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Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



full of the all-colour joys of spring



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Editor's Notes



Do you remember the day you first saw a colour television? BBC2 started to broadcast in colour on 1st July 1967, but it was some while after that before I actually saw one on display at a local council event. I remember gawping in semi-disbelief at the famous BBC test card featuring Carole Hersee with Bubbles the Clown, before watching the News with renewed, albeit short lived, interest!

Although it was quite a few years before we owned a colour set, it was sooner than I would have expected! Now I suppose we just take our flat screened HD TVs for granted, although I do still marvel at the



technology that can bring alive the world of nature into my front room! It was another fascinating milestone for me when, in the 1980s, colour computer screens started to take over as the norm. Now with all our amazing Windows 8 and Apple iPad sophistication we can become equally blasé about them!

Although over the past four years we have grown used to seeing colour in our Village Voice, I do feel the same sense of excitement over presenting the first all-colour edition. We've made one or two changes to the house style which I hope will add to your enjoyment of it. In order to woo our previously black & white advertisers and encourage a few new ones, we did offer quite a discounted rate for this issue, and the response has a somewhat overwhelming. Consequently you

may find more pages of adverts than usual, but hey, they're all in glorious colour too!

Between packing the previous issue off to our printers (Clan Press, King's Lynn) and organising distribution, my wife Lindsey and I were able to sneak off for a very enjoyable week of winter sun in the Canary Isle of Fuerteventura. Here we could swim in the azure sea, trek across Sahara-like sand dunes and take a jeep excursion around some of the most amazingly vast but barren Martian-like



landscapes as we have ever encountered. Indeed films such as the original "Planet of the Apes" were filmed there. Enjoyable though Fuerteventura was, it did make us appreciate all the more just how blessed we are in our own green and pleasant land and where better to appreciate the joys of spring than around and about our village. (The front cover picture incidentally was taken on the corner, right at the bottom of Fern Hill). There are lots of things to look forward to: the gardens at Sandringham will open in April for the season and "Dersingham in May" is just around the corner. The birds too are getting their full breeding regalia, though it was a mixed blessing to see this one clambering noisily around the roof of our greenhouse!



After you have tucked in, why not write in to say what you think? It encourages us to know whether what we do is worthwhile or how things might be improved. We hope too that more of you might feel inspired to help with material for an article and we will of course try to lend whatever assistance we can. It would be a shame for this new all-colour venture to be just another development to become blasé about!

With it I wish you a very Happy Easter!

Steve Davis—editor@dersingham.org.uk □

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Dear Village Voice

Please email (editor@dersingham.org.uk) or write to us at Village Voice, Dersingham Parish Council, 4A Post Office Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6HP with your thoughts or memories of village life, comments concerning items read or ideas for the future. Ed.



In the February issue Old Photo Corner “Bowls Club” picture: second from left is Frederick Bunn. He lived in Heath Road and worked at Sandringham Post Office. Older villagers would remember his wife Florrie; she was involved in a lot of village activities and was very forthright. She was also on the Parish Council, which at that time unusually had many ladies serving. Right of centre is James Jackson, “Jimmy” who had the High House Farm. He was chairman of the Parish Council for a number of years and the Dersingham representative on the old Docking Rural Council. Next to him is George (Croply) Batterbee who lived in White Horse Drive. He was the Church Verger for many years and was well known for eating sweets during the sermon, which usually had noisy wrappers! In his later years he was quite deaf and couldn't hear the noise the papers made! Last on the right is Herbert Steward who lived at Dodds Hill and worked for Stantons.

At the time the by-pass was being planned, there were objections to the route across the Fen. One reason was that it was the habitat for a rare moth. Since English Nature took over the Fen, have they found any evidence of it, or created a habitat to encourage it?

Bernie Twite

...then to confirm and add a bit more to the story, we have:

The picture of the bowls club in 1955, in the middle of the front row is James Jackson. He moved to Dedham, Essex with my mother, Jean Batterby whom he married. Jim died on November 5th 1991, Mum is still alive. They had two daughters, Rachel and Rebecca who live near to Mum.

June Hammond, Hunstanton

Batterby versus Batterbee—any connection? Ed.

I have recently read a paper from the Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales, titled ‘Sense and Nonsense on Assisted Dying.’ This is such an important and emotive subject that it needs to reach as many people as possible, as the government seem to have it as an ongoing agenda. It is a comprehensive document which gives views, not just from the Church perspective, but also from the Medical profession, the Law and others including the possibility of risk to vulnerable people. You can read the document or find out more about the moral, ethical and practical dangers of legislation by logging on to

www.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-suicide-information.

There is currently a Private Member's bill before parliament to try to legalise it. Please have your say before it is too late.

Patricia Nevin □

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Parish Council Report by Cllr Suzy Daniels



I am struggling to believe that we are a quarter of the way through the year already!!! Each year seems to go quicker and quicker...is it a sign of age? Or just that time flies when you are busy??

Co-Option and Resignation.... Mr Colin Hipkin joined us at the end of January. Having grown up in the village, Colin is a well known parishioner who offers a detailed background knowledge of Dersingham and his enthusiasm in improving amenities is very welcome. Having already joined the Recreation Committee he is still investigating the other committees. Louise Rice, Dersingham's Sports co-ordinator joined the recreation committee in February. This should

enable a strong provision of sporting activities within the village. Louise co-ordinated Dersingham's involvement in the Inter Village games last year which proved very successful. It is with regret, due to ill health, that Cllr Bob Tipling has had to tender his resignation. Although he was only in office for a very short period this time, I would, on behalf of the Council, like to convey our appreciation for his dedication and experience. Bob you will be greatly missed! We still have vacancies so if you would like to sit the other side of the table please contact the office for an application to become a Parish Councillor. 01485 541465.

CRIME.....is very low in our village, let's get it down to zero!!!

During the period of 29th December to 26th January there were 5 crimes reported; these consisted of 1 assault (victim would not support the police), 2 common assault (one charged to court) both were domestic related, 1 burglary and 1 criminal damage to a 'For Sale' sign.

COUNTY COUNCIL...NO INCREASE of council tax, picnic site and incinerator update

Cllr Dobson reported the County Council would not be increasing their Council Tax. Dersingham would not be affected in regards to any cuts in services. Savings would be made through The Highways department as the mild winter had led to fewer repairs on the roads. A decision regarding the planning permission of the Incinerator had yet to be reached. If a decision has not been made by May it could bring an opportunity for a new vote. The manner in which the picnic site had been sold has been referred to the ombudsman and would be taken to parliament.

BOROUGH COUNCIL...NO INCREASE in council tax, electoral registration

Cllr Bubb reported the Borough would not be increasing their council tax. The County have won their appeal against the Borough's refusal of planning permission for the advertising signs on the George Pratt roundabout. A small group within the Borough Council are looking into all aspects of markets in the Borough with a view to making them viable and attractive to stallholders and customers. Although asked, the showmen of the Mart, this year declined to open in the afternoons during half term week; there may be a possibility to trial it next year. The appeal for planning application to 26 Manor Road offered another opportunity for the Parish council to object on the grounds of it being within the conservation area. From July, individuals would be expected to register rather than households on the Electoral Register. This information will then be compared with information held within the Department of Work and Pensions. It was requested by Parish Cllr Anderson that Cllr Bubb contact Freebridge in regards to making a contribution towards updating the streetlights in Gelham Court. The Regeneration and Economic Development Task Group was due to report its findings to the Cabinet and hoped for progress within the Borough as a result of its deliberations. Cllr Collingham is chairing the Open Gardens Committee which are organising various activities during the Spring Bank Holiday. **The 25th and 26th May.** The village fair will be a combined event with the annual open gardens, with a real community spirit. Further information can be obtained from www.dersinghaminmay.org.uk. Any offer of help over the two day event would be gratefully received.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES....All minutes for Full Council and Committees are available on the Dersingham Parish Council website.

Upcoming events....

The Recreation Committee intend to host several events this year including Active Norfolk Sports Roadshow on the 31st May and The Big Lunch on the 1st June. Both these events are for all ages.....not just the youth...please come along and try something new...Archery, wall climbing and indoor curling are among the suggested activities for the Sports roadshow. The children's summer activities are under consultation **so please keep an eye on Facebook , our website and future issues of Village Voice for dates and details.**

The use of Parish Council Noticeboards has been suspended. All notices can be viewed on the Office Noticeboard.

New exercise opportunity... I would like to say a Very Big WELL DONE to Lisa Barham for organising a Netball Club within the Village. It has proved very, very popular, attracting over 40 ladies on their first evening!! If you fancy joining in for the exercise or just want to enjoy an active hour with a friendly atmosphere they meet on a Monday eve 8pm-9pm at Dersingham VA primary School (St George's site) . *More from Lisa , further on in this issue. Ed.*

Use of Parish Council Reserves....

Cllr Tudor confirmed that no reserves had been used towards the precept. Cllr Hinds reported that the Council needed to make a decision regarding the use of reserves, the projected total being £133,000 by April 1st 2014.

Cllr Daniels requested £8000 for the Recreation ground committee to complete phase 2. Cllr Davey supported this, saying there was currently nothing suitable for ages 9-14, so it would make the playground fit for purpose. Phase 1 has been such a success in encouraging much greater use of the area. It was explained that if the council contributed the £8000 the Recreation Committee could then apply for a grant from WREN for a further £32,000 to complete the revamp.

Cllr Anderson requested £6000 for the replacement of existing street lanterns to LEDs using the following points: 1) To replace higher power lamps with LED lanterns, adding some SOX lanterns to the programme if any discounts for higher numbers were offered. 2) To replace failed lanterns with LEDs on an opportunity basis. 3) To replace 2 LED lamps in the area already converted to lamps with higher numbers of LEDs and to reuse the replaced lamps elsewhere. 4) To do such ancillary work as may be required to facilitate 1 and 2 above. 5) To investigate other financial sources for the programme. 6) To accrue savings on consumption and any underspend on the street lighting power budget to the earmarked reserve in order to further the programme.

Both proposed schemes were agreed by Full council.

Parish Council Emergency Plan...This has been discussed previously on several occasions, but a clear outcome and plan had not been achieved. Cllr Payne contacted Mr Kent at the Borough Council regarding MEP procedure. In an emergency the Police would take control of the situation. The Environment Committee are currently working towards completing a MEP procedure for the Parish Council.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

15 *Sherborne Rd*...Application for construction of single detached dwelling within existing gardens....*recommend approval.*

46 *Manor Rd*...*Application for change of use of part of ground floor dwelling to gym....Recommend approval*

2 *West Hall Rd*...*Revised Application for construction of a pair of semi-detached chalet style dwellings....the Chair took a casting vote to recommend approval*

3 *Edinburgh Way*...*Application for replacement of existing flat roof garage with new integrated garage to include bedroom and en suite extension to rear. Low wall to be replaced at front of property....recommend approval.*



DETERMINATIONS:

60 Lynn Rd...Granted

11a Post Office Rd...Granted

15 Woodside Avenue...Granted

92 Hunstanton Rd...Refusal

30 Chapel Rd...Granted

9 Pansy Drive...Granted (a letter explaining their decision was provided by the Borough Council)

26 Manor Rd...Resolved to reaffirm original objections to the Planning Inspectorate.

Having confidently assured the Editor this would be a fairly brief report, after sitting here collating all the information it appears to be quite lengthy! I hope you all find it keeps you up to date with the goings on within the Council. Happy Spring...let's hope there is plenty of sunshine! ☐



From the Parish Office

I hope everyone is enjoying the sunshine and getting ready for Easter, and the many outdoor events I am sure are taking place in the village and surrounding area.

At the time of writing this the Council membership is currently up and down. I would like to say a big thank you for the support of Robert Tipling and John Hunter whilst they were on the Council and wish them all the best for the future. I would also like to welcome Cllr Colin Hipkin who has recently joined, who I am sure will be a great help with planning issues and village knowledge. I am also pleased that another parishioner is waiting for an interview to come on, and sure he will also be a great asset to the Council. The Council will still have seven vacancies. If you would like a say in what is happening in your village please come and join us. The more Councillors that the Council has, the workload drops for the remaining few holding the Council together. Please think very hard; any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Your village NEEDS you.

The Recreation Committee is hard at work at the moment organising events for the Children during the Summer Holidays, mainly the week commencing 10 August and the 18 August, this will mainly be run by Active Norfolk. Watch this space for more details. If there is anything that your Children would like to undertake sports or otherwise or Adults, any sports for yourselves, drop us an email or note and we will pass on to those concerned.

I hope you will all sign up soon for the Intervillage Games at Lynn Sport on the 29 June 2014. It would be good to put Dersingham higher up the score sheet. For any further information please contact Louise on 07889378030 or email louiserice005@aol.com. Taster Roadshow 31 May 2014, come and have a try at a different sport.

How do you like the All Colour Village Voice? Advertising forms for the full year starting with the June Edition will be sent out very soon.

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 ☐

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The Dersingham Guide & Scout HQ in Manor Road provides a permanent meeting place for the 7 Dersingham Guide & Scout units. The building was constructed in 1974 after fundraising efforts and it will celebrate its 40th birthday in November 2014.

Since that time many members, leaders and supporters have continued to fundraise to maintain the building for the numerous young people who have joined the organisations. The Scouts & Guides receive no official money; they rely entirely on the support and generosity of their members and the general public.

This year some major work is required on the HQ roof and this will take place during the summer holidays. The sum of about £10,000 will be needed and the members have already begun fund raising. We have had a Christmas Coffee Morning & Draw, and a Quiz night; these will be followed by a number of other events in the forthcoming months. Amongst the sections we have had a Design-a-Commemorative badge competition, and the winning badge will soon be available to buy. The HQ Joint Management Committee will be applying for appropriate grants and we hope that the Village will continue to support us, as they have done in the past, with all our efforts.

Easter Fayre –Saturday 26th April -2pm -4pm

Annual Summer Fete –Saturday 14th June

Barn Dance –date to be arranged

For any further information please contact Mr Brian Greenacre-Chairman of the Joint Management Committee on 01485 541150 or any Unit Leader.

Presentation of Royal British Legion Affiliation Certificates to Dersingham Girl Guides, Brownies, Rainbows and Scouts

On Tuesday 11th February representatives from the Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies & Guides and 1st Dersingham Scout Troop were invited to attend the monthly meeting of the Dersingham & Sandringham Branch of Royal British Legion in order to receive their Unit Affiliation Certificates from Branch Chairman, Mrs Valerie Brundle. We shall display the certificates in our HQ and all members of the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Scout Troop will be entitled to wear the official RBL Affiliation badge on their uniform.



Freebridge Lynn District Thinking Day Celebration

On Wednesday 12th February between 50 and 60 members of the Dersingham Rainbows, 1st & 2nd Brownies and Guides attended their District Thinking Day Celebration. They joined girls from Sandringham, Snettisham and Gayton for the event, which was organised by the Sandringham and Snettisham units and held at the Memorial Hall in Snettisham.

The celebrations had an Indian themed based around the Guiding World Centre, Sangam. They made three crafts: a 3D decorative elephant, an "I Promise" candle holder and designed Henna patterns for hands. They also had a Bollywood dancing workshop, where one of the leaders was dressed in a sari. The evening concluded with a renewal of promises by each section and refreshments. All girls who attended received a Thinking day 2014 badge. *Lynne Wheeler* □

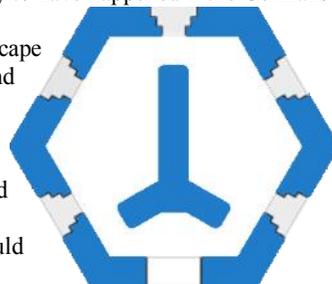
The Pill Box on Broadlands Close

by Brian Anderson



You may recall that a while ago I asked for information regarding the pillbox on Broadlands Close so that we could ask English Heritage to designate it. I have now received a reply from them and they have informed us that it falls outside their current designation criteria. That's a bit sad but at least Norfolk County Council has it listed as an historically interesting feature. I thought it might be of interest if I set out what I have learned about the fixed defences of c. 1940 and what is most likely to have happened if the Germans had tried to invade in 1940.

Firstly, I am grateful to Dick Melton for describing the landscape as it was in May 1940. The surrounding houses weren't there and the treescape on the marsh looking towards the sea wasn't there either. There would have been lots of barbed wire and slit trenches. Norfolk Heritage Explorer states that the site was probably that of a windmill marked on Faden's map of 1797 and that the box was probably sited to cover the railway crossing at Dersingham (although the clear view at elevation seawards would have been an equally good motive). Norfolk Heritage Explorer also says that the box is probably a type 22. I am certain that it is as I have (with difficulty due to the enclosing hedge) measured the dimensions and angles (1.8 metres on a side and 60° exterior angle) and looked at the embrasures. There is some remaining external brickwork which may form part of the shuttering to pour the concrete of the walls. Dick Melton tells me that the box was used by the Home Guard.



Plan of a typical FW3 Type 22 pillbox

Many types of pillboxes and other hardened field defences were built. Perhaps the most frequent were those constructed from designs provided by the Directorate of Fortifications and Works at the War Office. So ours is strictly an FW3 Type 22 box. It was bullet-proof, but tests showed that it would have been penetrated by a 25mm anti-tank round. There are currently 1209 Type 22 boxes still existing nationally of which about 221 are in Norfolk.



I now turn to the more contentious subject of the German invasion. The invasion was war-gamed in 1974 at Sandhurst (with, I believe, the involvement of the then West German Army). The first thing I want to say (and I expect bricks thrown at my head for this) is that the Royal Air Force and the *Luftwaffe* (German air force)

would have been to some extent irrelevant. This is based on the failure of the *Luftwaffe* to seriously disrupt Royal Navy operations both in the Norway campaign and at the evacuation of Dunkirk and the equivalent failure of the Royal Air Force to damage the German invasion fleet being assembled in the Channel ports. This is not to denigrate the bravery of the pilots of Fighter Command as the Battle of Britain inflicted the first serious check to German success and also did much to sustain home morale.

The German invasion plan was called *Sealion* (*Seelöwe*). In fact it wasn't really a plan at all but three plans developed by the three services and based on rather different assumptions. The German Navy (*Kriegsmarine*) was the least keen on the whole idea. In September 1940 they had not recovered from serious losses in the Norway campaign and had (in terms of larger warships) just three cruisers and four destroyers available to support the invasion. They envisaged an invasion on

a very narrow front with landings in Kent and Sussex. The *Werhmacht* (German Army) had far more ambitious plans. They wanted landings all the way from Dorset to the Wash with a feint attack from Norway towards Scotland. This plan was drawn up in almost total ignorance of the task. There were many areas where the *Werhmacht* underestimated difficulties or chose to ignore them. A sample:

- They had no purpose built landing craft. Most of invasion fleet would have come across in river barges and most of those were unpowered and would have to have been towed by tug. The freeboard of most of the barges was unsuitable for sea navigation.
- The *Werhmacht* saw the Channel crossing as a river crossing on a larger scale. This belief completely disregarded the nature of any sea crossing and especially so in the case of the Channel with its large tidal range, treacherous and contrary currents and sandbanks.
- The limited size of the *Kriegsmarine* and the lack of long range aircraft meant they would be deprived of reliable meteorological reports to enable the best invasion date to be chosen.
- The *Werhmacht* wished to hit the beaches at dawn. This would mean assembling the invasion fleet at night. The *Kriegsmarine* were adamant that this presented almost insuperable difficulties in assembling the fleet and demanded the fleet be assembled by day.
- Mine laying to protect the invasion corridor would have been inadequate due to the shortage of minelaying ships and the fact that the Royal Navy would be minesweeping as soon as the mines were laid.
- At the outbreak of war Britain turned off all the lighthouses and lightships and removed channel-marking buoys, making navigation difficult for those inexperienced in Channel waters.

The *Luftwaffe* plan did not involve a sea-borne invasion at all. Goering was convinced that Britain could be brought to the negotiating table by bombing alone. In a way, this was the only bit of Sealion that was implemented and we know that it failed.

The final plan seems to have been closer to the *Kriegsmarine* version than the *Werhmacht*. So, what did the 1974 war game conclude? This is where the great untold story comes into play. It's a mystery that it hasn't featured more in histories of the period. The war game showed the Germans making a successful landing and advancing up to 12 miles inland. They were first delayed by



defences such as "our" pill box and then held at stop lines inland. Further progress now depended on the larger second wave. But by this time the Royal Navy had got its destroyers into the Channel and carnage ensued with two thirds of the German force being sunk. Without resupply, their surrender was inevitable. The key was the overwhelming superiority of the Royal Navy.

If you want to read more, try: *Fighter* by Len Deighton, *Invasion, 1940* by Derek Robinson or *Silent Victory* by Duncan Grinnel-Milne. □



St Nicholas Church News

Resurrection Hope by Revd Julie Boyd, Curate

Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" *Mark 16:2-7*

The women who went to the tomb on that first Easter morning were met by an Angel. This Angel said four things to them, he said, "Do not be afraid", "Jesus is risen", "He is not here" and "You will see Him".

In the days leading up to Easter Sunday we spend time remembering the story of Jesus' passion, his death on the cross, that Jesus gave his life. On Easter Sunday we celebrate that Jesus is alive, we celebrate that new life.

In the days of the early Church, it used to be that the only time of year when adults were baptised was at Easter, early in the morning at dawn, that same time of day when the women came to the tomb. The period of Lent, those 40 days leading up to Easter, was an intensive time of preparation for them. It was important that the Baptism was at sunrise on Easter morning so that the connection was made with that first Easter morning when they found the tomb empty, that Jesus was alive, raised to new life. The people being Baptised were also starting out on a new life with Jesus as they were welcomed into God's family.

Just as Jesus died to save us from sin, and as Jesus had new life; we understand that in Baptism there is a washing away of all that is wrong so that we too can have new life.

At St Nicholas' Church, Dersingham this Easter, there will not be a Baptism service at the break of dawn! But there will be a celebration of new life, that Jesus is risen, no longer in the tomb and that we will see Him, we too can know Jesus.

You are warmly invited to join us for that celebration and other services:

| | |
|--|--|
| Sunday 13th April | Palm Sunday Family Service 10:30am |
| Wednesday 16th April | Stations of The Cross with Eucharist 11:15am |
| Thursday 17th April | Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 7:00pm |
| Friday 18th April | Walk of Witness – starting from St Nicholas 9:30am |
| | Church Open for Prayer 12noon |
| | Good Friday Service "The Cross of Christ" 2:00pm |
| Sunday 20th April | Easter Day Service of Holy Communion 10:30am |
| | Easter Day MESSY CHURCH 3:30pm |

Events During 2014

| | |
|--|---|
| Saturday 26th April | Grand Sale, |
| 25th & 26th May | Open Gardens & Village Fair |
| 21st May | Messy Church , 3:30pm in the Church Hall |
| Saturday 31st May | 7.30pm - Hunstanton Concert Band |
| Friday 20th June | 7.30pm- Ely Cathedral Choristers |



Everyone is welcome to come to Messy Church.

Plenty of opportunities exist for any interested to be involved in helping to run Messy Church. You could perhaps be involved in welcome, creating or leading some of the craft activities and games, helping with food preparation, or be part of the worship team with music and drama. □

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| WORCESTER | CAR | GRENADIER | CROSS |
| COAT | CHAMOIS | CUB | LEVERET |
| ORIBI | COLT | LAXTON | HART |
| ENSIGN | RUSSET | IMPALA | FAWN |

Puzzle Page

Answers on page 85

Sudoku No 35 by Rob

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

Where is it? What is it?

You need to look up for this one.



**Solution to Sudoku
No 34 in last issue**

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

Dersingham Walking Group



Welcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides regular guided walks round the local countryside. Despite a lot of rain lately, spring is definitely in the air and we have some suitably spring-like walks coming up. These include a chance to spot cowslips at Courtyard Farm and a visit to the Snettisham Bird Reserve for a high spring tide, which often brings in spectacular flocks of wading birds. We'll also be treading one of the most ancient paths in Britain, the Icknield Way, or at least a few miles of it.

The walks are free and there's no need to book, just turn up

on the day wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. Dogs are welcome, provided they're well behaved. The length is usually between 4 and 6 miles, taking around 2 or 3 hours with a stop or two, so why not get some fresh air and exercise, you'll be in good company!

Details of our next walks are:

Wednesday 9th April 2.00pm

Starting point: Layby on A148 opposite the road from Sandringham. Grid ref: TF 711 253
A circular walk round fields and footpaths visiting the village of Roydon.

Leader: Pat Reed 01485 540757

Wednesday 23rd April 2.00pm

Starting point: Courtyard Farm car park off Ringstead to Burnham road.

Grid ref: TF 722 405

A walk round field-edge footpaths with the chance to see cowslips and other early wild flowers.

Leader: Keith Starks 01485 542268

Tuesday 29th April 5.30pm

Starting point: Station Rd. Dersingham by the old railway station. Grid ref: TF 680 307

A walk to Snettisham Bird Reserve in time for a high spring tide and the chance to see many wading birds. Subject to access after storm damage (should be okay but check with leaders if in doubt). We regret that this walk is NOT suitable for dogs. Around 6 miles, estimated finish time 8.30pm.

Leaders: Steve and Lindsey Davis 01485 543138

Wednesday 14th May 2.00pm

Starting point: St Nicholas church hall Dersingham. Grid ref: TF 692 302

A chance to walk in the footsteps of our ancestors on part of the historic Icknield Way. Approx. 6 miles.

Leader: Cliff Jordan 01485 541115

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

www.dersingham.org.uk/announcements

Quoted grid references are for the relevant Ordnance Survey map, usually Landranger sheet 132 or Explorer sheet 250.

The leaders are happy to organize and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. As Alfred Wainwright said "watch where you put your feet"!

If you would like more information about an individual walk, such as the going underfoot, stiles etc. please contact the walk leader.

For general enquiries contact the group coordinator:

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



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Random Jottings

by Tony Bubb

Occasionally opportunity and inclination coincide to afford us a day out and so a few days ago we went over to Stamford. Initially, for us, the draw was the 70 dealer antiques centre but the rest of the town is well worth a visit.

Originally a garage, it always fascinating to find out what large antique centres were in a former life, what did all these big spaces get used for when they were built. The St Martins Centre has a huge range of goodies but, sadly, not the book trough we were seeking that day. Wonderful limestone buildings line the streets with thriving individual shops, offices, pubs and several churches making for a great townscape. Split by the River Welland it even has two High Streets. Oddly though, there was no sign of the cosy tea shop that one would expect, just a few very ordinary coffee shops. We can, however, recommend the George for a good lunch.

I was amused by an advert in the jobs section of a recent Westmorland Gazette posting a vacancy at Ambleside Health Centre for an enthusiastic Phlebotomist to join there friendly team. Enthusiastic? An opening for you budding vampires then!

Whilst in Stamford I found a drawing of King's Lynn's original Union Workhouse in Extons Road published in the Illustrated London News in 1854. Now replaced with a large red brick



building, it was a pleasant looking building from the outside if not from the inside. I am not sure though why someone thought it a suitable subject for a sketch.

I was contacted by John Moore who was in the Hardwick Isolation Hospital in the seventies being cured of pneumonia. He told me that it was quite small, resembling a little school. The matron was a Mrs Allen and she was married to the

mayor's chauffeur. Sadly he did not have any pictures. The search still goes on.

Previous enquiries have suggested that there are no foxes and badgers in Dersingham. The editor has photographed stoats and we often see a grey squirrel around and of course there are deer. But has the wild boar got here yet? I think there are some in Breckland and that is not too far away. I have seen a red kite around Anmer but not for a while and buzzards, kestrels, barn owls and marsh harriers can be seen from the beach road and around the bog and fen so we are getting a good range of birds of prey. For June's Village Voice Live we have the Flight of the Falcon display team bringing some birds along and they will be flying in the church hall, plus an opportunity to have them on your gloved hand we are promised. Can't wait!

Do enjoy your spring, mine looks like it involves a lot of fence building after the winds. □



Restoring the RSPB Snettisham Nature Reserve

Water levels in the pits have continued to drop over the last few weeks, revealing the full extent of the December storm surge damage. The causeway across the pits that forms part of the circular walk around the southern pit has been washed away. Additionally, two of the islands used by breeding and roosting birds have been destroyed.

Repairs to breaches and erosion of the outer sea defence bank were repaired by Environment Agency contractors in mid February. This included repairing the main wader roost bank – a third of which had been washed out into the pits.

Following this, the local construction college (CITB) have kindly offered to help restore the reserve by re-profiling damaged islands, and creating new ones, rebuilding the Sanctuary hide and repairing damaged screening banks. All done free of charge to help restore an important facility for the local economy and community following the tidal surge.

Work has commenced on repairs to the Shore hide – partial undermining of the foundations have now been made good. The plan is for this hide to be open again sometime in March. Delays to reinstating the roadway at the south end of the beach properties, has caused knock-on delays to the large scale clean up of rubbish and destroyed infrastructure on the inland side of the pits. Once repairs to the roadway are completed and vehicle access restored, clean-up work can begin.

In the short term, the RSPB is intending to restore limited viewing opportunities within the southern pits, and looking into the feasibility of restoring access across the causeway, whilst a longer term plan which looks at all possibilities for improving visitor facilities and re-profiling and creation of new islands is developed.

A huge thank you to CITB for all their vital work to restore the reserve, and to the public for all their donations.

Jim Scott, Site Manager North West Norfolk Reserves □



Operation Christmas Child Shoebboxes from Dersingham are tracked to Liberia

The 175 shoebboxes filled with gifts from the generous people of Dersingham for the Samaritan's Purse organisation's 'Operation Christmas Child' have been tracked to Liberia.

In a country where 85% of the population live below the poverty line, the gifts in the shoebboxes have been a godsend to poor families at Christmas

and have provided the first toys some of the children have ever owned.

Mary, mother of twins, says 'I thank God for Samaritan's Purse. It is the first time for my children to receive gifts. They are two years old now and their father left me when I gave birth. May God bless those who made my children happy this Christmas.'

Finda, aged 10 : 'I like the beads. The pens I use to learn how to write and the colouring pencils are what I use to learn how to colour. I pray for God to bless all the people who make these gifts come to us in this far place'. OCC shoebboxes have also been bringing Christian and Muslim communities together- the Christian church has gained respect within the community because they give boxes to all children in the community, asking for nothing in return.

Further details can be found www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk

Although Christmas is far away, it is not too soon to keep an eye open for small toys and gifts that could be used to fill shoebboxes again this November. Thank you for your support.

Carolyn Brock □

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Sandringham Squirrels

written by Allan Coleby, illustrated by Jeanne Ockenden

Girl squirrels

Ella
Eve
Cassie
Thora

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

Boy squirrels

Scoot
Chip
Barney
Gus

Let Me Get Warm

From the nest in the fork of their beech tree, Ella looked up at the stars and the moon. The moon was about half-full, just enough to see by to get around if you wanted to. It was cold and there was no wind and no cloud.

If you wanted to get around, though, during the night, you would find it dangerous. Ella had heard the owl four or five times during the early part of the night, though the last time he seemed far away. Mum had told them that occasionally he would attack and kill small squirrels if he was hungry. Food was scarce at this time of the year, especially the small mice and voles the owl usually fed on, but Ella, Eve and Scoot were fully grown now, and the owl would not even try to attack them.

It had been cold for many nights now. It always seemed especially cold when you could see the moon and stars clearly, as now. It had been a cold winter. Mum said there were signs of spring and her young ones were not sleeping many days and nights before they wanted to go out and drink water and find what food they could. Many of the stores of nuts, acorns, beech-mast and cones, that had been buried or hidden in the autumn, had been eaten up now, and they often went hungry.

Ella heard noises from the ground near their tree. Someone was shuffling through the leaves left last autumn. These had now dried out and were stiff and made a rustling noise if anyone went through them. The noises continued, and then Ella realised that there was some tapping on the tree. The others were asleep, and so she strained her ears. She had never heard noises like this before.

Soon, Ella realised the noises were getting close to the nest. She looked round in the dim light to see where Mum and Scoot were. She felt a bit frightened. Two small, tufty ears appeared and then a dark grey head. Ella held her breath. Then she could see most of the head and recognised it. It was Chip, who sometimes went round with her and Scoot and Eve.

Chip recognised Ella and whispered, 'Hello, Ella.'

Ella did not reply or move. Chip was a friend of theirs, and she thought he was the most sensible of the boy squirrels, for many of them were a bit of a nuisance. But she was really puzzled and still frightened. What was the meaning of this in the middle of the night? Chip heaved himself a bit closer, right onto the rim of the nest.

'Can I come in?' he whispered. 'I'm ever so cold.'

Still Ella did not speak, but moved aside a little to make room. She felt Chip's cold body slide in beside her. 'Oh no, you don't.'



It was Mum's voice, really loud and harsh. It cut through the night air. Scoot and Eve were awake instantly.

'You don't come in here,' she said. 'You are not one of our family and, anyway, you are a boy.' With that, Mum reached across Ella and bashed Chip really hard, several times, on the head. She tried to bite him, but could not quite reach. At the same time, Mum made the noise she always made when there was trouble about. 'Tak, tak, tak, tak,' she went, and carried on hitting Chip.

'Go on. Get out,' she shouted. She was not going to stop. She wanted only one thing – Chip to get out. Chip could see there was no point in arguing. He scrambled back over the side, and climbed down the tree.

Mum took deep, heavy breaths after all her efforts. Then she came into the middle of the nest and bashed Ella, hard, on the head and neck.

'That's for letting him in,' she said. 'You have nothing to do with these boy squirrels, do you hear? They go away in summer and autumn and only feed themselves. They don't bother with the young ones, like I did with you last year. In fact, they go around in little gangs in the early Spring, but every so often they get cold and try to get into the nest. You keep them out, do you hear?'

'Yes, Mum,' said Ella softly. She had been frightened of the noises before, but now she was frightened of her mum. It really hurt where she had hit her, and Ella didn't want to be hit any more.

Mum slowly calmed down, and soon they all went to sleep again.

A few days later, Ella woke up again, hungry. She slid out of the nest and down the tree. She did not usually go out on her own, but this time she just had a feeling she would meet Chip walking in the wood, and she did. She wondered if he would be angry about Mum hitting him and throwing him out, but he was not.

'Hey, Ella. Are you hungry again?' he asked. Ella nodded.

'Well, there's a secret place I've got where I stored nuts last autumn. If I show you where it is, will you promise not to tell anyone, not even Scoot and Eve?'

Ella was not sure. She waited a while. She loved Scoot and Eve more than anybody. They were her brother and sister. She liked Chip, but she was not sure why he seemed to be so very friendly to her, more than anyone else.

She was not sure why, but suddenly she said, 'Yes.'

Chip seemed really delighted, and led Ella to the end of the gorse bushes, where the heath started.

'There are lots of rabbit holes here,' he said, 'and they are no use to us. But last autumn there were lots of scrapes – you know, where they scrape a little hole and leave it and go somewhere else. Well, last autumn, I put some sweet chestnuts and hazels and acorns in some scrapes and covered them with earth. No-one goes near the rabbit holes. I don't know why – they don't do us any harm. But anyway, these scrapes which I filled in were all on the wood side of the rabbit holes, and I can find them any time I feel hungry. Come on. I'll get you some nuts.'

So Ella accepted the nuts. She felt very guilty about not being able to tell Scoot and Eve, but she couldn't do anything about it.

Chip was clever to hide them and to find them, and he seemed to like her. He looked at her in a special way.

Oh well, she thought, at least I am not hungry any more. □





Dersingham's 2013 Poppy Appeal Figures

First we must apologize for missing the deadline for the Village Voice for February but, due to circumstances beyond our control, no collections figures were available at that time. We must thank sincerely all our collectors and businesses in Sandringham, Dersingham, West Newton and Wolferton for the help they gave us

with the door to door collections, as well as boxes on shop counters, and of course the static collectors, not forgetting the Army Cadets who helped us at Budgens on 2nd. November 2013.

We were invited to speak at the Ladies Lunch at St. Cecilia's on 2nd. November to inform the guests how the money raised for the Poppy Appeal is spent and we must thank the Ladies for their generous donation of £109 to our appeal.

The Church collection on Remembrance Sunday was sent direct to the Poppy Appeal HQ instead of being given to the British Legion and forwarded to our appeal. However, including the £431 collection we have raised £6001 to date, which is an increase on last year of £250.

We urgently need new collectors for 2014, with some people unable to help every year. So if anyone can offer their services for two or three hours we should be grateful and ask you to contact us please. Pamela Kendal on 01485 544404 or Karen Bushell on 01485 540236. □



Dersingham Netball Club

I have always loved netball as a girl and played for a brief spell with the Feathers team at Lynnsport in 2010. Due to university commitments I was unable to continue but made a pact with myself that I would play again in the future. Dersingham is such a lovely village with some great people so I thought I would like to get to know more of the community around me and what a great way to do so by starting a club, a netball club!! I chatted to some

mums at the school gate and there was great interest, so I began to plan. I wanted the club that would be fun, accessible to all but without a huge commitment to people. Also it would promote public health, not just physically but exercise is great for a person's mental well-being too.

I teamed up with Louise Rice, who runs the inter-village games for Dersingham, who had contacts with Active Norfolk and they helped us by producing posters to advertise the netball club. Gayle Platt at Dersingham Primary School thought it was a great idea and was happy for us to train in the school gym. We were astonished when we had 43 women turn up and so was the coach, Claire Gunns from Active Norfolk: she said she has run many netball courses but never with such a good turnout, and it wasn't even a one off, they come back the next week too and we currently have 56 members. We have been training hard to get back into the game, learning new skills and finding muscles we didn't know existed!



We have been given a grant from Dersingham Parish Council, which is much appreciated to help us become more established as a group. This will help us to buy equipment and the necessary kit to continue the group. We welcome anyone/business in the village if they would like to become involved with the group as either a player or sponsor to contact myself on the details below.

I would like to say thank you to all our members for the positive effort that has been put into the netball team, it has been a fantastic start and I think we have a bright future ahead of us!

Lisa Barham 07879664090 or L.barham219@btinternet.com □

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| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| MONDAY | 9.15 - 10.15 am | Body Sculpt (an all over workout using weights) <i>suitable for all levels</i> | Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall PE31 6NZ |
| MONDAY | 10.30 - 11.30 am | Stretch & Relaxation (gentle stretch & relaxation) <i>suitable for all levels</i> | Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall PE31 6NZ |
| MONDAY | 12.15 - 1.00 pm | Fitness Pilates <i>suitable for all levels</i> | Heacham Public Hall PE31 7HG |
| MONDAY | 1.05 - 2.05 pm | Zumba Gold (gentle Zumba workout) <i>suitable for all levels</i> | Heacham Public Hall PE31 7HG |
| TUESDAY | 10.00 - 11.00am | Active Seniors (gentle aerobics) <i>suitable for all levels</i> | Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall PE31 6NZ |
| TUESDAY | 6.00 - 7.00 pm | ● Zumba <i>shimmi shake and have fun an all over body workout</i> | Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall PE31 6NZ |
| TUESDAY | 7.05 - 8.05 pm | ● Body Sculpt (an all over workout using weights) | Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall PE31 6NZ |
| WEDNESDAY | 9.00 - 10.00 am | ● On the Ball with Fitness Pilates <i>find different ways to work your core with the stability ball and small balls</i> | Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall PE31 6NZ |
| WEDNESDAY | 10.15 - 11.15 am | Zumba <i>shimmi shake and have fun an all over body workout</i> | Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall PE31 6NZ |
| WEDNESDAY | 11.30 - 12.30 pm | ● Fitness Pilates <i>suitable for all levels</i> | Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall PE31 6NZ |
| WEDNESDAY | 6.00 - 7.00 pm | ● Fitness Pilates | St Georges School Hall PE31 6LR |
| WEDNESDAY | 7.05 - 8.05 pm | ● Freestyle Fitness Yoga a fitness inspired Yoga class | St Georges School Hall PE31 6LR |
| THURSDAY | 1.30 - 2.30 pm | Zumba Gold (gentle Zumba workout) <i>suitable for all levels</i> | Snettisham Memorial Hall |
| THURSDAY | 6.30 - 7.30 pm | Total Body Blitz 6 ten minute sessions working on different areas of the body | Dersingham Methodist Hall |
| FRIDAY | 6.15 - 7.00 pm | ● HiiT (always call first) <i>high intensity interval training</i> | St Georges School Gym PE31 6LR |
| SATURDAY | 9.30 - 10.20 pm | ● KETTLERCISE <i>A complete body workout using the Kettle Bell</i> | St Georges School Gym PE31 6LR |
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Dersingham Task Force

Did you see our Christmas tree at St. Nicholas Church Christmas Tree Festival? If so, you may have noticed that we urgently require MORE VOLUNTEERS to help us with our tasks of keeping the flower beds in the village looking respectable, keeping the footpaths open, occasional litter-picking on the Warren, Common, etc. and doing other jobs that are needed from time-to-time.



Although we have a stalwart band of volunteers (and were very pleased to be joined by Margaret just before Christmas), we do need more helpers particularly in the spring and summer when all the vegetation is growing rapidly, the weeds are trying to obscure the roses and the grass, brambles and shrubs are seeking to turn the footpaths into obstacle courses.

If you like to see the village looking tidy and could spare a few hours each month, we should be delighted if you would join us. We are a friendly bunch who meet (weather and other commitments permitting) at 10.00am for a couple of hours on the first and third Wednesdays of each month throughout the 'growing season'. During the summer we also have a monthly rota to ensure that the rose bed in Post Office Road is kept in good condition. We can supply the tools, so all we want are some WILLING HANDS (with gardening gloves!) - and A SENSE OF HUMOUR!

If you are interested in trying us out or learning more about us either email: taskforce@whiffersworld.co.uk and ask to be put on the mailing list or phone Sue on 543870 – or just turn up. Our next job will be on Wednesday, 2nd April when we will be working on the footpath in Centre Vale.

Keith Starks □



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APPEAL

Village Voice Live

Nothing But Your Footprints—Tuesday 4th February



Malcolm Cox, the nature correspondent of Lynn News, presented to the audience a miscellany of images and anecdotes of the flora and fauna of the North-West Norfolk Coast.

The images were in slide format and, by the speaker's own admission, were mostly taken some years ago, the majority being located around the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Norfolk Ornithologists' Association's reserves at Holme, the latter of which he was associated with for some time. Others were taken at the RSPB reserves at Titchwell, where he was a volunteer worker, and Snettisham. Birds featured strongly in the photographs and also the anecdotes. The robin, shrike and waxwing

were seen, encouraging tales of the recovery of the sparrowhawk and avocet in the area were told and illustrated but, sadly, he also related the story of the decline of the tree sparrow. There was even the exceptional tale of the puffins that had been blown southwards from their natural habitat and stranded on the North Norfolk Coast; they were recovered, sent for a recuperative stay at East Winch, then released, somewhat reluctantly, back into the wild.

There were other images and tales from the shoreline of the plants growing there, patterns of lichens, interesting shells and other flotsam to be found on the strand line. Also examples of some of the more unusual things washed up on the shore, such as a whale and a chest freezer! Butterflies were not omitted, and a selection of these summer visitors also appeared on screen.

Malcolm did acknowledge that this was a random selection from his local experiences over the years without any particular structure to the talk, except by local connection, but I don't think that this detracted from the entertainment. I might have questioned his apparent lack of some local knowledge but this may have been a ruse to try to involve the audience more. - they certainly provided additional information and corrections at times. There were less in the audience than normally attend these events - was it simply a case of the poor weather deterring many, or possibly an uncertainty as to what the subject of the talk was going to be, as this was not entirely clear from the advanced publicity.

Whiffler

Cold War Architecture in East Anglia—Tuesday 4th March



The evening started with Dr Ken Hamilton playing the first part of a sixties information film with the memorable tones of Patrick Allen telling you what to do when you heard the four minute warning. This set the tone for a very detailed look at the mechanics of nuclear warfare. Utilising some WW2 installations the early part of the period gradually got up to speed with defence and detection and by the 60's there were specialist radar towers, bunkers and airfields liberally scattered around the region. Some of the effort was entirely wasted

with things that never worked and abandoned within a short time and others that are still around, either derelict or enjoying different uses today. As most of the remaining sites are still sensitive much use of Google Earth was utilised to illustrate the talk. Did you realise that a V Bomber pilot on a mission only had fuel for one direction? This was a talk full of such revelations and made us glad that the Cold War had probably gone away.

Dumpling □



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Ward Gethin Archer

Ward Gethin Archer Solicitors are delighted to announce that the staff and lawyers at Berry & Walton Solicitors have joined Ward Gethin Archer as from 27 January 2014.

The Berry & Walton team in King's Lynn have moved to the Ward Gethin Archer premises on the Tuesday Market Place, Berry & Walton premises at 8 High Street Heacham has become part of the Ward Gethin Archer group of offices, offering traditional values and local service.

Managing Partner Chris Dewey said, 'We will continue to provide all our clients with the same high quality services they are already used to, and we are all looking forward to committing to, and expanding the business in Heacham. All Berry & Walton clients that had Wills, deeds and other documentation with Berry & Walton can be assured that they are now being stored at the King's Lynn office free or charge. We welcome any enquiries in this regard from former clients of Berry & Walton and would be happy to assist with any future legal requirements they may have.' Ward Gethin Archer can be contacted on 01553 660033 at their Tuesday Market Place Offices in Kings' Lynn or at High Street, Heacham 01485 571366.

Ward Gethin Archer now has 7 branch offices in Dereham, Ely, Heacham, King's Lynn (town centre), King's Lynn (North Lynn industrial estate – from April), Swaffham and Watton. The 11 strong partnership and their team of lawyers and support staff are committed to serving their local areas, they understand the unique characteristics of their regions and are committed to serving local people for all their legal requirements.

Pictured from left to right: Gurpal Singh with managing partner Chris Dewey & Tara Dugdale. □



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Scrappy Cat Crafts are pleased to announce their move to larger premises.

From 1st March they will be trading from 5 Old Church Rd., Snettisham, just across the road from their existing shop in Lynn Rd.

The business has now been running for nearly four years and has a loyal band of regular customers and visitors from further afield. We hope they will benefit from the larger, brighter area in which to

browse and access our much extended range of art materials and craft products.

The move will also provide far more space and comfort for our popular art and card making classes, allowing us to accommodate more class members. If you are interested please ring 01485 298017.

Scrappy Cat Crafts also run a very successful web, Facebook and ebay shop businesses as well as the Snettisham shop, and is constantly looking to add additional lines to satisfy the needs of the ever growing band of crafters, and the local art community.



Ron King □



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Dersingham VA Infant and Nursery School

It has been all change at our Dersingham schools this year! In September, Years 1 and 2 moved up to the old St Georges site to join our KS2 children, creating a wonderfully vibrant, busy atmosphere. This provided a fantastic opportunity to transform the old infant site into a facility catering specifically for the Early Years. We have welcomed 2 year old children into our new Peapods Nursery, where they are benefiting from a fabulous



array of new equipment, supporting development through exploration and play. Our Nursery and Reception children are thriving in their refurbished classrooms and stimulating outside area. They have the opportunity to explore messy play in the mud kitchen, tend to the plants and chickens in the sensory garden and practise their physical skills on the rolling hill and colourful playground. The older children are enjoying the benefits of a new creative curriculum, with learning challenges and multi-cultural experiences, including African drumming and Samba dancing! The children have welcomed a



whole variety of visitors into school, such as Oly Day's magic road safety show and a wonderful adaptation of Cinderella. Reception Class children sent invitations to their parents inviting them to share a healthy superhero breakfast.

With a new Eco-Council and Student Council, the children are driving the school forward, organising events to raise money for school improvements, such as developing the pond and bird hide, as well as raising money for charities, such as Children in Need. Year 4, 5 and 6 children have already participated in an array of sporting events including a swimming gala, cross country events, tag rugby, football and Quicksticks tournaments, where they have proudly returned with medals and



certificates. Both the Early Years and Primary School children, have had opportunities to enhance learning out of the school environment. A trip to the Eco-Centre in Swaffham, a musical experience at the local library, an adventure at Budgens, as well as exploring in the beautiful Sandringham woods that skirt our playing field. With Spring beginning to burst out all around us, we are looking forward to another fun filled half term! □



Bully Boy's Patch by Sidney



I really don't know what all the fuss is about me being a bully. All I want is have it my own way. Is that too much to ask for? Really? I do not think so! After all, I came out of a big black bag when my mum took me home. That was nearly 5 years ago. Now I am a big boy of 8kg, but then I was just about 7 or 8 weeks old.

At my new home I learned that I have to get on with a 4-legged creature with long ears, big front teeth and a blob as a tail. OK, I did that. Next there was a bigger version of me, but in all colours of the earth, not like me spotty grey. Her name is Meetze. I liked that one. It showed me how to clean myself, how to go to the loo and how to climb up on things. The climbing thing was the easiest. Those long things beside the window were great, because as soon I was somewhere between floor and ceiling, I got picked up and put on the floor again. That was great fun. Up and down, up and down. For whatever reasons, my mum did not think so and nor did the male 2-legged human. I got told off, which had not much effect as you can imagine. But when the white bottle came that spit water at me, it got serious. I do not like that bottle. Just the sight of it makes me look for a safe place to go.

Next I learned that I cannot sleep on my mum's face. I can sleep on all the creatures' faces in the house, but not on the human ones. Why? I hereby ask all 4-legged readers to send me an answer if they have got one. My address: Sidney, 2nd climbing frame on the right, Pretty Garden with the Mouse nest under the Pampas grass, Dersingham. Thank you.

After a few weeks my mum put a device around me and took me outside. I discovered very quickly that that device stops me running where I want to. Never mind, I just fall down and roll over, you know, doing the cute thing. Unfortunately it did not really work. Every time I did that, I was taken back inside. OK, I will do her the favour and walk where she wants me to. Actually, it's not that bad. It is a massive garden and I saw the same creatures outdoors as indoors. But the ones with the long ears were all grey like me, but no spots. And the ones who look like me are in all sorts of colours and fur style. Some looked at me briefly before going off. Some ignored me completely, which was not very good for my ego I must say, and the little grey one from the garden across looks very cute, a lot like me and about my size. She is fun to play with. She is on the same device as me, just in red, mine is blue.

After a few months, I was shown how to serve my humans with a mouse. Where did Meetze get that little thing from? I didn't know I had to hunt to feed my humans? I thought they are looking after me?

Meetze did not hang around to explain. But the humans praised her and gave her loads of treats. I can do that! I know where a mouse nest is. I look at it every day from my climbing frame. Next time I am out in the garden, I try to catch one of them. Device or not, I'll get my mum a mouse. Maybe even two. After another few months, a black 3-legged look alike moved in. She is very shy and she always hisses at me when I come near her to play. And my mum told me off for banging my paw on her head. Why can I not play with that one? Her name is Beauty, and she is one. But she does not play with me! Sulk.

One morning, my mum came home just left 10 minutes after she had left. And, she had a completely grey version of me in her arm. Very thin, no spots. I was told that that is Johnnie and that I have to be nice to her because she is ill. But, my humans missed telling Johnnie that she is apparently ill. Within 5 minutes of her being in the house, she was chasing me up the stairs, around the bed, into the bath, back down the stairs, where she jumped on top of me. I saw that coming and turned. Now we are wrestling. Oh that is fun. Rolling around on the floor. My mum never did that with me, nor did Meetze, Beauty or that long eared creature. That long eared creature is now always curled up with Beauty on the black armchair. You can't really make out who is who. They are both the same colour and sort of wrapped around each other. Outch, Johnnie whacked me around the ears. Got to go, got the get Johnnie... □

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Library News by Alison Thorne

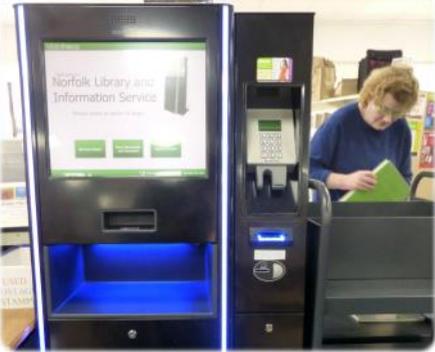
April 2nd will see the launch of Norfolk's new LMS - Library Management System. For those outside of libraries, this is the system we use to issue/return library books, give new customers library cards, to see if there's a particular book in stock and find out where you are on a waiting list for a new book (plus lots more I won't trouble you with!). You won't notice any difference on our self-service machines though! For those of you who haven't been in recently, these now give change and one of the two has chip and PIN payment.

The library now offers free Wi-Fi! You'll still need your library card and PIN number to access it. Ask staff for more details.

Up and coming events:

Advice on buying your own home PC or laptop 8th April 2014 10:00 - 12:00

Learn all you need to know before purchasing your own laptop or PC, including what you should choose to suit your needs, how much to spend and all the jargon you need to know. This is a free course run by Norfolk Adult Education Service and is aimed at adults over 65.



Shopping online - all you need to know to shop safely 11th April 2014 10:00 - 12:00

Learn about the risks and safeguards of shopping online and what you have to do to make a successful purchase. This is a free course run by Norfolk Adult Education Service and aimed at adults over 65.

Crafty May Wednesday mornings - we are looking for local people to demonstrate their flare for patchwork/knitting/lace making/rag-rug making

or anything else you'd care to share with library customers.

Feel better with a book - Relax and listen to stories and poems read aloud to you over a cup of tea, in a small friendly group. Share your response or just enjoy having someone read to you. A chance to meet others, lift your mood and enjoy something new. Starts Tuesday 29th April 10.30-12 for 6 weeks. We are looking for up to 12 people who'd like to join the group which will meet when the library is closed, read pieces of prose and poetry together, and share their reactions. You don't have to be a great reader, or be into great literature!

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Easter activities Wednesday 9th April 10.30-12

Come along and celebrate the wonderful novels by Jeff Kinney. There'll be colouring, puzzles, an opportunity to 'Wimpify' yourself and make your own comic!

World Book Night celebrations on Wednesday April 23rd from 3-5pm

Why not come along to Dersingham Library on World Book Night and see lots of our recommended reads, plus tell us about some of your own! Refreshments will be provided. No need to book, just pop in to share





some good reads with others!

Our new **Village Read** launches on April 12th

A Gathering Storm by Rachel Hore - a classic wartime saga tracing the fortunes of an old West Country family swept up in the horrors of the Blitz. Why not give it a try and then tell us what you thought of it? The read will run until May 26th!

Reading Adventures (formerly the Summer Reads project) will be running once again at the Library from May. Watch out for more details to come!

Our New **Dyslexia collection** - these titles are proving really popular especially with boys! There are a wide range of titles, with text that is more-widely spaced and printed on cream coloured thicker paper making the text much clearer to read. Ask library staff if you'd like to know more about the collection.

Our New **foreign language fiction collection** - featuring titles in Lithuanian, Latvian, Russian and Polish. Libraries across Norfolk generally offer a range of titles depending on languages spoken locally, and there is a larger pool stock based at County Hall that we can call on. If there's a language you want, but can't see there, just ask library staff and we can order them in.

Spring reads - coming soon

There are new titles from Jo Nesbo (The Son), Sophie Hannah (Telling Error), David Baldacci (The Target), Nicci French (Thursday's children), Donna Leon (By it's cover), Camilla Lackberg (Buried Angels), Lindsey Davis (Enemies at Home) and lots more....

You can check out our new Pinterest boards (where you get to see the book jackets, plot summaries and more) at <http://www.pinterest.com/NorfolkLibsUK/>

Don't forget our regular events:

Monday Scrabble club 1.30-3pm

Come along and make new friends at this weekly club. Refreshments available.

Wednesday Scrabble Club 2-3.30pm

Come along and make new friends at this weekly club. Refreshments available.

Thursday morning Knit and Natter group -10:30 - 12:00

A weekly drop in morning for those who knit or crochet (or those who are interested in learning how to do both). Coffee and tea available.

Thursday Pre-school storytime 14:00 - 14:30

Stories and activities for pre-school children, parents or carers and babies are very welcome too!

Knit and Natter at night - first and third Thursdays of the month 6-7pm

Bring some needles and some yarn along. Not need to book, just drop in! Refreshments available.

Crime Book Club meets on the 2nd Monday of the month 6-7pm

Book club meets on the 3rd Monday of the month 6-7pm



For further details clubs or events or to book places, please phone the library on 01485 540181:

Alison Thorne □



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Our National Park

by David Bingham (photos from RSPB Images)

I've always been surprised at the lack of pride the people of Norfolk have for their national park. This is very different from the good folk of Yorkshire who are forever banging on about the scenic splendour of their dales and moors, or the residents of Cumbria who get dewy eyed when describing their fells and lakes. This local pride is repeated wherever national parks have been established from Northumbria to Devon. So why are we less vocal about the Norfolk Broads National Park? It may be that the flat landscape, uninspiring towns and dark turbid rivers are difficult to describe in lyrical prose. Or perhaps it's the ugly fibreglass leisure cruisers moored alongside unwelcoming pubs that look like they belong in the 1970s. I doubt the landlords would flinch if you ordered scampi and chips in a basket washed down with a warm flat pint of Watneys Red Barrel. We should try to see the Norfolk Broads in another light because what they lack in hills and dales, they more than make up for in wildlife and history.

I first visited the Norfolk Broads as a teenager but it was many years later when my eyes were opened to the true nature of the place. This new understanding came one summer when I was standing on the dam that separates Cockshoot Broad from the River Bure. On one side of the dam the river water ran dark and sluggish on its journey to the sea. On the other side the translucent water in the broad had water lilies on the surface, colourful flowers on the bank and a rich aquatic flora. Damselflies and dragonflies were darting to and fro while small warblers scolded passersby from the cover of the emergent reeds. Cockshoot Broad is a Norfolk Wildlife Trust reserve and the water quality was the result of a lot of hard work - particularly pumping out years of accumulated sediment. I'll start at the beginning and attempt to explain how the Norfolk Broads got to be the way they are and what the future may hold.

The Norfolk Broads didn't exist in Roman times and the Saxon Shore fort at Burgh Castle would have looked out over an estuary with a landscape of meandering rivers, reedbeds, woodlands and marshes in the background. The estuary is now known as Breydon

Water and alternating cycles of spit formation and closure at the estuary mouth, followed by breaching and saltwater incursion into the low-lying wetland, formed the soil types that underlie Broadland today. These cycles operated naturally for millennia and peat was formed in some areas of freshwater marsh. It was the demand for peat as a source of fuel in the



Middle Ages, to keep the inhabitants of Norwich warm and to heat their food, which led to the formation of the Norfolk Broads. Norfolk does not have coal and is not particularly well wooded so peat was a plentiful and easily accessible fuel for the increasingly prosperous city. This fact hasn't always been understood but a look at a map or aerial photograph makes this man-made nature of the broads clear. They are generally adjacent to the rivers and joined to them by a short straight channel. These channels were used to transport the peat from the workings by boat and onwards to Norwich along the river system. Flooding and a fall in demand led to the abandonment of the peat workings. Grazing livestock on drained pastures has also been a historic land use in the area – particularly on silt deposits. The open grazing marshes dotted with abandoned or converted wind pumps is still an iconic part of the Broadland landscape today and well known to anyone who has driven along the 'Acle Straight' to Great Yarmouth.



The Norfolk Broads were probably at their most attractive soon after peat digging ceased when aquatic life moved into the flooded pits to form the broads – not that anyone seems to have noticed at the time. Perhaps the Black Death distracted them from a full appreciation of the wonders of nature. The water would have been clear in the broads and there was an incredible diversity of life living in the adjacent wetlands ready to colonise the new habitat. The drained grazing marshes also supported high numbers of breeding waders such as lapwing, redshank and snipe along with wintering wildfowl. This harmonious balance continued into the twentieth



century and then things began to change for the worse. The biggest driver of this change was the addition of nutrients into the system in the form of phosphates from sewage and nitrates from arable run-off upstream in the river catchment.

The process of nutrient enrichment of freshwater is called eutrophication and this is what led to the increase in algal growth and the destruction of the water quality of the broads. The increase in algae could have been counterbalanced by an increase in the population of small invertebrates called daphnia that feed on it. This didn't happen because daphnia needed the protection of emergent reeds at the water's edge to enable them to hide from fish species that feed on them. The reeds were prevented from growing because of damage by pleasure boats. So we had a situation that spiralled out of control and resulted in poor habitat quality and diminished visitor experience. Things are changing and the water quality of an increasing number of broads is improving – particularly those that are managed as nature reserves by RSPB, Natural England or the wildlife trusts. Sewage treatment is getting better at stripping out phosphates and farmers are managing nitrate applications to a higher standard. Isolated broads are having their sediment removed and reeds are once again growing alongside the wetlands and waterways. The rivers are more difficult to improve because they drain land outside the jurisdiction of The Broads Authority.





The history of the grazing marshes has also had its ups and downs. During the 1980s local farmers wanted more drainage to allow them to grow profitable cereal crops. This was a close fought battle and we could have lost this precious landscape. Fortunately, sense prevailed and the Broadland grazing marshes were designated the country's first Environmentally Sensitive Area with strict rules on how it could be farmed.

The Norfolk Broads are slowly turning into a landscape to be proud of and even though they face threats from sea level rise, tourism and intensive agriculture the future is brighter than the recent past. My

memories tend to be about particular plants and animals: Norfolk hawkers dragonflies patrolling a patch of water soldiers in a drainage dyke, an otter hunting at Strumpshaw Fen, searching for rare fen orchids on Sutton Fen, swallowtail butterflies landing on milk parsley, peregrine falcons stooping on wildfowl on Buckenham Marshes, a flock of pink-footed geese landing on Berney grazing marsh on a cold winter day, a bittern emerging from reeds. All of these encounters took place in a rich ecosystem with crystal clear water and wide open skies that can match anything you will see in the grandeur of the upland national parks. □



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Items of Bric-a-Brac should be delivered to the Church Hall as early as possible on **Friday 25th April, from 9.00a.m. to 12.00 noon.**

Books and clothing can be received at any time during the coming weeks, and can also be delivered to the monthly Coffee Mornings at the Church Hall, or contact one of the following:

Clothing contact: Mary Sharp, Tel: (01485) 540350.

Bric-a-Brac and general enquiries contact: Neil Adams (01485) 540857

Books contact: Roger Leedham (01485) 544764

A feature on Radio 4, on the "You and Yours " consumer programme, reported that it has been estimated that our homes contain, on average, £400 worth of new or nearly new goods which could be shed in a de-cluttering exercise. If you are having a spring-cleaning session and are about to clear out unwanted items, we would be please to hear from you or see you on Friday 25th April at the Church Hall. Please tell your friends too!



All about Rotary by Phil Newell and Rene Rooth

We Rotarians have found that not many people realise all that Rotarians aim to do. Some believe that all we do is collect for charity. While this, of course, is true there is so much more than this. Many Rotarians have commented that being members has changed their lives for the better and that lasting friendships have been made.

So who exactly are we? We are business and professional volunteers and we are all

united in the ideal of service. We belong to 'Rotary International' which is the largest fellowship of men and women in the world, all of whom are dedicated to peace and understanding. Rotarians believe in freedom and democracy, coupled with the acceptance and tolerance of other people's religions and political beliefs.

Rotary Clubs exist in most countries and well over one million people, who are organised into different Rotary Clubs, are proud to be called Rotarians, believing in world peace, friendship and care for others. We aim to consider the following:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

We try to be absolutely fair in all these. We aim to enjoy friendship and fellowship with other Rotarians. We believe that all useful occupations are valuable and helpful and we aim to have high standards to help us in what we do for others. This service is at the very heart and soul of Rotary and we want to help others locally, nationally or internationally who may be less fortunate than ourselves. Wherever you see the characteristic Rotary wheel (see the picture above) you know that Rotarians are involved.

We hope to include more about Rotary and what we do in later editions of the magazine. Meanwhile you can find out more from our website www.hunstanton-rotary.org.uk.

You may have already seen the poster outside Budgens Supermarket advertising that on Wednesday, March 26th at Le Strange Arms Hotel, Old Hunstanton, 12.15 for 12.45 pm we are holding a meeting for anyone who is interested in Rotary. The meeting should be finished by 2.30 pm. We hope that Friends of Rotary will also be able to come. There will be no charge for the buffet refreshments provided. Please telephone Phil Newell, if you are able to come on: 01485 533864 or email: phildory@talktalk.net. □



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The Dersingham Weather

reported by John F. Murray

Countryside there was unprecedented weather at the beginning of the year. Although there was not a lot of snow reported, only where you would expect it, on high ground, there was lots of rainfall resulting in the devastating flooding that we all saw on television. The Met. Office reported the wettest January since 1910. They are talking of averages for the whole country of course.



January in Dersingham was not the wettest on record by any means. It was heavily overcast for most of the month and we did have plenty of rain. I recorded 77.9mm, which did exceed our average rainfall of 60.8mm but January 2008 beat this. We had 94.2mm of rainfall then. As I have said on previous occasions heavily overcast in winter usually means higher temperatures and this was the case in both January this year and in 2008. This year the mean temperature was 6.1°C and the maximum was 12.9°C compared to 2008 at 7.0°C and 14.1°C. These figures are way ahead of other years, especially the big freeze year of 2010 when the mean temperature was a very chilly 1.9°C and the highest was 8.6°C.

High winds were also in the news in January bringing driving rain to many parts of the country. I recorded a maximum gust of 33mph. This is actually the second lowest January. Only once, in 2010 was it lower, at 27mph. In 2011 and 2012 I recorded 40mph. February however did produce a record when in the early hours of the 15th I recorded 42mph. That was the Saturday when half of the village, my half, had a power cut for over 12 hours.

February was a warm month, but, as with January, it was not the warmest. This year the mean temperature was 6.8°C and the highest was 13.6°C. 2012 was actually the warmest with a mean of 7.8°C and a high of 21.4°C. Previous years have all been well below these two Februaries. This year we had 44.8mm of rainfall which is just under the average of 45.5mm.

Taking everything into account I think you will agree that the first two months of 2014 were mild and we missed the worst of the heavy rain and strong winds that affected the rest of the country. I seem to be saying this fairly regularly but it certainly seems to be true. Having looked carefully at the figures it is difficult to spot any particular pattern and as I'm sure you are aware, I don't make predictions, people more qualified than me have tried and failed. However I am keeping my fingers crossed for a pleasant spring. □



Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

Tuesday 29th April 2014, 7.30pm at the Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham.

(Access and parking from Sporle Road)

Please come to this illustrated talk by Mike Edgecombe entitled:

25 Years of Birding in the Oriental Region

Brought up in Cheshire, Mike Edgecombe later moved east to Norfolk and in the nineties developed a keen interest in birds somewhat further east, namely Asian ornithology. Mike is a Council Member and Promotions Officer with the Oriental Bird Club. Widely travelled across Asia and the Far East Mike is well qualified to entertain us with his presentation about the Orient.

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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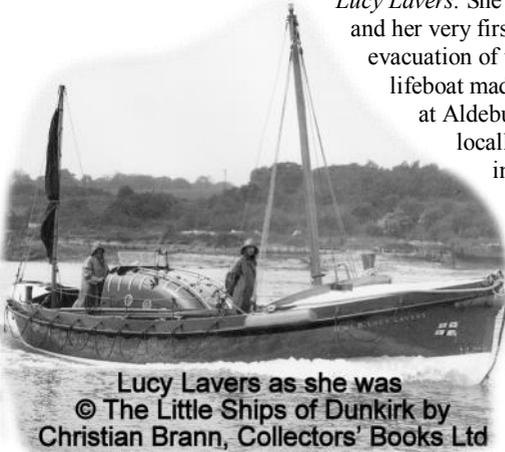
Triptych by James Dodds www.jamesdodds.co.uk Charity number 1144180

The overall purpose of the charitable trust Rescue Wooden Boats, established in 2011, is to conserve aspects of our maritime heritage by restoring to use on the water a number of local heritage fishing craft and lifeboats and at the same time capturing and telling the stories of the boats and the people who worked them.

We are a “just in time” charity as many of the lifeboat men and fishermen who can tell these heritage stories are in the very last years of their lives, and few of their wooden boats, which were regarded as family members, remain. There is urgency to conserve their stories and boats now, whilst the knowledge, expertise and memories of this older generation of fishermen are still alive, and some of their few remaining boats are restorable.

Our first project is to restore and tell the story of Dunkirk veteran and locally serving lifeboat *Lucy Lavers*. She was built for Aldeburgh lifeboat station in 1940 and her very first “shout” was to assist in the Dunkirk evacuation of troops; her shallow draft as a beach launched lifeboat made her very suitable. Then after 19 years serving at Aldeburgh she joined the relief fleet when she served locally at Wells and Sheringham. She is remembered in Wells as a “lucky boat”. As a single screw

Liverpool lifeboat she has a double diagonal yacht like structure with beautiful lines. She has three sails as well as her single engine. After retirement from the RNLI she worked in Jersey as a fishing boat, pilot boat and dive boat before being stripped to restore the Jersey lifeboat *Howard D*. Eventually she was saved by the Dunkirk Little Ships Restoration Trust, who gave her to the charity Rescue Wooden Boats.



Lucy Lavers as she was
© The Little Ships of Dunkirk by
Christian Brann, Collectors' Books Ltd

We are delighted we have been awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant to pay for part of her restoration. Work is progressing well. Her hull is now repaired and the deck beams restored, bulkheads and centre board case are in place. The big oak fender round her gunwale will soon be completed. George and David Hewitt, craftsmen boat builders, are leading the restoration work, working with Ben Riches and others.

Once (we hope) she is restored by the end of 2014, our second project will be to take *Lucy Lavers* back to Dunkirk by sea for the 75th anniversary in May 2015. We will make this filmed journey in a number of legs from North Norfolk going ashore several times to enable schoolchildren and members of the public to visit *Lucy Lavers*. After this she will live on display in Wells-next-the-Sea and take people for trips afloat.



David Cox, former coxswain of
Lucy Lavers in Wells, inspecting
her restoration progress

Lucy Lavers' story can be seen at our Visitor Centre in Stiffkey (Old Military Camp, Greenway Stiffkey NR23 1QF see website for opening times) opened in July 2013. The Visitor Centre has been warmly received, one visitor describing it as "a window into a lost world".. People can watch films and study displays, photographs and artefacts of our fascinating fishing and lifeboat heritage and also visit the Boatyard next door to see work in progress on Dunkirk veteran lifeboat *Lucy Lavers*. We are now developing Phase 2 of the Visitor Centre with more displays about fishing, boat building and the military camp history and plan to develop a further room as a multi-purpose room for school visits, talks, and cups of tea.

Other current and future projects include:

- ⚓ A major oral history project filming local fishermen and lifeboat men (more than 85 short films can be seen on our website www.rescuewoodenboats.com) as well as recording the progress of the work on *Lucy Lavers* and the increasingly rare skills and techniques used in wooden boat building.
- ⚓ Using whelker *Harvester* and crab boat *Pegasus*, generously donated to us in working order, afloat. Whelkers and crab boats are both built of larch planks on oak frames, each one is different and has its own character and performance.
- ⚓ In time, restoring whelker *Bessie*, also with Dunkirk history, to earn her keep on the water and the same for crab boats *Black Beauty* and *Star*
- ⚓ Filming the stories of these boats and as well as the now rare skills used in restoring them.

We welcome support in many ways – we need funds of course, but do visit the Centre, become a Friend, or volunteer!

We are currently recruiting people to help open the Visitor Centre during the week in school holidays as well as at weekends. If you have 3 hours to spare once a month or more we would love to hear from you. No experience needed, join the friendly team and learn the ropes!

Contact Sue on 07774 245810, or email info@rescuewoodenboats.com.

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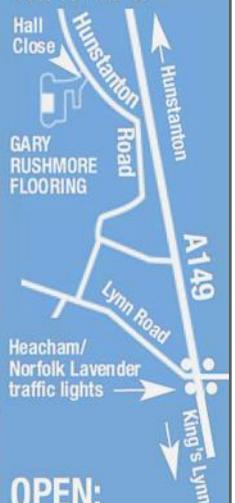
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Dersingham Bog News with Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden

These last few weeks has seen the first of the spring daffodils beginning to poke their head above ground on the reserve. Although not a key feature of Dersingham Bog NNR there is places where the odd daffodil bulbs spring up. Whether these are wild daffodils or not is hard to determine as some can be found around the old landfill site.

The main task that has been occurring on site recently is heather mowing. We have been mowing a few small plots on the site each winter with the aim of creating a mosaic of ages of heather on site. This has many benefits for many different species and will provide feeding areas for many insects such as butterflies, bees and wasps as well as providing areas for Woodlark and other birds to forage. The heather that is harvested is not wasted and is used elsewhere on the site.



This heather seed is used to reseed areas that have been recently cleared and can speed up the natural regeneration of areas. This seed is placed in piles in the areas required and is then spread by staff and volunteers very thinly over the bare areas. Care is taken not to spread this on existing heather plants. The process after the heather seed is harvested is all completed by hand using forks and rakes. Although the piles may look fairly small in comparison to the areas to be seeded the seed can go surprisingly far and in a morning a large area can be seeded. This spreading adds seed to the seed source that is already lying dormant in the soils of the cleared areas.

On the weekend of the 15th/16th February we were joined on site by members of the Lincoln Conservation group. The group naturally based around the Lincoln area take part in conservation volunteering in their area at weekends and usually have a weekend away to visit other areas. They decided to visit us and twelve volunteers arrived eagerly awaiting their tasks. The group over the course of two days helped us clearing and burning rhododendron as well as raking bracken from the slopes. The volunteer group were joined by our volunteers on the Sunday and between all of them a lot was cleared. The group enjoyed themselves immensely and are hoping to come back to help us again in the future.



Our volunteers have been busy over the last couple of weeks preparing and building a wicker fence near the John Denver bench. This fence is made out of coppiced hazel from another NNR that we manage. The hazel is cut into binders and posts using traditional methods (although with the additional help of a chainsaw) and then bundled up ready for transport. The material was brought over to the reserve and stacked ready to build the fence. The old fence was removed and taken off site and the process of erecting the new fence began. Holes were dug using a post-hole

borer for the upright posts which were spread out every metre. Once lengths of posts were erected a couple of people began weaving the binders around the post. By using this method it solidified the fence giving it strength. The binders were wound round the post to the preferred height and then once the length of fence had been completed the posts were cut to the same height. This fence should last a good few years and is simple to repair so will keep going for years to come.





With the warm weather many of the trees and plants on the reserve are beginning to show signs of life following on from the winter dormancy. In a short space of time many of the leafless trees will give way to a new season with the greys and browns being replaced by the spring like greens. This warm weather has also given rise to the first sightings of butterflies and bees on the reserve. This also means it is time to clean the reserves nest boxes out. Many species such as Blue Tit and Great Tit will begin checking out boxes and natural holes in readiness for their nesting season. We are currently monitoring fifty nest boxes on the reserve to show the effects of weather on hole nesting species.

The boxes have all been cleaned out and repaired where necessary and GPS readings taken. These boxes will then be monitored over the breeding season using the methodology of The British Trust for Ornithology's nest record scheme. Nest record cards are filled in for each occupied nest and are submitted to the scheme. This monitoring is not only providing us data on a local level but also data and information for national datasets and this national data is linked with other surveys to provide population estimates as well as survival rates of British Birds. The British Trust for Ornithology's Nest Record Scheme is a volunteer led scheme with people submitting records from nature reserves like Dersingham Bog to others sending in a record of their nest box in their garden. More information on this scheme and how to sign up can be found at www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/nrs. As the weather warms up the plants start growing and the birds start singing and the full force of spring arrives I hope to see many of you on the reserve enjoying the delights that Dersingham Bog NNR has to offer.

Email: Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk □



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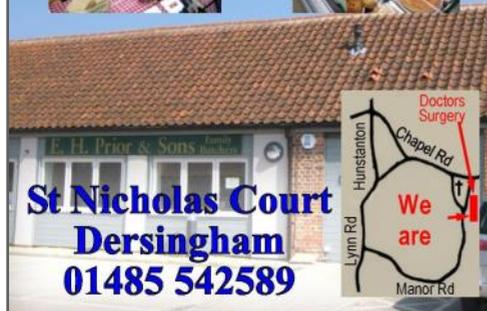


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Dersingham in May



Preparations are well in hand for this year's Dersingham Open Gardens, which will be even bigger and better than before. Make sure you put Sunday and Monday 25th – 26th May in your diaries, because there is plenty to entice you out. Dersingham in May is the title of the event and it will encompass Open Gardens, Open Art Studios and a Village Fair.



There'll be over a dozen gardens to wander round and see what the owners have been doing on their plots, some new and some old familiar friends. Five of those gardens will belong to members of the Dersingham Art Trail, so that you can pop into their studios and view paintings, photography and pottery. Art and craftwork will be for sale and most artists will have prints and greetings cards available too.

Don't forget to visit the Fair in St Nicholas Court where you will be able to spend your money at a variety of stalls whose wares will include wine, asparagus, plants and bric-a-brac. If you have youngsters with you, they may well enjoy the bouncy castle and other fun events that will be added features this year.

If you are arriving in the village by car, there'll be extra parking, with both the Church Hall car park and the recreation ground in use. All gardens and studios will be clearly signposted and you will get a new enlarged guide and map of all of them with your ticket.

With such a grand tour of the village you will certainly need some refreshment, and the



Dersingham In May catering team will be on duty in the Church Hall. The event is starting earlier this year, at 11am, so lunches have been added to the usual delicious cream teas. On Monday, Ken Warner's Cocktail Jazz Band will entertain at 2.30pm in the church hall, which is another good chance to rest the feet and to restore your energy levels.

For all this, the price of a ticket is only £5 on the day, or £4 if you buy yours in advance from the Post Office. All gardens will open at 11am on Sunday and Monday and the art studios will be open on Saturday too and from 10am. The website DersinghamInMay.org.uk has the latest on everything happening. It's a grand event not to be missed!

By the way, there are still stalls available in St Nicholas Court, so if you are looking for a place to sell your wares look no further. Also if you have any small items of bric-a-brac you would like to move on contact Judy Collingham on 01485 540271. □





Snettisham Art Group Easter Exhibition

Our Easter Exhibition and sale of work will be held in the British Legion Hall, Church Road, Snettisham: – Friday 18 April to Monday 21 April – open from 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. each day - there is no entry charge.

There is the opportunity to purchase some of the paintings, cards and crafts on display and any contribution for the funds of the British Legion would also be most welcome. Everything on display will have been produced by our own members, all local people.

We do currently have a few vacancies, should you wish to join our group, which meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the British Legion Hall from 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon each week. More information available from any of the members in attendance at the exhibition.

Addie Thompson

I spy our Sandringham Squirrels artist! Ed. □



John Lambert's

Memories of the 2nd World War Years (continued)



Not so long after the raid in which my grandparents were bombed out my Dad, who was a farm worker, was working on another field with a chap who was sitting on a farm implement when something went wrong with the shaft between the implement and tractor.

Whilst Dad was freeing the part off he told the other chap not to touch anything, but, he accidentally started the tractor and trapped Dad's hand in the cog mechanism. Dad eased his hand out but it had chopped one of his fingers off. He was rushed to Ipswich Hospital where the surgeon dressed his injuries, put his arm in a sling and sent him home.

In the meantime, my Sister was riding my bike with the crossbar down our hill and she lost control and crashed fracturing her leg.

A couple of days later we had another heavy raid at night. I was helping my Sister down the stairs and mum was helping Dad while the bombs were whistling down, it sounded very eerie! □



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



Lots of blue skies in February – that makes a nice change, though no doubt the weather will change for the worse after I have written this. Today I noticed pink cherry blossom on one of my trees, and white on another and said WOW! Luckily no one was around to hear me exclaiming to myself.

Almost done with the builders – my parrots now have a nice little room to themselves where they can stay out of their cages and have a bit more life. As they can live until 100 years, they need to stretch their legs and wings. I do love them. I fell over one day in front of the cages, and one of them bent down and enquired with feeling, “Are you alright?” I thought maybe it was a fluke, but when the other one was doing acrobats and fell off her perch, he said the same thing to her. They are intelligent little beings. I love it when they say to me at bedtime, ‘Night night, sleep tight, see you in the morning’ and I adore the perky, “Good morning!” coming from beneath the cage blanket when I stumble out of my room to get my early morning coffee. If I nag remote man, the parrots love it, and mimic my nagging voice until I fall about laughing and then forget what I was moaning about. I can never be lonely with these little grey-feathered creatures around.

I had fun the other day in my capacity as ‘Roving Reporter’ for a couple of other parish magazines. I went to interview the owners of Salt Glass in Burnham Thorpe and had a demonstration of how a glass paperweight is made, and then had the chance to make my own! I was so excited it took me two days to get over the event (don’t say ‘*get a life*’ because to me this kind of thing IS life!) and I now have, in pride of place, my creation coloured expressly for my decor. If you fancy being creative, you can visit them and have a go yourself.

It’s difficult at times to think of what to write in this column, so I find going down memory lane is the best solution. I was thinking of my Mum this morning, and the things I remember when I was a little girl during the war, when we were all fit and lean, with not a lot to eat. I used to stay at my Granny’s house while mother was working nearby at the local hairdresser’s salon. Mother used to converse with me as if I was an adult, and she would tell me how nervous she used to get when she was giving ladies a perm, because the solutions used in those days had to be measured out correctly otherwise the hair would drop off, and until the final reveal, she had her heart in her mouth. I remember going in the salon to see how she was getting on – this would be pre-school, so I would have been around four, coming up to five. I’d notice all the bits of snipped off hair on the floor, and the strange smell of the ammonia and other chemicals used in the perms. There were cubicles with curtains that drew across so that the ladies having their hair done could not be seen – I think it was all a bit secret, as maybe they wanted people to believe their hair was naturally curly, or blonde, or whatever. In those days they had big old hair dryers on wheels with large hoods that clamped over heads, and again, mother used to worry that these would get too hot and burn the ladies’ heads. She worried too, when using the metal curling tongs. These were heated up on a gas flame, and had to be ‘just right’ or the hair would burn off. Mother would practice on my hair, and I just hated it! My hair was constantly permed and crimped to within an inch of its life, and in the early days of home perms (who remembers ‘which twin has the Toni?’) it took all day, a process, which I loathed. I couldn’t wait to be in charge of my own hair and have worn it dead straight ever since! I think Shirley Temple, a child star in the ‘30’s who had curly hair, was the one who set the fashion for all us little girls, and at night we had to either have our hair in ‘rags’ – torn bits of sheeting wrapped around hanks of hair that produced ringlets when unravelled, or curlers, or pin curls for tight curls. We suffered uncomfortable sleep with them clamped to our heads all night to achieve those stupid curls the next day. We were subjected to huge bows to finish the look. Girls don’t know how lucky they are these days! The curls in my photo, by the way, are clip on jobbies left over from the 70’s.

As we skipped our way to school, we were on the lookout for Germans or Hitler (the bogymen)

and anyone new in the area was immediately suspect. I recall having to go to bed in my dressing gown and slippers in case of an air raid, when Mother would scoop me up, race out into the garden to get us into the damp and chilly brick shelter, which would have been absolutely no good if a bomb hit us, but I suppose it gave some feeling of safety. I did wonder, even at that small age, how the bit of string keeping the door shut would be effective in a blast! In the mornings I would go outside and pick up shrapnel – pieces of exploded bomb or aircraft that had solidified into fantastic shapes. My Dad made little Spitfires out of a penny and mounted them on a piece of shrapnel. They looked great. A Spitfire was the famous little aircraft that was the fastest thing on wings at that time. I was proud to be nicknamed ‘Spitfire’ by the boys when I started school – I ran so fast they could never catch me when we played kiss-chase. Maybe I had the wrong idea about that rule because the other girls always let the boys catch them, but there was no way I was going to let those grimy faced urchins kiss me!

There were no health and safety rules in those days. We walked to school however far away the school was. We often hurt ourselves but never cried. We were freezing cold in the winter, had dreadful colds and no paper hankies, just rags to blow our noses on (or sleeves). We had frozen solid bottles of milk, where the iced milk forced off the foil top and stuck up like a lolly. At school the milk had to be thawed around an ineffective coke stove in the corner of the room. Toys were far and few between, but we had a lot of fun. Most of us were always upside down, either doing cartwheels, handstands or hanging from railings, skipping or playing ball.

We were taught domestic skills from infant school. I remember at age six knitting myself a pair of gloves and still have some calico bags I sewed by hand, embroidered with butterflies that I had pencilled on to form the pattern. Aged twelve I was taught how to make a school blouse and a skirt, and these skills have carried me through to this day. It’s a shame children are not taught such useful talents nowadays. We were taught to cook as well, which I think is an essential necessity, and again, ought to be brought back to school curriculums.



Well, that’s enough of Memory Lane for the moment.

Did anyone pass through Fring on the way to Docking while the snowdrops were out? It was a stunning sight.

I haven’t moaned yet, so here we go. Am I the only one that gets grumpy in the library when there are tables of chattering ladies either playing scrabble or knitting? I mourn the loss of the quiet library. But I mustn’t moan, as we are so lucky to have the free libraries and I dread the day that they might be phased out. I’d rather pay to borrow books, if that is what it takes, rather than have all the other activities taking place. Bah Humbug! On the bright side, I’m looking forward to more flowers popping up and hoping we don’t get snow. Till next time then...□

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More Doggy Doos and Don'ts



Previous recent articles in Village Voice have reminded dog owners of their responsibilities. They are required to clean up after their dogs to comply with the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (CNEA) 2005.

The problem of dog fouling has been raised several times at Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) meetings as well as to Dersingham Parish Council. So to reinforce the point it was

suggested at a recent local SNAP meeting that a number of patrols should take place in Dersingham. Notices were put up around the village by Sharon Ludford, Neighbourhood Officer with the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and Kate Hathaway, Dersingham Parish Councillor, informing residents that the patrols were to take place.

On a wet and windy morning the first patrol set out with PCSO Sally Callaby accompanied by Sharon and Kate. As the weather improved dog walkers ventured out and the team were soon able to speak to many of them to explain their mission to ensure awareness amongst dog owners. Most agreed that dog fouling on the pavements was a problem and highlighted even more black spots. Many responsible owners instantly put their hands in their pockets to show that they carried bags to clean up after their dogs. Free bags were handed out with a card advising who to contact when a particular area needed cleaning up and in confidence, who to notify of owners who do not clean up after their dogs. The borough council takes this issue very seriously and offenders can expect to receive a letter of warning. If an owner, not cleaning up after their dog, is seen by an authorised officer they will be given a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) with a £75 fine. Dog poo bags or even nappy bags are a much cheaper option than a fine.

One mother out with her buggy told how difficult it is at times to avoid dog fouling on narrow footpaths and the inconvenience of soiled wheels being taken indoors, as well as soiled children's shoes. This can mean that when children remove their shoes they run the risk of being infected with the harmful infection Toxocariasis which can cause eye disorders, dizziness, nausea, asthma and even epileptic fits. Another owner said that they didn't take their dog to certain areas, as it was just too disgusting to walk there.



Dog fouling was not the only issue raised, it seems that there are some irresponsible owners who allow their dogs to roam freely unsupervised. Latch key dogs you could call them. These dogs are a problem to other dog walkers, children and the elderly, and could cause a road traffic accident. Unless under very close supervision it is wiser to keep dogs on a lead in the vicinity of the highway, for their safety as well as everyone else.

The daylight patrols proved to be very interesting and the majority of owners appear to be responsible. Residents were very pleased to see that this action has been taken in an effort to

reduce this unpleasant problem and even those without dogs approached the team with information when they realised the reason for these patrols.



Evening patrols were also undertaken and although dark and chilly a number of dog walkers were out and approached by the team. Again poo bags were pulled out of pockets and walkers agreed that it was unacceptable when dog owners did not clean up after their dogs, especially at night time.

The Parish Council has asked that that PCSO's remain

diligent when on patrol around Dersingham in the future to ensure that the village is a pleasant, clean and healthy place to live. And a reminder to those owners who do not clean up after their dogs that a packet of dog poo bags or nappy bags are lot cheaper than a £75 fine. Don't forget to Bag it and Bin it, any bin will do.

If you have any information on owners who do not clean up after their dog please call the confidential dog Enforcement Helpline on 01553 616200. To request a clean up call freephone 0500 253 2687
Cllr Kate Hathaway, Dersingham Parish Council □



Greetings from the Manse by Revd Kim Nally

At the end of the sermon the minister told the congregation that Jesus had called him to another church. The congregation then sang heartily “What a friend we have in Jesus!” I say this a little tongue in cheek as this will be my last article for the newsletter. I have greatly enjoyed writing newsletter articles for various publications over the 13 years I have ministered in this area. To avoid withdrawal symptoms I might begin writing in future under an assumed name! These little articles have been important to me as they have allowed me to think thoughts in the company of many people I haven't known personally. The newsletter has given me the privilege of sharing with many more people than on a Sunday the search for the precious and important things; life, meaning, experience, goodness, love, peace, well no end of things, that we connect with what we try to understand when we speak about God and the things of God. I have found stories to do this better than almost anything. I am always on the lookout for them, that's the preacher in me but also the listener as stories speak to me. Stories have always had the potential to reveal the things we are looking for but without necessarily meaning to look, if you see what I mean. They just grab and we are not quite the same after. And no story has more truth to tell, or power to transform than the good news of God's grace in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus his son.

Once there was a man who had grown weary of life. Tired to death. So one day he decided to leave his own home town, his ancestral village, to search for the perfect Magical City where all would be different, new, full, and rewarding. So he left. On his journey he found himself in a forest. He settled down for the night, took out his sack, and had a bite to eat. Before he turned in for sleep, he was careful to take off his shoes and point them to the new direction toward which he was going. Unknown to him however, a jokester came during the night while he slept and turned his shoes around. When the man awoke the next morning he carefully stepped into his shoes and continued on to the Magical City. After a few days, he came to the Magical City. Not quite as large as he imagined it, however. In fact, it looked somewhat familiar. He found a familiar street, knocked at a familiar door, met a familiar family there and lived happily ever after.

We are always looking elsewhere for God, in the magical city in the sky, or anywhere else for that matter. But those who seek will find God right where God has put and planted, finding the God who transforms death into life. We might also be surprised to discover, as St. Augustine put it so beautifully, “I would not have found you O Lord had you not been looking for me.” When we turn to the New Testament it is no surprise to us to find that Jesus uses stories and word pictures to help us search for and find God. However, it may be a surprise to people that Jesus is also the means whereby God seeks to find us.

I am not only due to move on this summer but because of ill health the Methodist Church has allowed me to retire early. From September the Rev Stephen Oliver will be the Methodist minister for this area. I wish Stephen a happy and fruitful ministry and I hope he and his family enjoy life in beautiful North West Norfolk. My wife and I plan to stay in the area and I will hopefully have more time to enjoy more stories that tell us how much we are all loved by God. □



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Dick Melton

In the February issue of the Dersingham Village Voice David Bingham writes about the surge that took place on the 5th of December 2013. He says that he understood that on the 31st of January 1953, when we had the great flood, the water came nearly up to where the Dersingham By-pass is today.

Well this is true and next I am giving an account of what I did and saw on that terrible night. It was a Saturday night and as usual my dad, Jim Melton, had gone round the Albert Victor public house in Manor Road for a pint and a game of dominoes. All of a sudden at around 9 pm the back door opened and my dad came rushing into the living room. He said, 'Get your boots and coat on boy, the sea has broken through and it is nearly up as far as the station.' Well, me being only a lad of thirteen this was hard to take in, as the station at Dersingham was over two miles inland from the sea.

We got our bikes out of the shed and headed off up Dun-cow lane (Lynn Road). The wind and rain was so strong we had to get off our bikes and push them; we took a short cut across the recreation ground. When we got to the top of Station Hill I could not believe my eyes for there, 20 yards the other side of the railway line, was the sea. Lots of other people and police from the village were already there with cars, tractors and lanterns to light up the scene.

What a sight it was, with all sorts of things being washed up: there was dead cows, sheep, pigs, rabbits, furniture, timber, pots and pans and clothes. Then, just after midnight, the police said to us there was nothing any of us could do so it was best if we all went home to bed. When I got up in the morning I could not really understand why it was that I could see the sea out of my bedroom window, only half a mile from our house in Lynn Road

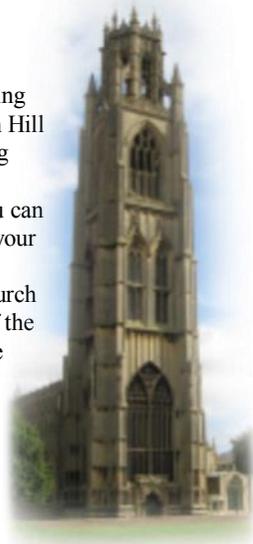
It was about three days before the water went back, and it was about three years before the farmers could use the land again. Twenty-five people lost their lives at Snettisham and it was many months before some of the bodies were found. One body was not found until the September of that year, when a man was picking blackberries in the little wood down The Drift. That was a night and a day that I shall never forget for the rest of my life.

Views over The Wash

Staying with the sea and in particular The Wash, about forty years ago the Eastern Daily Press asked its readers where they thought that the best viewing point was in Norfolk. I suggested that it was at the top of Fern Hill between Hill House Lodge and the mill and it was voted number three, the first one being from Castle Hill Norwich and the second being near Sheringham.

If you stand on the bank anywhere up Mill Road it is amazing what you can see with the naked eye across The Wash. One of the first things that catch your eye is Boston Stump (St Botolph's church), which from that viewpoint is approximately 15 miles away across The Wash. The foundations of this church were laid down in 1309; it is 282 feet long, 100 feet wide and the height of the tower to the top of the weather vanes is 272 feet. There are 365 steps to the top of the tower (one for every day of the year), twelve pillars supporting the roof (one for every month of the year), seven doors (to represent the days of the week) and fifty-two windows (for the weeks in a year). Some people say that it should have had a spire like Snettisham church but it was never erected. At one time there was an iron basket on the top of the tower that used to have a fire in it, like the one on Hunstanton cliffs, to guide the ships into The Wash.

Another more modern tower that can be seen at night across The Wash from this viewing point is the Belmont transmitter tower and, at 385 metres (1270 feet) in height, it is the tallest of its kind



in the UK. It is what is known as a 'guyed mast'; it was built in 1959; and it is illuminated at night from top to bottom by red neon lights. That is why it looks like a red finger on the horizon. It is situated (roughly) 18 miles east of Lincoln and 40-50 miles west of Hunstanton. On a good clear night it really is a very impressive sight.

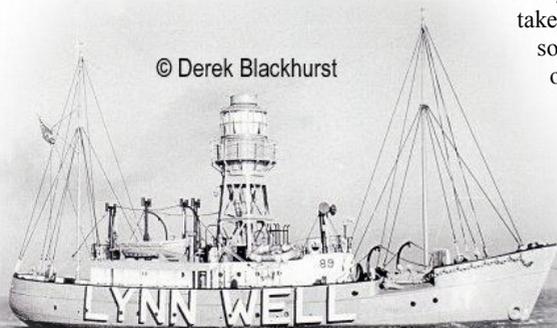
There are many lights you can see over The Wash at night, including the lights of Boston, Wainfleet and Skegness. Then there are all the lights from the buoys flickering as they bob up and down in the sea. Also, if you are down the beach on a still night you can hear a bell buoy ringing.

Lynn Well lightship

After the Hunstanton lighthouse shut down in 1922 there was a lightship stationed at the mouth of The Wash and the light from this could be seen for miles. It was named the Lynn Well lightship; this lightship had a crew of seven and they worked four weeks on and four weeks off.

After the second world war the late Geoffrey Searle would go out to the lightship in his boat and take the crew a Christmas tree, a turkey and some drink. A campaign was started by the old Lynn News and Advertiser to buy the crew a TV. This was duly done and it was taken out to the ship. In 1973 the old Lynn Well lightship was taken off station and it was replaced by a large automatic navigation buoy (lanby). The 183-ton Lynn Well lightship (lv89) was berthed at Norwich; and in 1974 a Cringleford potato merchant bought her for £7,500 and let the Norwich sea cadets use her as a training ship.

© Derek Blackhurst



So no matter if you are up Fern Hill, on Snettisham or Heacham beach, or along the promenade or the cliffs at Hunstanton, be it night or day, there is always something to see across The Wash.

Cockle Pie

Now, with the cockle season soon to be upon us, this is my recipe for little cockle pies. Ingredients: 8oz cockles, 8oz short crust pastry, 2oz lean bacon, six spring onions and pepper. Method: roll out the pastry and line 12-15 tartlet tins; put the cockles into a bowl and mix with finely chopped bacon and spring onions; season well with pepper; fill the pastry cases with the cockles; sprinkle with some of the cockle cooking liquid; bake at 350f/180c/gas mark 4 for twenty minutes; serve freshly baked and just warm.

Don't forget keep on a troshin', and keep your knees in front! □



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Trevor & Karl



The Dersingham Day Centre by Alice Worth



January 8th saw us all back at the Church Hall for the start of our Winter season. Unfortunately, as is usual at this time of the year, several members and volunteers were absent through illness. Hopefully we will have everyone back with us again soon, and once the warmer

weather begins (hopefully) so all the colds and coughs will be forgotten.

On the 29th January we held our Annual General Meeting and all the Committee Members were elected to serve for the coming year.

February/March seems to be a popular time for birthdays at the Day Centre and we had at least one to celebrate each Wednesday, so a variety of cakes helped finish off our afternoons. We are very lucky in having our own special cake maker, namely Alison Girling. Her special personalized birthday cakes give a lot of pleasure to all concerned. Unfortunately, Mrs Violet Woodbridge, our longest serving member, has been unable to attend for quite a few weeks but she very kindly ordered a birthday cake for all the members to celebrate her birthday on 21st February. It was decorated with green leaves and tiny violets to depict her name.

On the 19th February we had a Quiz after lunch and this activity is always good fun and very competitive. As I write we are looking forward to having a 'Fish and Chip' lunch planned for the 5th March to celebrate a Member's birthday and on the same day we will be having a visit from Teresa English with her fashion selection. We are already starting to plan our Easter Party. No doubt Carol, our crafts lady, will be encouraging the decorating of Easter Bonnets for our annual competition.

We have welcomed two new Members to the Day Centre this year and our waiting list has now been cleared, so we have room for some new Members. The Dersingham Day Centre meets every Wednesday and is there for those over the age of 70 who feel they would benefit from a day out each week to socialise and enjoy the company of others. We provide transport to and from St Nicholas' Church Hall where we meet, and Members enjoy refreshments and a hot two course lunch. Transport is provided and our Members are well looked after throughout the day. Members come through recommendation by the Surgery/Carers/Friends etc., so if you feel you, or someone you know, would benefit from our Day Centre, please contact me on 01485 544673,

We are always looking for more Volunteers, particularly as our numbers are growing. Volunteers are welcome for **any** time they can spare between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm. each Wednesday. I feel there must be someone out there who could spare even as little as an hour on a

Wednesday. If you are new to the Village I can personally recommend this as a means of getting to know local people and making new friends. As we don't meet in the summer holidays, perhaps there are some young mums too who would be willing to help in term time. I can guarantee you won't regret it. If you feel you might be able to help and would like more information, please contact me on Dersingham 544673, or pop into the Church Hall any Wednesday and meet us all.

The Members and Volunteers at the Dersingham Day Centre wish all Village Voice readers a Very Happy Easter. □



Old Picture Corner from Tony Bubb

Walter Ralph was the village photographer at the end of the 1900's. Many of the old views that have featured on these pages were taken by him. Always with an eye to business, Walter produced postcards for the up and coming tourist trade. To maximise sales he even had booklets produced containing sets of views. I came across one such collection at a recent flea market. A book of 12 views entitled "Souvenir of Sandringham". 12 tear out cards interleaved with thin tissue paper. Sadly 4 of the cards had been removed but here are a couple that were unspent. Are any of Walter's descendants still around? □



The Sandringham Newsletter

by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate

compiled by Helen Walsh



With the winter much milder than last year, this has been a great help to the Gardens staff; not only have they saved time by not needing to grit paths and drives, but they have been able to undertake turf repairs to lawn edges and to continue mulching beds and borders.

They were also able to continue with jobs that are usually done in autumn, like lifting and repairing areas of turf, and moving shrubs and small trees. The December gales caused cedars and cypresses to lose large branches, so there was quite a bit of clearing up to be done afterwards.

The annual task of pruning the red-twigged limes in the North Garden to maintain their interwoven pleached shape was completed in February, and again has been made much easier by the milder weather.

While mild, the winter has been extremely wet, with rain most days or nights, and this made things slow and difficult for the Farm department, as it was hard to get farm machinery into the fields when the ground was so wet and sticky. Winter wheat has finally all been sown, and farm staff lifted sugar beet whenever there was a dry interval, storing it on concrete pads ready to be transported to the processing plant and turned into sugar.

The rolling programme of planting fresh blackcurrant fields each year continued, with some 20,000 blackcurrant cuttings going in this winter, but ploughing, harrowing and drilling have not been possible. Farm staff are keeping busy with maintenance work instead, trimming hedges, clearing drains and cleaning the grain stores.

The shops and restaurants at the Visitor Centre were very busy in the runup to Christmas. After Christmas, things were much quieter and staff used the lull to get refurbishment works done, including repainting, recarpeting and deep cleaning, to be ready for what looks likely to be a very busy season ahead.

This is all work which is impossible to do in the main tourist season, and it was all completed in good time for the shops and restaurants to be open again for the half term week.



As I write, Spring is on the way not only in the Gardens, with snowdrops and crocuses blooming, but also in the pigeon lofts, where the first eggs of the season have been laid, so in a little under three weeks from laying, the baby pigeons will start hatching. Around the Country Park and in the Gardens, birds have started to sing and the woodpeckers have begun their distinctive drumming – all of them advertising and defending their territories ahead of the mating season. □



Norfolk Wildlife Trust West Norfolk Members Group

invites you to

Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street

Thursday 24th April – 7.30pm

Harrap's Wild Flowers

An illustrated talk by Simon Harrap

Thursday 22nd May – 7.30pm

Grasshoppers and Crickets of Norfolk

An illustrated talk by Nick Owens

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

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A100



Dersingham Evening WI by Maggie Guest



The speaker at the January meeting was Waltraud Chapman who is a German lady married to an English man. She was able to give HER OWN VIEWS impartially on growing up in Hitler's Germany from a German point of view. This was a fascinating and thought provoking talk.

The February meeting saw Russell Morris, who is the Chef at Norfolk Lavender Fields café, arriving at the meeting with an assistant carrying a foil covered table. Imagine our surprise to find, not baskets of lavender, but half a butchered pig! Russell talked us through the various cuts of meat from the pig and what could be done with them from a chef's point of view. He then handed round some Rillettes on biscuits he had made from cuts of a pig.

The coffee mornings continue to thrive. They are such a great time to get to know people and enjoy a more intimate chat than is possible at the meetings. Gilly hosted the January one, Christine the February one and Diane opened her door and put the kettle on for us in March. We raise a little money at these as well as enjoy each other's company. When we were at Christine's, her husband Roger was persuaded to act as camera man while we showed off our mugs!



The evening dining and Sunday lunch groups continue to thrive. During winter months we use more local eateries such as The Old Bank, Rose and Crown and The Feathers. Transport arrangements are made to help those with no car and those with cars take turns to drive.

Various trips out have been enjoyed. The Royal Ballet performing Giselle transmitted live from London to The Majestic proved to be a wonderful event.

The Lunch and Activity Group saw Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom at the Majestic and a trip to the Hunstanton bowling alley proved to be great fun. It also provided us with some exercise and competition before we went to The Waterside for lunch. Many of these activities are reached using the local bus service which is a great asset.

Our craft group continues to keep busy under the watchful



eye of our talented Babs. Another chance to natter as we craft!! Stephanie has kept the MAD group hard at work knitting assorted colourful items.

A new initiative created by Gilly is 'The Good Egg' award. This is awarded to people who have shown initiative or been exceptionally helpful in some way. Lilly and Christine were both awarded one at the February meeting. *Lilly had 'saved the day' at the January meeting by opening a large screw top*



bottle, that refused to unscrew, by punching holes in the top with a bottle opener. Gilly was so impressed with this piece of ingenuity, that she wrote an amusing play about it, which was performed to the February meeting by members. A lovely light-hearted touch that we enjoyed. Christine, on realising all the WI plates and cutlery had been thrown in a plastic bag, went through the bag and, not only retrieved the items, but washed them all too. Well done!

We continue to support The Purfleet Trust by bringing in assorted items of food, mainly, and other items of use to the homeless or in need of support. Indeed, any reader who may feel they would like to help and donate the odd item do ring Maggie 542424 or Stephanie 544819.

Antje has recently joined us on Facebook so do have a look and become friends. We welcome all at our meetings and there is no need to join until after three meetings so nothing to lose by coming along but do mention at the door you are new so you can be looked after. Maybe you could offer some skill to other ladies in our village group. □



The annual Women's World Day of Prayer was held on Friday 7th March at 2pm in the Union Church at Hunstanton. The theme for 2014 was 'Streams in the Desert' and had been prepared by Christian women of Egypt. Home-made and Egyptian themed food was enjoyed after the service.

The first parish event for 2014 was the pancake supper on the evening of Shrove Tuesday at St Cecilia's. Thanks go to the volunteers who made pancakes, teas and all the usual work behind the scenes to make another successful and enjoyable event.

During the period of Lent we once again join with St Edmunds for 'Stations of the Cross' on alternate Fridays, followed by a simple lunch. Details for our Easter 2014 services are:

Maundy Thursday, 17th April at 7.30pm at Our Lady & St Edmund, Hunstanton.

Good Friday, 18th April at 3pm at St Cecilia's, Dersingham.

Easter Vigil, Saturday 19th April, starting at 9pm at Our Lady & St Edmund, Hunstanton.

Easter Sunday, 20th April, Mass will be at the usual Sunday times of 9am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham and 11am at Our Lady & St Edmund, Hunstanton.

Watch for other parish and community events during the year which will be advertised on the website and in the weekly bulletins. Everyone, whether Catholic or not, is welcome to all of our services and social occasions. We have refreshments after the 11am Mass every Sunday and after 10.15am Mass every Wednesday. There are also refreshments after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the month at Dersingham. Please come along, you will be most welcome. Our daily Masses are held at St Theresa's Convent, 27 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, except on Wednesday when it is usually at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. Please check for dates and times on Church notice boards, website or phone. Sunday Masses are 9am at Dersingham and 11am at Hunstanton. The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.



If you require a Priest urgently please telephone Fr Peter Rollings on 01553 772220.

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Pat Nevin □



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Stroke Association Voluntary Group

Coastal Stroke Group

Our group started in March 2011 with only a handful of members, we now have over forty. Our aim is to provide a meeting place for stroke survivors from the local area after leaving hospital, and their carers, involving them in activities such as exercise, outings, communication and cognitive skills. To many survivors a stroke group is the only way of leaving the isolation of their home each week.

With the support of the Greggs Foundation we have been able to purchase two IPADS and a projector. The IPADS have proved to be a most valuable asset by improving the communication skills for those stroke survivors suffering from Aphasia (Language and communication) and re-learning for those suffering from Cognitive skills (Memory and Learning).



Left to right: Julie Manning, Pat Holmes, Darren Burrows, Vicky Bray, Gemma Smith

The Norfolk Community Foundation has supported us by providing regular exercise classes tailored to the limitation of stroke survivors, this can increase their long term mobility and fitness. The outcome of regular exercise can be quite noticeable.

Sainsbury's of Hunstanton kindly made us their charity of the year in 2012-13. With their staff's enthusiasm, hard work and support they made a valuable contribution to our group by providing funds allowing our group members to visit the North Norfolk Railway and the Sealife Centre, also to buy much needed support equipment.

Gemma Smith of the Stroke Association presented a Life After Stroke Award to Sainsbury's from the Stroke Association, for their generous support to the Coastal Stroke Support Group Hunstanton.

The group meets every Tuesday between 10:30-12:30 at the Methodist church, Austin Street, Hunstanton and provides aftercare for stroke survivors and their carers.

If you are a stroke survivor or a carer and would like support from our group, please contact: Gemma Smith on 01366-377803 or gemma.smith@stroke.org.uk or Julie Manning on 01485-600930 or juliemanning.wi@btinternet.com □

Carers are able to support their spouse or family members by encouraging them to overcome their memory loss, re-learning, and communication skills. Using communication apps on the IPADS can be the main form of interaction between survivors and carers, thus removing the major obstacle of frustration through the lack of basic communication.

The projector is used with a Wii machine for exercise and to give interactive and informative presentations to the group.



Dersingham Methodist Church by Elizabeth Batstone

Life at the Methodist Church continues to be very busy and it looks like the rest of the year will follow suit!

The February coffee morning raised £311 for Sightsavers; an organisation that works internationally to treat and cure many people, including children, of several debilitating eye conditions including cataracts. They also give advice and support to communities on preventing infections and how to help those already blind. The coffee morning was extremely busy, thank you for helping us to help others.

Coffee mornings will be held on **26th April** for Methodist Homes for the **Aged and Action for Children**; **28th June** for **East Anglia Children's Hospice**.

Easter: Good Friday meditation 10.00 a.m. Easter Day services at 10.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.

The Flower Festival and Church Anniversary celebrations take place from **Thursday 22nd – Sunday 25th May**. This year the Church is 124 and we give thanks for the blessings of the past and look forward to hope and blessings in the future. The flower festival theme is 'Gardens of the Bible'; each of the 13 displays will depict Bible passages and stories which describe various gardens. The Church will, as usual, be a blaze of colour and inspiration. Proceeds will be for The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House and Church funds. Make a note of this in your diary and come to enjoy the flowers, as well as cakes, coffee, tea and delicious lunches! □



Dersingham Phobbies

About five years ago I unfortunately suffered a fairly severe stroke, but was lucky to make a reasonably good recovery. However, a few months into my recovery I had the good fortune to discover Dersingham Phobbies.



Phobbies clubs are designed to enable adults with physical disabilities to follow hobbies such as needlework, painting, drawing, woodworking and similar

activities. Our club meets every Thursday at St Nicholas Church Hall from 10:30am to 3pm.

We members find the club very supportive and it gives us the opportunity to meet in an informal and very friendly atmosphere. The voluntary helpers give up their time to share with us their skills in the various craft activities that we choose to pursue. For people like me who can no longer drive and cannot easily use public transport, the "icing on the cake" is that we benefit from door to door transport via the Community Transport Scheme. I would strongly recommend anyone interested in further details to contact the Chairperson: Mrs Marguerite Wright on 01485 541484.

I can assure you that you would never regret joining this caring and happy group. *Jo Stieber* □

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Phobbies

**Easter Sale &
Coffee Morning**



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St Nicholas Church Hall, Dersingham

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An idea for Easter.... from Caroline Bosworth

So – for this edition, I thought that I would deviate from recipes to a decoration idea which always attracts comments from guests to my home at Easter time.

Early in April, I cut quite a large branch from a shrub in the garden – sometimes it is dogwood for the colour - often it's a random shrub which has a nicely shaped branch on it. The aim is to find a branch that looks rather like an autumnal tree, with several smaller branches on it rather than just a twig.

Put this rather sad looking branch in a largish, pretty pot, lined with acetate, filled with an oasis block. You may find that you need to trim the oasis – but use these trimmings to pack the pot out fully so that the branch is properly supported. Water well – you will need to water it most days. I like to cover the oasis at the top of the pot with trailing ivy, so that it can't be seen.

Decorate the twiggy branches – I have a selection of homemade birds and decorated eggs which I use each year, but you can now fairly readily buy eggs on a hanging ribbon and those fluffy yellow chicks from garden centres and craft shops. In the warmth of your home, the branch will come into leaf and indeed blossom ready for Easter, indeed the leaves will grow around the decorations.



I make a few of these each year – a large one for my breakfast room and a smaller one for the dining table – they also make lovely gifts to take with you if you are seeing friends or relations over Eastertide. This is a pretty, impossible to get wrong craft (promise!!) to do with children and will attract many favourable comments as it grows in your home.

I would love to see your photos of these trees – perhaps you would like to send me some at caroline.bosworth@jamesgraven.com . □

Why not send them to me too at editor@dersingham.co.uk ?

Answers to Puzzles

Word Wall:

1. Red—CAR, COAT, CROSS, ENSIGN
2. Antelopes—CHAMOIS, HART, IMPALA, ORIBI
3. Apples—WORCESTER, GRENADIER, LAXTON, RUSSET
4. Offspring—CUB, LEVERET, FAWN, COLT

Where is it? What is it?

This tops the Custom house in King's Lynn. Henry Bell not only designed this one but also its nearly twin in Lancaster.



Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

We love getting your reports of events and meetings, advertisements and advance details of forthcoming attractions, but please make sure any dates mentioned fall after the publication date.

| Issue | Copy deadline | Publication date |
|-------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| No 88 | Wednesday 30th April | Monday 19th May |
| No 89 | Wednesday 2nd July | Monday 7th July |
| No 90 | Wednesday 3rd September | Monday 22nd September |

The amount of space available for articles is governed by the both the physical limitations of the publication as well as the revenue received from advertising. You are advised to submit items (articles and adverts) well in advance of the deadline to secure a space.

Advertising in Village Voice

The Editorial Team would like to thank all of those who so generously support our magazine by placing advertisements in it, for without the income so generated there would be a possibility of the publication ceasing to exist. With this in mind it would be helpful if you were to support those who do advertise, and to then let them know that you used their services because you saw their promotion in our magazine. Normal prices for a colour advert range from £20 for an eighth page through to £108 for a full page, though do enquire about our discount offers. (Prices inc. VAT).

To include an advertisement in the next issue, all details together with completed application form and payment should be with the Parish Clerk:
Dersingham Parish Council, 4a Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP
by mid-day on Wednesday 30th April 2014

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, % Dersingham Parish Council, 4a Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP or e-mail: editor@dersingham.org.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 30th April 2014 for publication on Monday 19th May 2014**. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication). Should you be providing graphics to accompany advertisements or articles, it would be appreciated if these could be in JPEG format and commercial printing requires 300 dots (pixels) to the inch (about 118 per centimetre).

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

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

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

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

The Production Team for this edition consists of
Editor: - Steve Davis. Editorial assistant: - Rob Smyth
In the office: - Sarah Bristow, Distribution: - Steve Davis
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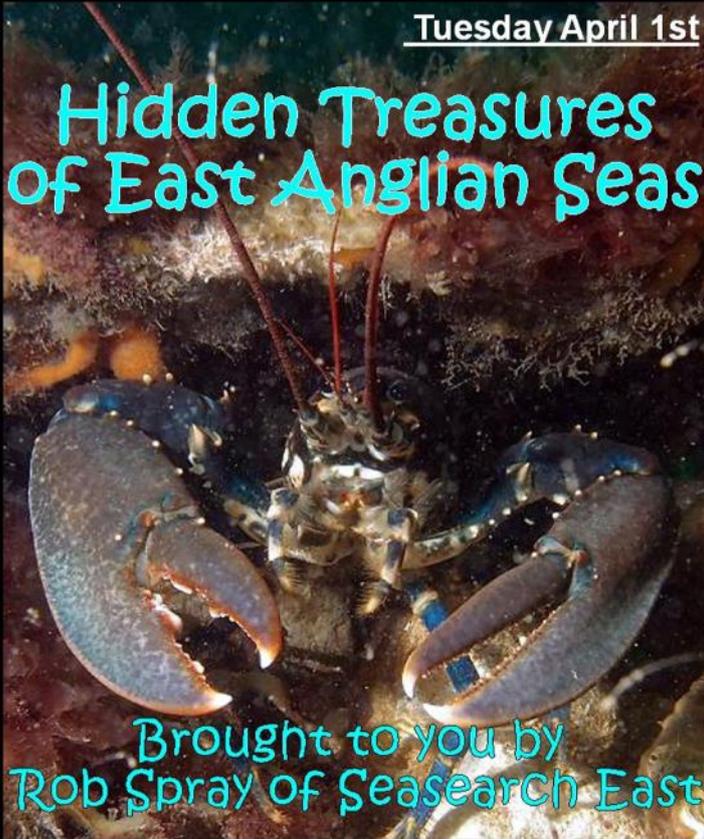
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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday April 1st

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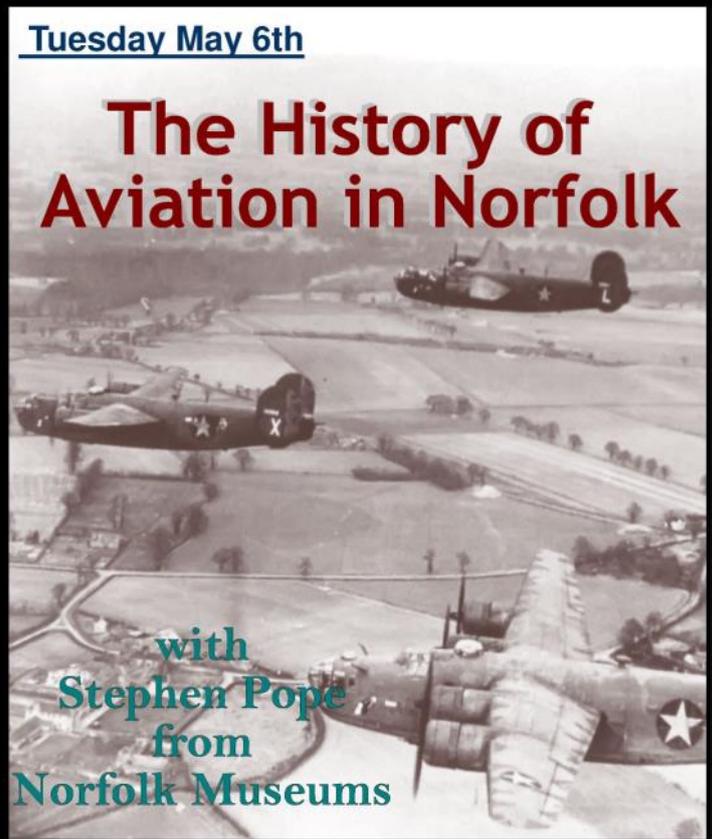
St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.50 including refreshments & raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday May 6th

The History of Aviation in Norfolk

with
Stephen Pope
from
Norfolk Museums



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