownies also gained a variety of interest badges, everyone gained their Toymaker, whilst first-timers also gained Pack Holiday and Cooks, second-timers gained Pack Holiday Advanced and third-timers gained their Water Safety. The Brownies also spent time in the craft room, where crafts included designing a jigsaw, making hand puppets, creating sand-art pictures, Hama beads, making a jellyfish and others.

A key part of a Brownie Holiday is that Brownies learn how to look after the holiday home. They have inspection every morning to check their Six's bedroom is neat and tidy, in which points are awarded. The gaining of points is important as the six with the most points wins a prize. Points can also be earned by being helpful, trying new foods, volunteering to do jobs etc. The girls also help in the kitchen, they lay the tables and wash up afterwards.

In between all these activities we also went for a ride on a steam train on the North Norfolk Railway to Holt, where we had a picnic lunch and looked around the museum before returning to Sheringham to go shopping. The following day we went to the beach, or rather we went to look at a very wild and windy sea, where we sang silly songs on the seafront before walking along the Prom to find a seafront cafe for steaming mugs of Hot Chocolate. Who said it had to be warm to visit the beach?



In the evening the brownies sewed a badge onto their campfire blanket, played bingo and other fishy games, had an indoor campfire before toasting marshmallows over tealights and squidging them onto chocolate biscuits to eat. On the very first evening is a very important event - The Pyjama Parade, where prizes are awarded for the cuddliest toy, snuggliest slippers, prettiest nightwear and dressing gown. It is always hotly contested.



The end came all too soon, all the brownies were presented with their well-earned badges, certificate and gift. The winning Six this year were the Turtles and Ellie, who had stayed at Brownies especially for Pack holiday jumped over the toadstool to Guides.

Here's to our events next year, when we will be celebrating The Big Brownie Birthday as 2014, the centenary of the Brownies. Anyone who would like to join Rainbows, Brownies or Guides go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested and follow the links. We look forward to seeing you. □



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Dersingham's BIG Lunch

**Sunday June 2nd, 12noon to 3pm
on Dersingham Recreation Ground, Hunstanton Road**

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Hot food & Ice creams will also be available to purchase on site.

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**Fancy Dress competition – Kings & Queens – for babies and children up to school year 6
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Full details will be distributed to local schools, and key locations in the village.
For more information contact the Parish Council on 01485 541465, or call in to the office.

What is The Big Lunch?

The aim is to get as many people as possible across the whole of the UK to have lunch with their neighbours once a year in a simple act of community, friendship and fun.
Since starting in 2009, thousands of Big Lunches have taken place in all types of community across the UK. Last year The Big Lunch fell on the same weekend as The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations on Sunday 3rd June and **The Big Jubilee Lunch** was part of the main Diamond Jubilee programme of events announced by Buckingham Palace. Our research shows that an astonishing **eight and a half million people** took part in events across the UK. □



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07789223791 or kesctc@aol.com



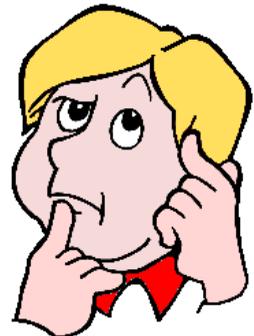
Dersingham Roads Wordsearch



Here's one for all the whole family!

The names of well over 20 Dersingham roads are hidden above. That is, any road that would normally end with the word ROAD as part of its name, although this has been left off to avoid repetition in the above wordsearch. Names may be hidden forward, backward, up, down or diagonal and where a road name consists of two words, these are simply run together.

How many can you find? *Answers in the next issue.*



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Sandringham Squirrels

written by Alan Coleby, illustrated by Jean Ockenden

Girl squirrels

Ella	<i>Stories for children: a group of eight young squirrels play, feed and explore in the woods of Sandringham.</i>	Boy squirrels
Eve		Scoot
Cassie		Chip
Thora		Barney Gus



Radishes

‘Hey, Scoot,’ said Chip, with a very happy smile. ‘I’ve found where there’s some more food.’
 ‘Where?’ Scoot was always ready to explore for more food.

‘It’s a long way off,’ said Chip. ‘Even Thora hasn’t been there, but she told me she’d heard about it and there are lots of vegetables you can eat. Not as good as nuts, but better than fruit. So I’m telling you, but no telling Gus.’

‘But where?’ repeated Scoot. ‘Do you know how to get there?’

‘Oh, yeah!’ said Chip. ‘I went exploring yesterday and found this place. It’s a long way because you have to go past the houses, over the path to the gorse bushes and turn right. Go along the whole length of the bushes, through the heath and past the fences where the houses are where the humans live. It’s a bit risky because there are no trees where you can run for cover if a dog or cat, or even a fox, comes. You go past some little buildings called garages, where the humans keep their big, noisy machines called cars. Then there’s a narrow road. Just over the road is a whole big area of gardens that the humans call allotments. These are all planted with vegetables and if there is no-one about, you can just dig them up or pull them up and eat them.’

‘M’m. Sounds too good to be true,’ said Scoot. ‘Did you find anything good to eat?’

‘Yes. I found some small vegetables that are easy to pull up. They are easy to chew and they taste quite good. They’re called radishes.’

‘OK,’ said Scoot. ‘Shall we go, then?’

‘OK,’ agreed Chip, ‘but don’t forget it’s a long way, and after the gorse bushes, it’s in the open without much cover.’

‘Right, then. We’ll keep our eyes and ears open, and our noses sniffing. Let’s go,’ said Scoot. They arrived, just the two of them, without anything unusual happening.

After they had crossed the narrow road, Scoot saw that the field was surrounded by a low hedge, and they got through a small gap. It looked like a field with many gardens all arranged in giant patches. There was no grass and hardly any flowers. There were lots of vegetables which had all been sown in straight rows. There were cabbages, potatoes, carrots, onions, peas, beans and many more. As it was now late spring, the end of May, most of them were still small, but they would grow big.



‘Where are all the people?’ asked Scoot. ‘Do they live here?’

‘No. They don’t live on these allotments,’ laughed Chip. ‘When I came yesterday, there were several people about, working with spades and forks and hoes. I had to keep in the hedge bottom. It’s late in the day now, and I expect they have all gone home.’

‘There’s someone at the end of that patch over there,’ said Scoot, becoming more tense, and ready to run and hide.

‘No. That’s what they call a scarecrow,’ said Chip, putting his hand on Scoot’s shoulder to make him feel safer. ‘They make them out of short poles and old worn-out clothes. They are supposed to look like people and so scare us and the birds away, but I don’t think many of us are scared by them. The people who own these places are up to all sorts of little tricks. There is a length of string stretched tight over there, with lots of light foil milk bottle tops threaded along it. They make a rattling noise when the wind blows and that’s supposed to scare us, too. There are some plastic sheets over there that go round and round in the wind and make a clapping noise. Don’t take any notice. Let’s look for something to pull out of the ground and eat.’

‘Do we just eat what we want, then?’ asked Scoot.

‘Yes,’ said Chip, ‘just like everything else. Ours is a free world and anything that grows is to feed us unless it’s poison or unless it’s horrible and we don’t like it.’

‘There are all these glass things and wooden frames covering what’s growing,’ said Scoot.

‘Yes. They are to stop us and the rabbits and the birds eating it, too,’ said Chip. ‘Look at all that twine growing across things. Rabbits and birds can’t do much about it, but we can pull it aside and push some of those frames out of the way. I think we’d better eat only a little food, so that the owner doesn’t know we’re here. If we are greedy and eat a lot, they’ll start setting traps and they might even kill us.’

‘Yes. It’s best not to be greedy,’ agreed Scoot. ‘We’ll take just a little, and then we can come back another time.’

‘Here are the radishes I mentioned,’ said Chip. ‘Look. They’ve got a frame round them with twine across to keep the rabbits and birds away. You just pull some of those strands of twine back, and I’ll grip some of those thin, green stems. It’s easy to pull out the radishes, because they’re small and near the surface.’

When he had pulled them, they knocked off the earth that had stuck to them, and tasted them.

‘M’m. Good,’ said Scoot. ‘They are a bit brittle like nuts, but not so hard, and they taste good.’

‘It’s best to move away quickly now we’ve got something,’ said Chip. ‘We might be seen if we stay around here.’

With a handful each, they returned the way they had come, over the road, past the garages, past the fences, through the heath and along by the gorse bushes. Then they were in danger. Along the path by the bushes came a dog. It had got their scent.

‘Quick! Run for the trees,’ shouted Chip, running as hard as he could go. Scoot ran, too, but the dog was gaining.

‘Drop the radishes to distract him,’ yelled Chip, out of breath. Scoot dropped his radishes. The dog had a sniff but ran on. Chip dropped his. The dog stopped. They got to the wood and climbed the nearest tree.

They turned to watch the dog lick the radishes and take one into its mouth. It shook its head, coughed and spat it out. It didn’t like it.

‘What a waste of a few radishes,’ moaned Chip, ‘but at least they saved us from the dog.’ □





David Bingham Operation Turtle Dove

This is the time of year when I eagerly await the return of the turtle doves. A pair has turned up every spring since 2009 to spend the summer in the vicinity of our garden. Their soothing turr-turr call has become as much a part of summer as the call of the pink-footed geese is a part of winter. They arrived last year but I only heard their call early in the year so perhaps they failed to breed, maybe because of the appalling weather. Turtle doves are unusual because doves and pigeons don't normally migrate long distances. Our turtle doves spend the winter months in the dry Sahel region south of the Sahara and are the only exclusively seed eating bird to make this journey. They have suffered a major population decline in the UK - down by 91% since 1970 – and there is a real possibility that we will lose them completely within the next 10 years. To try and halt this decline, and reverse it if possible, a partnership has been formed between RSPB, Conservation Grade, Pensthorpe Conservation Trust and Natural England. This partnership is called Operation Turtle Dove and you can obtain more information and find out how to get involved by visiting their website at www.operationturtledove.org.

East Anglia has always been the stronghold of the British population of turtle doves and this is still the case - even though the population is declining in this region along with everywhere else. They nest in trees but are reliant on farmland to provide them with the seeds on which they feed. Rich sources of seeds, including arable weeds such as fumitory, knotgrass and chickweed, are much less common in the countryside these days and food supply is one area that is being investigated as a possible cause of the decline in the turtle dove population. Turtle doves are making fewer breeding attempts than they used to and this may be down to a lack of suitable food – either in quantity or quality.

Turtle doves migrate through countries that border the Mediterranean. Some of these countries have a strong tradition of shooting migratory birds and this is another threat they face every year because turtle doves have always been a favourite quarry species. The shooting of turtle doves is banned in the spring in EU countries but the enforcement of this law is patchy. They can be legally shot on their autumn migration. If they manage to get to their wintering grounds in the Sahel they face other pressures from habitat degradation and the advancing sands of the Sahara (possibly linked to climate change). In addition to these problems, research carried out in 2011 found a high proportion of the turtle dove population were suffering from the avian disease trichomoniasis, which is common in doves and pigeons.

So, what can be done to save the turtle dove? If you are a farmer – or have a large garden- then you can do a lot and the 'Operation Turtle Dove' website will steer you in the right direction. The website tells the stories of 'Turtle Dove Heroes' and there are a heartening number of Norfolk farmers in this roll of honour. If you aren't a farmer you can still help by reporting your turtle dove sightings to the partnership. The photos on this page should aid identification - don't confuse turtle doves with the ubiquitous collared doves, which are a similar shape and size but much less colourful. The call of the turtle dove is also very distinctive - once you get your ear in. Look for them in areas with scattered trees but with easy access to a rich source of seeds. The disused railway line that runs from Dersingham



to Ingoldisthorpe would be a good place to search – particularly in the more open areas. Research scientists are helping to protect our turtle doves by studying food preferences and by attaching small transmitters to the back of some of the adults in order to find out their migratory routes and precise destination. The accompanying photo shows one of these transmitters being attached and the artwork shows what they look like in flight (they do drop off eventually).

I will end with some random turtle dove trivia that I couldn't squeeze into the preceding blurb. In the New Testament, two turtle doves were sacrificed for the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:24). Turtle doves, in common with other pigeons and doves, can drink without needing to tip their heads back to swallow. Young turtle doves are fed with 'crop milk' a secretion from the crop of the parents. In Renaissance Europe, the turtle dove was thought to be the faithful partner of the Phoenix - Shakespeare was referring to the turtle dove in his poem 'The Phoenix and the Turtle'.

Enjoy your turtle dove spotting this year and remember to report your sightings on the Operation Turtle Dove website or phone 01603 697527. □

Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

Invite you to an illustrated talk by David Pelling, entitled:

A Trip to the Masai Mara on Tuesday 28th May 2013, 7.30pm

at the Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham. Access and parking from Sporle Road.

David Pelling is a NarVOS member and RSPB Titchwell volunteer. He has given NarVOS some excellent presentations in the past and you can be sure that his trip to the Masai Mara Wildlife Reserve in Kenya last year will have provided him with another superb talk to entertain us.

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



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The WI's theme this year is 'Make a Difference'. One of the activities we are undertaking is to make blankets and throws for the elderly and infirm in our community. Should anyone have any un-used wool they would like to donate for this worthy cause, we will be pleased to accept it. We can collect it from you if needed

or you can drop it in to Olive at 68 Dodds Hill Road, or Stephanie at 32 Valley Rise. Call Stephanie on 544819 to arrange any collections. Alternatively any cash donations to enable us to purchase wool will be gratefully received. □

Stephanie Coulson

Dersingham Bog News from Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden

The reserve at this time of year feels very alive. This spring did not start typically with the winds being easterly for much of February and March leading to cold temperatures and biting winds.

By late March things began to change the winds began to switch to Southerlys and the feeling that spring was here finally arrived. Many of the summer migrants have only really just begun trickling through. It was fairly noticeable on the reserve that one day there were no chiffchaffs singing and then a day later at least three were singing.

Swallows have started arriving on the coast and begun trickling through the reserve. When we see the migrants starting to arrive it gives us a feeling of anticipation knowing that two of our key breeding species on the site will not be far off arriving.

April sees the arrival of the Tree Pipit. Tree Pipits despite their name don't nest in trees. The tree pipit requires a tree or shrub to sing from but they actually nest on the ground, and to feed they require open areas such as heathland and bare ground. Tree pipits are Red Status in Britain, meaning they are a bird of conservation concern, due to the decline in breeding populations in Britain. Despite this Tree pipits have had success at Dersingham with increases year on year.

Nightjars are the second arrival that occurs on Dersingham Bog and on a good year the first birds can be on site by the end of April. The bulk of the population arrive in May with the breeding season beginning in earnest towards the end of the month. Nightjars favour the open heathland at Dersingham and again nest on the ground in areas of heather and bracken. As always a reminder that dogs should be kept on a lead on the reserve to prevent disturbance to ground nesting birds and cattle. Some birds will choose to nest close to the paths so people or dogs straying off the paths can be particularly disturbing to them.

If you visit the reserve and have an interest in wildlife we are always grateful for your wildlife sightings particularly of colour ringed Stonechat and Woodlark. If you would like to send sightings to me at thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk. If anybody is interested in helping with surveys or becoming a voluntary warden on the site or helping us with practical works we are always grateful for new volunteers to join the team. If you would like to know more about getting involved with the team please get in contact on the above email address.

In this month's article I thought I would share with you a historical photo that has been taken on the reserve. This picture shows what is thought to be the head gamekeeper standing on the plateau south of Wolferton Splash overlooking the bog and mire. This picture is from 1955 and featured in the publication *The King and His Country*.

We use photographs regularly to monitor changes on the site and have a number of fixed point photography points across the reserve and across the varying habitats. Each point has a photo taken on each point of a compass. These are taken at regular period to show the changes in vegetation on site. This allows us to look back and see the changes pictographically and their relation to management works and relationships to weather and climate.

With the warmer weather and birds returning I'm sure many of you will be out visiting the reserve so I look forward to seeing some of you. □



News from St Cecilia's Church



The Mass with anointing of the sick was a great success and Father Michael received some very nice comments, not least of which from the Society of St Vincent de Paul included the following comments; "On behalf of all of us in SVP and our sick and housebound I offer you my heartfelt thanks for a very special Mass on Wednesday last. From the amazing reports that have come back to me I know that the Mass with the Anointing of the Sick at St Cecilia's was a most uplifting and joyful celebration for all who attended. Father, not only do I thank you for all you did to make Wednesday's Mass so memorable and worthwhile, I offer heartfelt thanks for your support of the Society of St Vincent de Paul".

The Church looked wonderful at Easter with the splash of colour from all the beautiful flowers. Thanks go to all the flower arrangers; Mary Grimley, Anna Grant, Maureen Swan, Alex Swan, Sue Gostling, Angela Walker, Carole Casey, May Davey, Fred Grimley and Pauline McSherry with help from Hanne MacMahon and Penny Downen. (See photos)

We have a few upcoming events planned for the next couple of months, all of which you are welcome to attend, including: A Ladies Shared Lunch, a very popular event, starts at 12 noon on 11th May at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. A coffee morning with a talk from Eric Rhodes about the history of the Parish will start at 11am on 21st May at the parish room, Hunstanton.

During the summer we have our annual Strawberry Fair, which, as well as delicious strawberries and scones, also includes various stalls. The fun starts at 12noon on 22nd June at Dersingham. Then on the evening of 20th July is our annual Parish barbecue in the grounds at Hunstanton. Please see the bulletin, notice boards or website for further details.

On bank holiday Monday, 6th May, there is the East Anglia Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham. The Pilgrimage theme for 2013 is 'Mary, Woman of Faith'. This is part of the 'Year of Faith'. The procession usually starts at the Church of Annunciation in the village and the pilgrims walk the 'Holy Mile' to the shrine, praying and singing along the way.

Our daily Masses are usually held at 9am at St Theresa's Convent, 27 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham on Wednesday. These are subject to change, so please check Church notice boards, website or phone. Sunday Masses are 9am at Dersingham and 11am at Hunstanton.

Everyone, whether Catholic or not, is welcome to all of our services and social occasions. We have refreshments after the 11am Mass every Sunday and after 10.15 Mass every Wednesday. There are also refreshments after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the month at Dersingham. Please come along, you will be most welcome.

Resident Priest: Father Michael Ryan,
81 Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, PE31 6YE
Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org
Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org □



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Dick Melton

First of all, many thanks to Ian Skerritt for putting me right about the pictures in the June 2012 issue. I was not that far out, only about a quarter of a mile.

Hunstanton Hall

Next we come to David Seaton's interesting bits about Old Hunstanton Hall and the 'grey lady'. I have never seen the grey lady but many people have. There are many versions of this ghost story. I think the one published in *Let's Talk* is one of the better ones.

Now a bit more about the hall itself. In 1965 I worked at a carrot-topping factory in Hunstanton that was owned by Whitworth Packers from Sandy in Beds. Mr Mike Whitworth, one of the directors of the company, lived in part of Hunstanton Hall and he let me fish in the lake and the moat. There were many pike in the moat and one man who lived down there would try and shoot them with a rifle, but he was not very successful.

There was a large fire at the hall in 1853 and in those days the nearest fire engine, pulled by horses, was at Heacham; so a man was sent to fetch it and, by the time it got to the hall, the library, entrance hall and dining room had been gutted. There was then another fire in 1951 after the hall had been sold by the Le-Strange family and turned into flats. Over the years the cottages and stables next to the hall have also been sold off, and the hall has had many alterations made to it since it was built in 1310, but the entrance and gatehouse are still the same. The hall stands in parkland of 460 acres. Many years ago a by-law was laid down that people can only walk through the park on a Thursday; this by-law is still in force today and it also applies to Homefields Lane in Hunstanton.

Rights of Way

Now we come to a very interesting subject brought up by my mate Bernie Twite - rights of way. First of all let's talk about The Drift. The Drift starts at the junction of Manor Road and Lynn Road. When my father was a boy one hundred years ago this was the only way for the people of Dersingham to get to the beach/sea. The Drift went in a straight line from Lynn Road right across the marshes to a point near where the pumping station was built in 1947. Those days the marshes were all grazing land, then in 1942, during the second world war, there was a shortage of food so it was decided to plough the marshes up and crop them.

To allow the farmers to get down the marshes WARAG [War Agricultural Executive Committee] put down a concrete road from Dersingham Station down to within 200 yards of the old sea bank. Another strip of concrete was laid going south to meet up with The Drift and another strip goes north to the Ingoldisthorpe/Snettisham boundary.

In those days many people farmed this land down the marshes, including Stantons from Manor Farm, Jacksons of High Farm, Baulding Brothers, Lincoln Brothers and even a farmer from Ringstead. All of these roads and tracks were laid down for these farmers but they were also rights of way for the members of the general public. In 1947 a carstone road was laid to connect the Dersingham concrete road with the concrete road that went from Wolferton village to the pumping station. For a number of years now the Sandringham estate has farmed half the land down the marsh but some areas of this marsh are not within the estate boundary, though they are farmed by them. They are within the parish of Dersingham and these rights of way are open to anyone as long as they stick to the countryside rules and keep on the paths, tracks and roads.

The rights of way footpaths and tracks around the Open Common, Shut-up and Fen are well marked on the village map that is issued twice a year in the Dersingham Data. Some of these footpaths around the top of the Shut-up Common are a bit over-grown but they are still there. In the good old days some of the old boys in the village would trim back these footpaths and make sure they were always assessable. One footpath that has been lost since the bypass was built (1990) is the one that went down the northern side of the Fen from Lynn Road; it went alongside the Red Dyke as far as the railway line, then it followed the line as far as Wolferton cutting. I always remember there was one dear old lady who lived in Wolferton who would use this path every Saturday to come from her home in Wolferton to do some shopping in Dersingham.

Muntjacs

Steve Davis has a picture in the Village Voice of a muntjac on the beach at Snettisham. These small deer are getting everywhere. One day, a year or two back, my wife was walking across The

Green when a muntjac came past here, crossed the road and across the beach towards Heacham. Who knows, it might have been the same one.

Shipwrecks

Many people from far and near ask me about the hulk of the old ship that lays under the cliffs at Hunstanton. The name of this ship was the ‘Sheraton’; she was an 800 ton steam powered coaster; she was being towed through the North Sea in 1947 to be used as a target ship when her tow rope broke and she ended up on the beach under the cliffs between New and Old Hunstanton. When she ran aground she was intact with her lights, masts and all but, after a few weeks, she was plundered of everything that was removable. One of the first things to be taken was the ship’s wheel. One local man got caught for taking lead off her and he served a short time in prison for the theft. After a few years the council claimed it as a shipwreck and they sold it to a scrap merchant, who cut it up and took most of it away, except for the hull that still lays there to this very day. Another ship the ‘Salacia’ a brigantine of 227 tons and registered in Faversham (Kent) was also wrecked in this area on the 9th of February 1889. The coastguard rescued the six crew, the master and the mate who were all taken to the Le-Strange Arms hotel. Two days later ‘Messrs Cruso and Wilkin’ sold every thing from the ship in an auction as and where it lay, including the hull, masts, spars and rigging. The ‘Margaret’ was another ship that was wrecked in this area. Though the hulls of both ships were sold they lay there for many years until they were eventually taken away.

Before I sign off, just going back to David Seaton’s letter he mentions Harry Carter (1907-1983) the sign-maker from Swaffham. He was in fact the cousin to Howard Carter (1874-1939) the famous Egyptologist and not his brother.

Well now we have another change of editor, I have been writing in the Village Voice now for thirteen and a half years, so I think I will carry on a bit longer, see you all in August. □

My pleasure Dick and I trust others’ too! Ed.



Epic Cycle Rides from the 1950s by John Lambert

A friend and I, where we lived near Cambridge, were in the “Cambridgeshire Road Club”. What we used to do was to cycle from Cambridge up to Liverpool overnight, then catch the boat across to the Isle of Man. While we were there, I met a girl, (a long time before I was married); she lived in Bradford, Yorks. Her parents kept a fish and chip shop. When we parted, she said she would write to me. I never thought no more about it until one day I did get a letter from her

inviting me to hers. I wrote back saying that if I came up I would cycle up; I decided to go on the Whitsun weekend.

In those days I never owned a wristwatch, so I asked my father if I could borrow his. I bought it for him when I was in Egypt; Dad thought the world of this watch. He said I could, “but don’t you lose it,” he said. He always treated me like I was a 10 year old!

How times have changed. I cycled from Cambridge to Huntingdon and then got onto the A1 and rode through the night until I was level with Leeds. By this time it was light and cold. I stopped, took off the watch and laid it on my saddlebag. Now there was a trick we did: if we heard a bus coming, we would try to jump in behind it and that would drag us along. This I did and after about five miles into Leeds I suddenly thought “Dad’s watch!” I stopped and to my heartfelt relief, a miracle had happened: the watch was still laying on my saddlebag, caught in a crease in the canvas! I never did tell Dad; that was enough excitement for one night.

I met the girl and we mooched about Bradford that day (Saturday) then went to a theatre in the evening. The next day (Sunday) I cycled 85 miles around Ilkley Moor.

On Whit Monday, I cycled home and it was a head wind all the way: 166 miles. When I counted up I made it 417 miles in three days.

Back in the 1950s the cycles were three times the weight they are today, the roads were a lot quieter though. Those were the days! □

Three Choirs Become One Concert

A concert given by three West Norfolk Community Choirs is to be held at St. Nicholas Parish Church, Dersingham on Saturday 13th July at 7.30pm. Musical Director and founder of ‘Sing For Wellbeing’ Carol O’Neill will conduct the Choirs, from Snettisham, Fakenham and Swaffham who have been rehearsing separately in their own localities, only to come together to sing as One Choir



the day before the concert for a full rehearsal.

Last summer saw the first of these events in Dersingham and The Three Choirs together enjoyed a standing ovation from the full capacity crowd. Due to popular demand they are returning to sing an eclectic repertoire of songs that may include some Pop, Classical, Maori, Folk, American Shape Note and Original Works. Refreshments will be provided and a donation will be made to Cancer Research UK from the proceeds.

Tickets are priced at £5 and are available from Scrappy Cat Crafts in Snettisham, Sweets n Things in Fakenham and Ceres Bookshop & The Green Parrot in Swaffham.

People who are require further information should call Carol on 01328 838316 or visit www.singforwellbeing.co.uk. □

Carol O'Neill

Make a Difference to your Community with Age UK Norfolk's Community Volunteer Programme

Have you ever thought “I would like to do something to make a difference in my community but don’t know where to start”?

Age UK Norfolk can help you take your first steps and will offer continued support so that you can make a real difference to your community. Volunteering in your community is a way to develop new skills, meet new people in your neighbourhood and feel involved. Age UK Norfolk is looking for people living in the western half of Norfolk who are prepared to volunteer some of their time as community volunteers, to help people in their own community. Age UK Norfolk will provide information, support and training and volunteering will be flexible to fit around any other commitments you may have.

Community volunteers will help support older people by providing information, helping people to feel part of the community and encouraging a spirit of volunteering among others – making a real difference to their community.

Age UK Norfolk has a variety of other volunteering opportunities, so if the volunteer mentor role doesn’t appeal please get in touch to find a volunteering role that suits you.

To find out more about the community volunteer role, please contact Eamon McGrath on 01603 785222 or Eamon.mcgrath@ageuknorfolk.org.uk

Check out all of our volunteering opportunities at www.ageuknorfolk.org.uk or phone Age UK Norfolk’s volunteer recruitment line on 01603 785241. □



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A Tribute to those born before the 1980s

Many of us get so conditioned by modern life, what we can and cannot do, that we almost forget that life once seemed so much simpler, with fewer rules.

The piece below was forwarded to us by Dick Murrell. A quick search located it in several places on the Internet although no-one appears to know who originated it.

No doubt you might add your own memories to it!

To all the Kids who Survived the 1930s, '40s, '50s, '60s and '70s!!

First, we survived being born to mothers who may have smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then, after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, locks on doors or cabinets, and, when we rode our bikes, we had baseball caps, not helmets, on our heads.

As infants and children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, no booster seats, no seat belts, no air bags, bald tires and sometimes no brakes..

Riding in the back of a pick-up truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this.

We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter, and bacon. We drank Kool-Aid made with real white sugar. And we weren't overweight. WHY? Because we were always outside playing...that's why!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. No one worried about us... and we were OKAY!

We would spend hours building our go-carts from scraps of wood and milk crates and then ride them down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes... After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem..

We did not have Play Stations, Nintendos and X-boxes. There were no video games, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies or DVDs, no surround-sound or CDs, no I-pods, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet and no chat rooms.

WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits from those accidents.

We would get spankings with wooden spoons, switches, ping-pong paddles, or just a bare hand, and no one would call child services to report abuse.

We ate worms, and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given Ball Bearing guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls, and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes! ▶

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them.

Little League baseball had tryouts but not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment... Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers, and inventors ever.

The past 50 to 85 years have seen an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

If YOU are one of those born between 1925-1970, CONGRATULATIONS!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids before the lawyers and the government regulated so much of our lives for our own good.

While you are at it, forward it to your kids, so they will know how brave and lucky their parents were!

Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?! ☐

Do it now

Some of the nicest things get said about people at their funerals. My mother remembered a few lines of this poem and an easy search online soon brought the whole thing up on screen.

*Written by **Berton Braley**, a much loved American poet and is a lesson for us all perhaps?*

If with pleasure you are viewing
any work a man is doing,
If you like him or you love him,
tell him now;
Don't withhold your approbation
till the parson makes oration
And he lies with snowy lilies on his brow;
No matter how you shout it
he won't really care about it;
He won't know how many teardrops you have shed;
If you think some praise is due him
now's the time to slip it to him,
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

More than fame and more than money
is the comment kind and sunny
And the hearty, warm approval of a friend.
For it gives to life a savour,
and it makes you stronger, braver,
And it gives you heart and spirit to the end;
If he earns your praise - bestow it,
if you like him let him know it,
Let the words of true encouragement be said;
Do not wait till life is over
and he's underneath the clover,
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

Berton Braley (1882—1966)

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I hope everyone is looking forward to some sunshine; we have had very little since November last year. Anita and I went on a wild flower walk a couple of weekends ago but unfortunately with everything being late there was no flowers to see! Bluebell walks with no bluebells!

At the last time of writing to you the Council required six new Councillors. Unfortunately we have recently accepted the resignation of Cllr Tony Bubb. Tony has been a faithfully member of this Council for as long as I can remember. Undertook an amazing amount of work for the Council and for the staff. Anita and I will miss him in lots of ways, who will put up our shelves, mend our equipment. I had the honour of being Clerk through his two periods of being Chairman and found him a delight to work alongside. Without Tony there would be no Village Voice Live and the Village Voice would not be the success it is today. Thankfully Tony has agreed to continue his involvement. Anita and I would just like to say a big thank you and the Council will not be the same without you in our eyes.

On a positive note the Council has four new Councillors. Mrs Sue Payne, Mrs Kate Hathaway, Mr John Hunter and recently Ms Fiona Hinds. We hope that they will bring fresh ideas and knowledge to strengthen the Council. We still have three vacancies if anyone wishes to have their say in what is happening in your village please come and join us. Your village NEEDS you.

The Recreation Committee is hard at work organising events. There is to be The Big Lunch on 2 June 2013 on the Recreation Ground between 12 noon to 3.00pm. Please bring your picnics, and your children dressed up as King & Queens and come and enjoy the Music have some food and an Ice Cream, please keep your eyes open for the posters that will give more information that will be posted around the Village soon. There will be events for Children during the Summer Holidays, for two weeks starting on the 12 August. Events booked so far include a couple of days of sports hopefully including Laser Gaming, drama, photography, hair and nails and hopefully crafts and fitness, again look out for the forms in the children's book bags or from Youth Group. A Christmas Fayre is also in the process of being organized for the 8 December 2013 in the car park at St Nicholas Court but more details in the next edition.

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

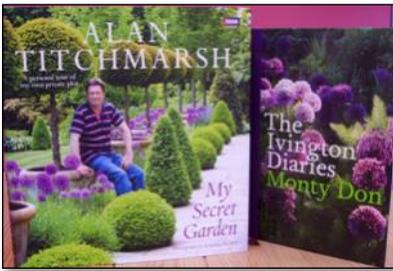
Sarah

Has anyone seen these?

Whilst on a walk through and around a wood at Castle Rising I spotted these two, what look like large white chess pieces (knights) and looking as if they were gateposts. On closer inspection of they appear to be a pair of sculptured stags. A look on GoogleEarth showed nothing but a ploughed field, and the OS map shows no road or anything that would need a pair of impressive gateposts. So I am wondering if anyone knows why they are there? There is a slight rise in the ground so the photo doesn't show them in their entirety.

Can anyone shed any further light?
Maggie Gray





A Good Read with Maggie Gray

Now that there are definite signs of Spring in the air – at least as I write this in the midst of April it is warmer – no doubt the thoughts of many of you turn to gardening, and your old favourite gardening books come out, well-thumbed and green-fingered. But sometimes it's good to look at gardening books for the sheer pleasure of seeing someone else's hard work, and especially if that someone

is a television gardener, of whom we all seem to have high expectations.

My two favourite books of this genre are 'The Ivington Diaries' by Monty Don and 'My Secret Garden' by Alan Titchmarsh. I know Monty Don isn't everyone's cup of tea, men especially seem to find his flowery language a bit much at times, but he's definitely favourite with a lot of ladies! 'The Ivington Diaries' is the story of his garden, the one we see on Gardeners' World. He and his wife moved into the semi-derelict farmhouse in the early 1990s and since then he has worked at creating not only a beautiful private garden, but one which would also create plenty of interest for the television programme. Written by him and with his own photographs this is truly a personal story about one man and his garden.

'My Secret Garden' by Alan Titchmarsh is equally beautifully written and illustrated with gorgeous photographs. When he gave up Gardeners' World and left Barleywood, the garden featured in the show for many years, Alan and his family moved to an old farmhouse not too far away, here to create a garden that was just for private pleasure. As with Ivington, the garden has taken many years to develop, with formal areas and a wonderful wildflower meadow amongst the many delights photographed for the book. And as usual, the book is written in his inimitable style, making it a book that is interesting and funny, informative and whilst on a grander scale than your average garden, there are still ideas we can copy, as with the 'rooms' in Ivington.

On the fiction front – 'Schroder' by Amity Gaige is a new release and tells the story of Erik Schroder, written by him from his prison cell where he awaits trial for the kidnapping of his young daughter Meadow. He is writing to his estranged wife, trying to explain his actions, and why he has lived under a different name since he was a boy. He hopes that by explaining himself he will be able to see his daughter again and not be the bad guy everyone now makes him out to be. It's a story of unconditional love from a parent for a child, of the power it has and how it can make you act out of character sometimes.

'Stonemouth' by Iain Banks, on the other hand, is a 2012 book, and as many will now know, his next one, due out in the next month or so, will be his last as he has terminal cancer and may only have months to live. I have to say I don't read everything of his, I cherry-pick to find those with a storyline which most appeals rather than automatically reaching for his latest. 'Stonemouth' is the story of Stewart Gilmour who has returned to his home town of Stonemouth near Aberdeen, for the funeral of patriarch Joe Murston. He has had to get permission to attend the funeral from the rest of the Murston clan because when he left it was down to them running him out of town rather than of his own free will. He upset people; the sort of people you don't want to upset. The story is set over the long weekend of his return; you know something is going to happen, the tension is slowly building. One reviewer called it 'heartstoppingly exciting' but for me that only applies to the last twenty or so pages of the book. However the journey to that point was well worth it, the pace really began to pick up and it was a satisfying ending. □



St Nicholas Church News

At the beginning of April we welcomed the Thurrock Male Voice Choir to our Church, over 20 members of their Choir came. They gave three concerts while in Norfolk. Comment sent to me later by email “We all thoroughly enjoyed our time nearer the North Pole. It really was great to sing in buildings with such great acoustics”. They seem to have fine sense of humour in the Thurrock area!



We held our Annual Grand Sale on Saturday 27th April, this Event helps to get money for the flowers for our Flower Festival in July and managed to raise just under £1,000.

Saturday 29th June will see our Curate Julie Boyd ordained as Priest in Norwich Cathedral at 3pm, there is a coach going from Dersingham if anyone would like to join us please contact Rita Mathews on 543674.

Forthcoming Events:

Centre Stage Swing Band – Saturday 25th May 7.30pm Tickets £8 (phone Alan/June on 01485 543836) or on the door. Proceeds for the Children’s Project of the C of E Churches in Heacham, Snettisham and Dersingham.

Open Gardens – Sunday 26th to Monday 27th May Tickets available in advance £3 or £4 on the day. Refreshments will be available in the Church Hall.

Flower Festival – Thursday 18th to Sunday 21st July Theme this year “Britain in All Its Glory”

Children’s activities (including drama, Bible story, crafts, prayer and much more...):

Kidz Klub – Saturdays 8th June & 13th July
10am – 12 noon in the Church Hall

Adventure Cruise, our Summer Holiday Club – Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st July
9:30am—12:30pm in the Church Hall



For details of children’s activities contact Alan on 543836, or Steve on 0742 514 5887 or email: alanandjunec@tiscali.co.uk or look out for publicity at the schools. □

<p>NIGEL RUSHMER HOME MAINTENANCE</p>			<p>Where is it?</p> <p>Answer: Creake Abbey</p>
<p>YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN FROM SNETTISHAM ANY MAINTENANCE JOB CONSIDERED KITCHEN, BATHROOM, INSTALLATIONS, TILING GENERAL PLUMBING, REPAIRS, DECORATING DOORS, GATES AND FENCING</p> <p>01485 541563 07949 162101</p>			



Dersingham Walking Group

Welcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides a regular programme of guided walks round the local countryside. Below you can see the walks that are planned for the next couple of months, so why not get some fresh air and exercise, you'll be in good company!

On Wednesday 13th March a good group of walkers assembled at Great Bircham windmill for a circuit of footpaths and lanes that was led by Liz Fiddick. It was a bit muddy in places but there were some lovely views over the fields with the iconic shape of the mill clearly visible for much of the route. Unfortunately the excellent mill tea-room was not open that early in the year, as a visit would have made a nice finish to the afternoon.

Those of us promised the 'chance to see cowslips' were not disappointed by Keith Stark's walk around Courtyard Farm, Ringstead on Wednesday 17th April, although with the general delay in flowering this year, a couple of weeks later might have proved even more spectacular!

On the evening of Friday 26th Steve & Lindsey Davis led a party of 14 on our 'annual' evening walk from the Old Station, Dersingham down the Old Beach Track and around the Snettisham RSPB reserve, in time for the high evening Spring Tide. Wading birds, in particular the knot were obligingly forced by the high tide to fly into the Roost Bank of the reserve where we were able to observe them from the hides. We also enjoyed a successful round of that memorable bird-watching party game: "Spot the Mediterranean Gull" amongst the plethora of Black-Headed Gulls!

Details of our next walks are:

Thursday 23rd May, 2.00pm

Starting point: Dersingham Library. Grid ref: 687 306

One of the Walk for Life series of short circular walks starting and finishing at the library where refreshments will be provided. Approximately 2½ miles round Dersingham streets and footpaths.

Leader Steve Davis 01485 543138

Wednesday 12th June, 6.30pm

Starting point: Brancaster church. Grid ref: 772 439

A circular walk round Brancaster and Titchwell. It's always a pleasure to explore this delightful part of the North Norfolk coast.

Leader Elizabeth Fiddick 01485 540940

Wednesday 26th June, 2.00pm

Starting point: Dersingham village sign. Grid ref: 685 296

A circular walk round Sandringham Country Park.

Leader Pat Reed 01485 540757

Wednesday 10th July, 6.30pm

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

A walk round Sedgeford and Snettisham. Footpaths, quiet lanes and view to the Wash. Car parking charge of £1.

Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

Wednesday 24th July, 2.00pm

Starting point: Burnham Overy Staithe harbour. Grid ref: 844 443

A walk around coast and country, with many good views.

Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

The full Dersingham Walking Group 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. The walks are usually between **4 and 5 miles long**, taking around a couple of hours. Quoted grid references are for the relevant Ordnance Survey map, usually Landranger sheet 132 or Explorer sheet 250.*

The leaders are happy to organize and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. If you would like more information about an individual walk, such as the going underfoot, stiles etc. please contact the walk leader.

For general enquiries please contact the group coordinator:

Stephen Martyn Tel: 01485 541333 Email: stephenmartyn@gmail.com □

Raise funds for your local community GreenGO Re-use, Recycle and Refurbish Project

West Norfolk Voluntary & Community Action (WNVCA), a local charity, is working in partnership with other charities across the Eastern Region to deliver on a project entitled **GreenGo**.

The aim of GreenGo is to develop a Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) supply chain in West Norfolk. WNVCA can take delivery of your old computers and laptops which will re-enter the supply chain by being refurbished, re-used or recycled. There is a zero % policy on donations going to landfill – so everything that you donate will either be refurbished, recycled or re-used and your school can get up to £5 for every computer or laptop donated. A great way to raise funds. Other WEEE items can be donated also – such as keyboards, cables, mobile phones, DVD players, printers, scanners, old games consoles and VCR's.

If you have anything you would like to donate, or require further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch via marie@westnorfolkvca.org or phone 01553 760568.

Marie Connell





**The Dersingham & Sandringham Branch of the
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**
warmly invites you to the
**Rededication Service for the
Norfolk Royal British Legion Standards
at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham
on Sunday 28th July 2013 at 3pm**

Prior to the service the Parade will form at 2:15pm in the doctor's surgery car park at St Nicholas Court, before leading off at 2:30pm along Manor Road towards the Church where there will be a March Past Salute.

During the service, there will also be a Rededication for the War Memorial within St Nicholas Church, acknowledging the time and effort by the branch towards the provision of the new curtains around the War Memorial Altar and backdrop further enhancing the newly gilded Roll of Honour.

All are very welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.
Valerie Brundle—Chairman of the Men's Section

Village Voice Live Life in Cozumel



A good crowd of thoroughly-fed-up-with-the-weather people turned up for a bit of the Caribbean at the April Village Voice Live. The sunny tones of Steve Davis took us west to where the sun shines more than it does here and introduced us to his family living on the island of Cozumel, just off the eastern Mexican coast. Pictures of brother, brother's house and brother's car led us into this warm and hospitable place, much favoured by cruise ships as a stopping place. Not immune from hurricanes, Cozumel we were shown, recovers quickly from storm damage. It has to as the cruises are a large part of their economy and would not come to see the destruction caused by the wind that we saw illustrated.

Pictures of island food, wildlife and people left us in no doubt that this is a colourful place to visit. The island is largely undeveloped away from the town of San Miguel and we were taken on a tour of the island by our speaker who blended pictures and moving images taken over several visits for our delight.

Then it was back into the cold to return home. Brrrr! □

Dumpling

Well, what can I say? See back cover for who and what's on next at VVL. Ed.



Dersingham Institute Bowls Club by Bob Tipling

Once again the club has been joined by some new members, it appears that the social side is an attraction that other clubs do not match, the offer of a lot of bowls, with internal competitions, friendly matches and social events for a membership fee of £25 is making the DIBC a popular choice for those who wish to take up bowls in a friendly atmosphere.

Electrical work has been undertaken in the clubhouse during the closed season and the cutting of two hedges is now complete. All those members who were involved in the cutting and clearing operation which saved the club a great deal of money have been thanked by the chairman.

Future projects include the erection of the garden fence and netting to keep out the rabbits. The cold weather had slowed the progress of the green and the green keeper reported that it would not be possible to put on the granular fertiliser or carry out a low cut until the weather became warmer.

The green was officially opened by Bob Meredith, the club's Life President, on Saturday 13 April, although, as the green was not considered to be ready for play, it was announced that the first use of the rinks would not take place until the following Saturday. Despite this setback, a very pleasant afternoon was provided by the provision of an excellent buffet courtesy of the club catering team.

The green is now being put to use but rabbit damage to two sides of the green has necessitated that approximately six feet from the edges are being protected to prevent further damage due to footfall. This did not have too many problems when the first friendly match of the season was played on Sunday 28 April against one of our regular opponents the Coach and Horses.

Photographs accompanying this article show some of the work mentioned above being carried out, these having been taken by Club Chairman Richard Bridges. □



Docking Market celebrates a year of success

On Wednesday 24th April Docking Weekly Market celebrated its first year of trading, marking the establishment of a new fixture in the village with the cutting of a specially made cake. The market, each Wednesday at the Ripper Hall, on High Street, has become a popular venue providing a wide range of food and goods attracting both local people and visitors.

The market at Docking began in April 2012 with about 15 stalls. Now there are more than 20.



They range from fruit and veg to top-quality local butchers, Foxley Wood, selling Angus beef, a traditional pork butcher from Suffolk, and Norfolk Seafoods offering fish and shellfish.

Docking market is run by Ian Dumphreys, who spotted an opportunity to provide more specialised foods from good taste foods and gifts as well as food basics.

He said: “The market enables more people to shop locally because of its location. People can buy Brancaster mussels and Cromer crab when they are in and it’s all fresh.

“There are also homemade cakes, and handmade crafts and gifts such as cards, cushions also scarves and jewellery. What I would also like to have here is a deli.

“Docking Heritage Group’s archive room is open on the same day so people are able to look in there too.”

As a measure of its popularity, the market ran right through the winter and was cancelled only twice during the extended cold spell.

Michael Strutt (Docking Heritage Group)

Many were inspired by Docking Heritage Group’s talk at our January Village Voice Live. Ed

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MAGGIE'S MISCELLANY by Maggie Gray

The Ouse Washes Molly Dancers

Molly dancing is traditionally associated with Plough Monday – to earn some money in the fallow period between December and Spring,

ploughboys toured local landowners offering to dance for payment. Anyone who refused often regretted it, it was a bit like 'trick or treat' and some punishment was meted out to such people. Because the dancers didn't wish to be recognised, they blackened their faces – it could be that they would be approaching some of these landowners for work in the future. The dancing mainly took place in East Anglia, though there have been recorded dancers in Lancashire, but it seems to have died out in the 1930s, revived forty years later and it has seen a resurgence of interest in East Anglia, the most famous dancers here being the Ouse Washes Molly Dancers. Based in Norfolk, and founded in 1984, they regularly perform the traditional molly dances of the Fens at festivals, both here and overseas.



A vital part of the troupe are the musicians, and here they are in all their splendour – photograph courtesy of Lynne Gill, fiddler with the Ouse Washes Molly Dancers.

For those interested the next dates are at Welbourne Arts Festival on the 15th June, Sheringham Lobster Potties Festival on the 6th July, and on the 13th at the Ely Folk Festival. □



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See overleaf for details of some of our most recent books to look out for...



The latest bestseller from the queen of historical fiction...

The Kingmaker's Daughter by Philippa Gregory

This is the gripping and ultimately tragic story of Anne Neville and her sister Isabel, the daughters of the Earl of Warwick, the most powerful magnate in 15th century England. Ever ruthless, always plotting, in the absence of a son and heir, Warwick sets about using his daughters as pawns in his political games.

Sicily's Inspector Montalbano new adventure...

The Dance of the Seagull by Andrea Camilleri

Montalbano is awake at dawn, sitting on his porch, when his attention is caught by a seagull which falls from the sky, performing a strange dance, before lying down to die. Montalbano is perplexed by what he has witnessed and the scene hangs over him like an omen and when his dear colleague Fazio is discovered missing, Montalbano launches a desperate search for his lost friend.

The latest in the 'Chocolat' series...

Peaches for Monsieur le Cure by Joanne Harris

When Vianne Rocher receives a letter from beyond the grave, she has no choice but to follow the wind that blows her back to Lansquenet. On returning to her old home, Vianne is completely unprepared for what she is to find there: women veiled in black, the scent of spices and a minaret on the bank of the river.

And some of the best of the new non-fiction titles...

The Great British Sewing Bee by Tessa Eveleigh

'The Great British Sewing Bee' provides amateur sewers everywhere with all the technical know-how and inspiring projects they need to produce a core collection of 25 fabulous garments and homewares. From a child's sun dress and a swinging circular skirt, to unisex pyjama trousers, a tea dress and a waistcoat, the garments offer something for both sexes and all ages.

A 1950s Mother by Sheila Hardy

Embarking on motherhood was a very different affair in the 1950s to what it is today. From how to dress baby (matinee coats and bonnets) to how to administer feeds (strictly four-hourly if following the Truby King method), the child-rearing methods of the 1950s are a fascinating insight into the lives of women in that decade. In *The 1950s Mother* author, mother and grandmother Sheila Hardy collects heart-warming personal anecdotes from those women, many of whom are now in their eighties, who became mothers during this fascinating post-war period.

Aprons and Silver Spoons by Mollie Moran

If you liked *Downton Abbey* and *Upstairs, Downstairs*, it's time to discover the reality in the true story *Aprons and Silver Spoons* by Mollie Moran. When young Mollie became a 'skivvy' in a stately London townhouse aged just 14, she quickly learned that a large amount of elbow grease and a sense of humour would be tantamount to surviving there. Through Mollie's eyes we are offered a fascinating glimpse into London's invisible 'downstairs', a world that has long-since vanished: cooking huge roast dinners, polishing doorknobs, scrubbing steps - and covering up her employers' scandals.

Mrs Robinson's Disgrace by Kate Summerscale

A story of romance and fidelity, insanity, fantasy and the boundaries of privacy in a society clinging to rigid ideas about marriage and female sexuality, 'Mrs Robinson's Disgrace' brings vividly to life a complex, frustrated Victorian wife, longing for passion and learning, companionship and love.

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Alison Thorne



Dersingham Open Gardens and Art Trail 2013 Sunday 26th and Monday 27th May—1pm to 6pm

This year the Dersingham Open Gardens is scheduled at the same time as the Arts and Crafts Trail. We are aiming for a truly “Open Village” event which will include visiting those private gardens open to the public, following the art trail as described below and enjoying a cream tea in St Nicholas Church Hall. Also the Bowls Club have agreed to open the Bowling Green and give a free introduction to the sport, so after a



delicious cream cake you can work off the added pounds by trying your hand at bowling.



Visiting private gardens is always inspirational; you will get lots of hints, tips and ideas for your own garden even if you come to the conclusion that yours is just as good if not better!

Alongside Open Gardens, the village Art Trail will give you the chance to visit local artists in their studios, and chat to them about their work and how they create it. The Trail is part of the county-wide Norfolk Open Studios scheme, where hundreds of Norfolk artists open up their studios, homes, garden sheds and outhouses to create a unique and personal visual arts event.

The Art Trail has been organised by well-known local artist and tutor Stephen Martyn, who said “The Trail provides a chance to meet the artists, take a look at the techniques and processes used to create their work, and perhaps even buy or commission a piece. Most artists also have inexpensive prints and greetings cards too, perhaps as a souvenir of your visit. There are four locations around the village

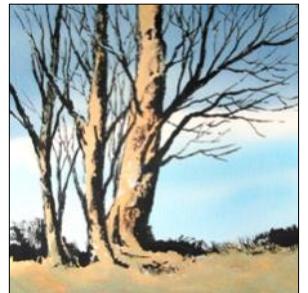


where you can see different forms of art and most of the participating artists will also be opening their gardens to make a fascinating double event!” Full details are



on the Trail website dersinghamarttrail.org. You can also pick up an Open Studios brochure from the local library or from Dersingham Pottery, 48 Chapel Rd.

Let us hope that a fine Bank Holiday weekend will ensure a lasting memory for our village.



Entry for Open Gardens is **£4** per person on the day from St Nicholas Church Hall or participating gardens or **£3** in advance from Dersingham Post Office. Proceeds will go to St Nicholas Church. For further Open Garden information contact Judy Collingham 01485 540271 or email jcairnscot@gmail.com

Entry to all Art Trail studios is free of charge, (as is the Bowls Club introduction).

The Art Trail will also be open on Saturday 25th June and the weekends of 1st-2nd and 8th-9th June. For further Art Trail information contact Stephen Martyn 01485 541333 or email stephenmartyn@gmail.com □



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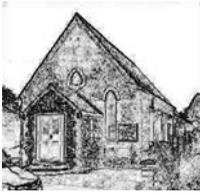
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Greetings from the Manse

Rev. Kim Nally

This month the Christian Church celebrates the festival of Pentecost. This is sometimes referred to as the birthday of the Church. The setting is the small core of Jesus followers, probably no more than 120, who, after the resurrection and ascension of their master and friend, were gathered together and awaiting the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower and guide their future mission to the world. These timid followers of Jesus, whose track record up until then had included a near complete lack of understanding and desertion to boot! Now they would be witnesses and proclaimers of the Good News, the Christian Gospel of God's love and mercy revealed in Jesus was for all. They were to be missionaries, sent by God to do his will in telling others this marvellous Good News. In the Hebrew Bible there is a famous character who was also sent by God with a message to a people who needed to repent and believe in God. This character was Jonah. Jonah was a very reluctant missionary indeed.

Having felt the call of God to go to Nineveh Jonah first tries to evade the call, then he sets off but sails in the opposite direction. But he couldn't escape and ends up as a result of his disobedience inside a great fish, the bit of the story most people know about. Here he has time to think and asks God for a second chance. He gets to Nineveh, evidently not convinced really either about why he was preaching the God of the Hebrews to a bunch of sinners, nor about his prospects of success in so doing. To his great surprise the people listen and repent. Jonah's reaction displays a self-satisfied attitude that religious people can mistakenly take up towards others. He thought that God's judgement would fall upon these others. However from the old prophets of Israel through to John the Baptist and Jesus, the message was clear. All stand before God in need of a change of heart, a turning in repentance from sin to grace. Jonah and his people had conveniently forgotten how many second chances God had given to the people of Israel. The book of Jonah speaks of God's redemption and mercy coming even to these others who heard the message and repented. For Jonah the penny eventually dropped when a plant growing beside him taught him about the mercy of God. The plant grew quickly and provided welcome shelter for him from the sun, but not for long. He got angry when such a promising plant could be destroyed by a worm attacking its roots. Then he realised that this is what he wanted God to do to Nineveh. If he could feel concern for a mere plant, how much greater must be God's mercy towards the thousands of his creation in Nineveh.

Pentecost is a festival for a missionary people who want to share their conviction that God loves and cares for everyone because of what he has done in Jesus for us, undeserving as we are. It's not because we are right, or good, or better than others. Not at all. It's because God is loving and forgiving and wishes all to know his love and in this love to prosper and flourish. □

Dersingham Methodist Church News

by Elizabeth Batstone

In May Dersingham Methodist Church will be 123! The building occupies an excellent position next door but one to the Post Office and has for 123 years been an active Methodist Church. During this time the building has been maintained, altered, extended and cared for by many, many people. This is not to show passers by what a nice building it is, even though it is, but to ensure the building is fit for purpose. The purpose is to be 'a Church' a body of people who feel called to worship together, work together and offer in God's name hope and love to everyone. We at the Methodist Church are all different – male, female, tall, thin, small, fair, dark etc. and yet the same! Our theme for our Annual Flower Festival is 'One Body – Many Parts' and as we celebrate the flower festival we will celebrate the Church's birthday and give thanks to those who had the vision, love and commitment 123 years ago. Our prayer is that we will continue with the same commitment so that the Church's witness and building are still around for another 123 years.

Come and join us for our Flower Festival Thursday 23rd – Saturday 25th May 10.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m., see the floral displays, enjoy coffee, lunch and tea, visit the stalls. Sunday 26th May 2.00 – 4.00 p.m., see the displays, have a cup of tea, but there will not be any stalls. Proceeds will be for Church Funds and a £500 donation for WaterAid. □

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Salmon Quiche

cooked in the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen by Lindsey Davis

On the rare occasion when I buy a whole filleted salmon (when on special offer) I try to remember to ask for the bones as well. I cook these in the microwave for a few minutes and a surprising quantity of remaining fish comes off them really easily. I usually make salmon fishcakes but last time decided to try something different and make a quiche instead. I couldn't find a recipe so here is what I did. It did taste pretty good!

Rub together the flour, fat and cheese. Add egg and a little of the water (more as needed) for it to stick together.

Cheese Pastry

225g plain flour
 75g butter or margarine
 75g grated cheese
 1 medium egg yolk
 4 – 6 tbsps cold water

Filling

125g approx. fresh salmon cooked
 (either in microwave or poached)
 2 eggs plus white from pastry egg
 Black pepper
 Enough milk to make up to 400ml



1. Line 10-12 inch quiche dish with pastry. Prick well with fork and bake in Oven Gas 6, 200 c for 10-15 mins.
2. Beat eggs in bowl or jug with measurements, add cooked fish and black pepper to taste.
3. Make up to 400ml ¾ pt with milk. Mix well. Pour into prepared pastry case and bake Gas 6, 200°C for 30-40 mins until golden and set.
4. Serve with salad or vegetables such as broccoli.

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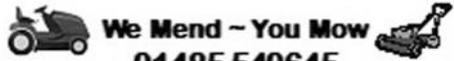
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The Dersingham Task Force by Keith Starks

We have had a very varied year so far. Early on, we completed the dismantling of the wire fence on the Warren and, at the same time, planted a few saplings*. Our Spring schedule was due to start mid-March but, as it was snowing, it was nearly the end of the month before we met to give the rose garden at the Post Office Road/ Manor Road junction a spring clean. We were grateful for a barrow-load of

compost contributed by one of the people living nearby. This was also the occasion when we were delighted to be joined by Kate who had recently moved into the village.

On the first Wednesday in April we were due to tidy the Centre Vale footpath but, as a result of the cold weather, the vegetation had not grown so, except for gathering up the inevitable litter, nothing needed attention. Therefore eight of us fanned out across the Pastures field and sports ground and collected FIFTEEN bags of litter! Later in April we met to see what needed doing in Sugar Lane and were pleased to discover that a lot of the undergrowth towards the top had been cut back. We spent an hour or so trimming back the brambles, ivy etc. which were beginning to encroach on the path.

It is rewarding to see the daffodils which we planted last year by the 'Dersingham' signs in bloom.

On the 5th June some of us will be working on the rose garden while others will again be doing what is necessary in Centre Vale. We are always pleased to have new members so, if you are interested in keeping the village tidy, please either come along or 'phone Sue on 543870.

* As it is hoped to plant more native British trees on the Warren, if you have any spare saplings please contact the Parish Office (541465) or email: clerk@dersingham.org.uk ☐



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The Old Biddie and her Cottage Garden by Valerie Ankhorn

Phew! It's been a lovely day today in mid April as I write, and this morning I went out to see how the front garden was doing. It was doing very badly! I'd noticed from my window a little muntjak deer helping himself to my plants, and could see that he has been eating not only my plants and bulbs but also stripping the bark on my willow hedge. When I went to inspect the damage, the garden smelt rank with its gamey smell, and I noticed flattened areas where it had clearly been curled up for its naps. While I like the idea of Bambi in my garden, I'm not too enamoured of the damage. Added to which, many plants have died – drowned, I suspect, with all that rainfall last year. There is so much to do and I really didn't know where to start, but decided that the buddleia bushes needed a big trim so have been working myself into a lather clipping them down and then cutting them into short pieces to fit in the bag better. I'd been up to the dump earlier and asked 'the nice handsome men' to help me lift it into the container. They just turned their backs on me, and an elderly man helped me instead whilst seeing to his own rubbish. It's a wonder they don't have more heart attacks there, as old folk like myself have to hump and heave heavy sacks up and down steps to the container. Even the low container needs a bit of strength to reach the level. I suppose younger people just don't realise that we oldies lose our strength, even if we look fit, and these tasks become very difficult. Smaller bags are the answer, I suppose.

It's so good to get out in the garden again, and hopefully we will get better weather this year to keep our gardens in good shape. The birds are very active at the moment, gathering mosses and grasses for their nests. I saw a blackbird selecting a pretty silver Honesty case and flying off with it. I am sure some of them have artistic leanings – like the mice in my shed that helped themselves to a lot of my pretty materials foolishly stored in plastic sacks. They only go for the best and most colourful!

As I write, there are flurries of finches flying in and out of the buddleia bush I haven't yet cut back. They still seem to be getting food from it so, as I have said before, I'm glad they have been left over winter to keep the birds fed. Once I have had a breather writing this, I will go back outside and get cracking with slightly renewed vigour – I do find vigour difficult to find these days! All the trees and bushes I planted five years ago are all growing well and actually need pruning back as they will be out of hand before I realise it. It is joyful to see some early flowering cherry trees in bloom – the blossom doesn't last for long, but so pretty while it is there. Those big fat pigeons will soon be stripping them bare again, I have no doubt.

I like perennial cornflowers – they are sturdy flowers that soon multiply and give a constant blaze of blue in the summer months. I never thought of them being herbal, but of course as I have been writing in this column for ages, most things in the garden and hedgerows are edible, and it seems these cornflowers are too. You can eat the flowers and petals in a salad – I will try this once they come into bloom - and you can also make a herbal tea from them either on its own, or adding to a light tea – to be drunk without milk. As I have said before, always be careful when trying something new, in case it doesn't agree with you.

The other flowers that have always grown abundantly in all my gardens are the perennial geraniums. (*See third picture down on the left on page 63. Ed.*) Apparently these plants are used in make up and body lotions. For me, I love the purple flowers, and the leaves that make a pretty display even when not flowering. They are pushing their way up through the soil now and it won't be long before the borders are filled again with all the beautiful blooms. Again, being a lazy gardener, I like to have most of my plants as perennials, as they come up whether they are tended or not, whereas annuals look very nice, but take a lot of work.

Well, I've got my breath back now, so will go back and attack another buddleia bush. They get very untidy and straggly, but I love the blooms, the perfume, and of course the butterflies that are attracted to them. I also love elderflower bushes and trees and always have them in my gardens. Not considered a garden plant by most people, I think they are beautiful. You can make champagne from the scented flowers, jams from the fruit, and as ever, butterflies, bees and birds have a field day with them. Apparently fairies like them too.

Have a wonderful spring in your gardens, and let's look forward to a really sunny summer. □

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:-

Issue	Copy deadline	Publication date
No 83	Wednesday 10th July	Monday 29th July
No 84	Wednesday 11th September	Monday 30th September
No 85	Wednesday 6th November	Monday 25th November

The earlier you get your copy to us the more favourable position it is likely to get.

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 10th July 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 10th July for publication on Monday 29th July 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

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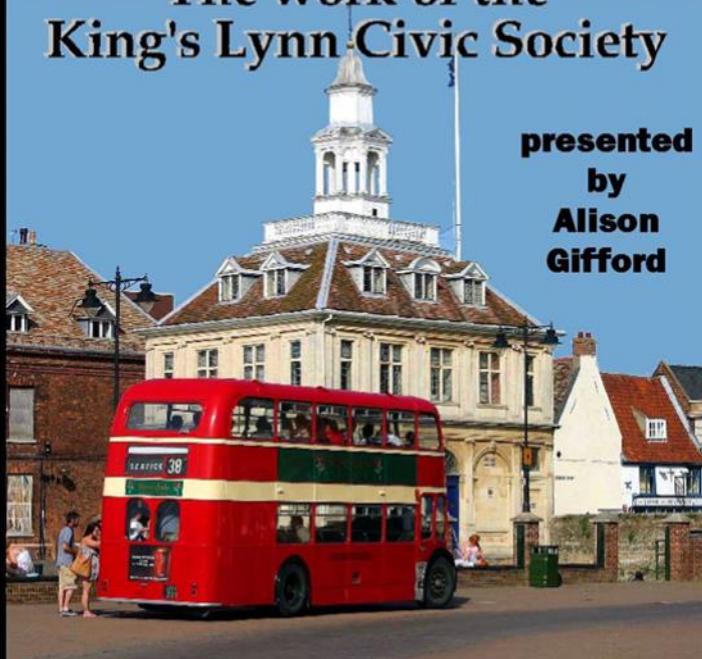
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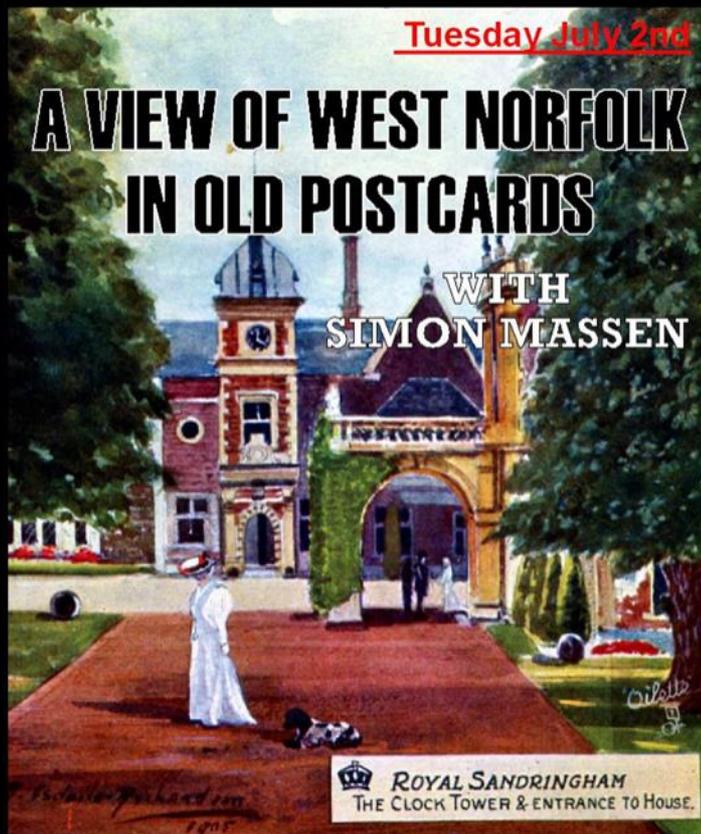
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IN OLD POSTCARDS

WITH
SIMON MASSEN



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