

# **DERSINGHAM 2000 HISTORY PROJECT**

## **INTERVIEW 11**

**Date interview conducted:** 12<sup>th</sup> May 1991  
**Name:** Rev. Tom Jardine

### **When did you first come to Dersingham?**

I first came to Dersingham in April 1991. The by-pass had just opened; there was much discussion about it.

### **Where do you live now?**

I used to live in Crowborough East Sussex. I was a curate there. I was ordained in 1987. Dersingham is the first church as vicar.

### **Do other members of your family live in Dersingham?**

No other family live here. My son is at present in the Falklands.

### **What was the most important day you have ever spent in the village?**

There are two days; the day we first came to look at the village and church in Autumn 1990, October 20th we spent the weekend. Then on April 18th 1991 when I was instituted as vicar. I'm also vicar of Shernbome and Rector of Anmer.

### **What are the biggest changes you have seen in the village?**

The new houses on the Mountbatten Estate. They have changed the shape of the village; Budgens of course. My first impressions were of the beautiful carrstone cottages, very warm looking, very pleasant especially at Springtime. The Dun Cow was the first large building we saw - It was a landmark for many. It was the first large building people saw.

Dersingham does not really have a centre where people meet do shopping. The shops are in various parts of the village. If the place has a focal point then Jubilee Court could have been. Thaxters is a long way from Manor Road shops. Many villages have a focal point a pond, a green a group of shops. Dersingham does not have such a focal point.

The Church Hall is now on the edge of the village. The Community Centre is now away from the centre. New housing has developed away from them. I don't mind Dersingham growing. We are lucky to have facilities; a good village for young people. We are in easy reach of Lynn. Small villages do not grow. Anmer has no shops the elderly can feel very isolated.

### **What would you like to see happen in the future?**

I don't want development to the extent that it destroys the feel of the village. Advantage point to have a focal point but how you achieve it in a place that has developed over the years I don't know; maybe the opportunity has gone. Perhaps the opportunity will arise in future. Community feeling affected by lack of focal point. There are lots of clubs and activities but on the edges of the village.

New Hall is a possibility but society changes. People find entertainment in a different way to the days of old village hall dances. Children spend time with computers, people watch T.V.; you can do that on your own. Entertainment and pastimes change. A Village Hall represents something that has passed us by.

The Line Dancing classes appeal to villagers. Again people can do it on their own but do it together; it is not competitive. The money is a boost to church funds.

We pay to the diocese almost £25,000 for Ministry; £20,000 on repairs. Expenses like Heating lighting etc. Running the Church cost £50,000 this year. Taking income over expenditure we are losing out by £400 per week. People have no idea of the costs in running a church. 20 yrs ago the vicar wrote of £24 a week needed to keep the ministry going.

### **Will you retire in Dersingham?**

I am unlikely to retire here.

### **What does the Millenium mean to you?**

The Millennium, a tremendous event commercially, sad if that were all. I hope we consider in History the gospel brought to us by missionaries. We date our years from the birth of Christ. Christian people were behind our education laws. We can look back on our history and give thanks to God for all the progress that has been made. Make it a Christian Festival. We can celebrate in a number of ways. Perhaps get the Church to raise money to support a missionary or an aid worker abroad.

I'd love to see a dais in church a focal point. We need facilities for the disabled, toilets, kitchen facilities. We should tidy up the entrance to provide a welcome for visitors

### **What would you like to say to someone in Dersingham in 100 years time?**

I would remind people of the love of God. John 3 vi 6 God so loved the world.