

# Dersingham Village Voice

Issue 36

October 2005



Photo: Tony Bubb

## Love it, or hate it

### The Skateboard Ramp Has Arrived!

It seems to have been on the agenda forever! It has created almost every emotion from anger to delight, dependent on the individual's point of view, and has been forecast to do anything from keeping the village's young ones occupied to giving them the opportunity to create noise and havoc to those whose premises are adjacent to the Recreation Ground, but, whatever your own thoughts on the matter, the skateboard ramp has finally come to fruition. The photograph above was taken at a particularly quiet time, but rest assured that once it was installed, the ramp has been well used.

A warning though to those who do use it! It has been stated that it is there to be used not abused, and that the onus is on the users to look after what has been arranged for their pleasure. In other words, abuse it and you lose it!

*Prior to going to press we heard that the skateboard ramp had been vandalised by somebody setting fire to it. Report in next issue.*

### Important notice inside this issue

If you are interested in happenings in this village turn to page 5 to learn about how you can help the Parish Council to tackle local problems, and to find out where you can be informed of what is currently being proposed and how you can have your say.

## Parish Council Report

The July meeting began with a minute's silence in memory of Malcolm Nurse, the long-serving Parish Councillor and former Chairman who had died earlier in the month. There was then a short presentation by the local fire risk manager for the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, Mr Neil Richardson. He explained that he was available to provide help and advice on all fire matters both to individuals and businesses (*anyone wishing to contact him can get details from the Parish Council clerk.*) This was followed by a presentation by Mr Steve O'Donnell explaining the role of the newly-established Dersingham First Responders (*see Letters to the Editor, Village Voice Issue 35*). The long-running issue of a possible skateboard facility on the recreation ground came to a conclusion at this meeting when the Council voted for the ramps to be installed. A proposal that a water and electricity supply should be installed on the recreation ground is to be investigated further. It has been suggested that this would make the facility more attractive for events in the village. A proposal that the recreation ground should be locked during the hours of darkness was also referred back to the Recreation & Environment Committee following doubts about how this would operate in practice and whether it would be effective in preventing anti-social behaviour. Unusually, the Parish Council also met in August, primarily because comments were required on new planning applications before the September meeting (*the Council has a legal right to comment on plans but this has to be done within a strict time limit*). Among the other issues discussed were the names proposed for two of the new developments in the village. The Council's suggestion that the development at the Old Hall site in Chapel Road should be named Jannoch's Court after a previous occupier has been accepted by the developer. The Council has also suggested a name with local connections for the new flats on the corner of Hunstanton Road and Post Office Road: Chambers Court.

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### NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR PARISH OF DERSINGHAM

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be aged 21 years or over.

Must be a British subject or a citizen of the Irish Republic or other Euronational.

**Must be a local government elector.**

In addition he/she will be qualified if:

**Has either during the whole of the twelve months before nomination/  
application, occupied land or other premises as owner or tenant in the parish  
or has during the same period, resided in that area or within three miles  
thereof, or has during the same period had his/her principal or only place of  
work in that area.**

Applications to fill the vacancy of Councillor in the Parish of Dersingham should be sent to the Parish Clerk, Dersingham Parish Council, Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham, PE31 6LH.

**Applications to arrive by 21 November 2005.**

The Parish Council will fill this vacancy by co-option at their monthly Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 28 November 2005

Signed: Sarah Bristow Parish Clerk

Dated: 19 September 2005

### Editor's Notes



Welcome to another bumper edition of your magazine for which, once again, I have received so much material that I have had to reduce my own contribution, which is terrific! I have also had to make a decision not to publish the Tide Timetables for Hunstanton or the local Bus Timetables (which were requested by some readers) as the space required for a two monthly forecast is excessive, and anyway, these are available from other sources such as the 'Lynn News' and the 'EDP Visitor's Guide' and, for bus times, from the bus station enquiry office. At the last meeting of the Communications

Committee a decision was taken that a revised format would apply for any **new** advertisements placed in this publication, in that all of these would be shaped to fit into multiples of one-eighth instead of the former one-sixth of a page. Pricing for these adverts may be made on application to the Parish Clerk on 01485 541465. You are reminded that when placing ads it is possible to make a saving by ordering 6 consecutive adverts for the price of 5! I would like to thank all of our wonderful contributors for their input, without which there would be no magazine, and to remind new contributors that they are more likely to be published if they ensure that the material they submit is locally based, in particular if it relates to the village of Dersingham. *Looking forward to seeing the content of the next edition, Bob Tipling.*

### DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP



On 24 July nine intrepid walkers braved the wind and rain on our first Sunday walk which was along the Norfolk Coast Path from Thornham Harbour: 5 1/2 miles led by Michael and Valerie. Nine was also the number on the Sunday walk at Fring led by Christine. Twenty-two came to Wolferton on the evening of 10

August for Pat's walk and for our final evening walk of the year we joined the King's Lynn Ramblers for a 4 1/2 mile walk around the Hunstanton area on 31 August. By 'popular demand' we plan to walk one Wednesday afternoon each month during the autumn/winter. One will be on 12 October (Castle Rising) and another on 10 November (Snettisham). Please contact me for details. In the meanwhile the leaders (we are still looking for more!) hope to get together to agree a programme of walks for April - September 2006. Our aim will be to publish details of this in the April edition of Village Voice and to display notices at various points in the village.

*Keith Starks (542268)*

## Your Guide to Anti-Social Behaviour

Supplied by Glenn Watkins, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council. Tel: 01553 616351 or E-mail: [glenn.Watkins@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:glenn.Watkins@west-norfolk.gov.uk)

### What is anti-social behaviour?

The law says that anti-social behaviour is when a person "has acted in a manner that caused harassment, alarm or distress."

The sort of behaviour which can cause harassment, alarm or distress can include:

**Threats or violence** against another person -, especially when it is because of their age, religion, race, ethnic origin, gender, domestic circumstances or mental or physical ability or illness - **Rubbish or litter** (including abandoned cars) - **Shouting and verbal abuse** - **Noise nuisance** (including loud music) - **Vandalism and graffiti** - **Allowing persistent nuisance by animals** (e.g dog fouling or continuous barking) - **Etc**

### Who can be guilty of anti-social behaviour?

Anti-social behaviour can be committed by an individual or a group of individuals.

The Police and Borough Council can apply for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order against any offender *aged 10 years or over*.

### What if young children are involved?

Parents and guardians are responsible for the behaviour of their children aged under 10 years. They may agree to a contract called a Parental Control Agreement, which is a formal promise to supervise the children. If the contract is broken the parent or guardian may face other legal action and/or court proceedings.

### What might happen?

The Police and/or the Borough Council want to stop Anti-Social Behaviour in the neighbourhood. - Where there is a need for further action they will meet together with other partners and will jointly agree an action plan to solve the problem. Some of the options considered will include:

ABC - Acceptable Behaviour Contract - PCA - Parental Control Agreement - ASBO - Anti-Social Behaviour Order - Depending on the age and circumstances of the offender/s the other partners may include representatives from Education, Youth Offending Team, Social Services, Health, Probation and others.

### What can you do?

Approach the person(s) yourself and explain what it is that is disturbing you. - Write to the person(s) (keep copies of all letters sent). - Keep diary notes of all incidents that occur including date, time, person(s) present and what was done/or said. - Be prepared to make statements and if necessary attend court. The Partnership will not be able to help you unless you are prepared to help yourself.

### What can we do?

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator will record your complaint and investigate. - Statements will be taken and if necessary surveillance techniques will be used. - Other agencies as well as Norfolk Constabulary will be invited to assist. - The best route to take will be used to try and resolve the problem. - If necessary formal proceedings will be used - Witnesses will be supported.

### Where can I get help?

The Police and Borough Council will offer advice and assistance for you to be involved in solving the local Anti-Social Behaviour problem. You should discuss this with Glenn Watkins. If you are concerned about your own responsibilities or liabilities you may wish to consult a solicitor, or the Citizens Advice bureau.

## Tackling Local Problems

Generally, Dersingham is a pleasant and safe place to live. However - like every village - we do have our problems. And when they do occur they can cause considerable distress and aggravation for those affected.

Yobbish behaviour and petty vandalism (sometimes around pub closing time on Friday and Saturday nights) are not unknown. Not everyone clears up after their dog; litter can cause a mess too. Sometimes groups of young people can appear intimidating, while speeding cars, thoughtless parking, and the use of quad bikes and motorcycles on footpaths are both a nuisance and can be dangerous. Noise - whether it is loud music or noisy DIY at unsocial hours - can cause real distress to neighbours. And crime is not entirely absent from our village: although usually quite minor, any crime causes concern to the victim and often to neighbours as well.

Dersingham Parish Council is determined to tackle all kinds of antisocial behaviour that reduce the pleasure of living in the village.

As a start, the Council is organising a Dersingham Community Day at St Nicholas Church Hall on Wednesday 26 October. This will start with an open event at which the police, fire service and other organisations involved in community safety will be available to provide advice and information and pick up problems from the public. This session will open at 3 pm and close at 6.30 pm. It will also provide an opportunity for residents to find out how they can improve their quality of life by, for example, reducing their energy bills: free low-energy lightbulbs will be available.

This will be followed by a public meeting at 7.30 pm aimed at giving everyone an opportunity of contributing to the Parish Council's plans for tackling antisocial behaviour. The meeting will begin by discussing some recommendations from a working group of Councillors who have been considering the issue. These recommendations include:

- A Parish Council register of incidents of antisocial behaviour so that the Council can monitor how these incidents are dealt with by the authorities. Use of this system would be encouraged through regular articles in *Village Voice* and by issuing a card for all residents to keep, telling them how to register antisocial incidents and explaining why this is important.
- The Parish Council should set up procedures to liaise with the County and Borough Councils and other relevant authorities to ensure that necessary action to deal with complaints is taken promptly.
- The Parish Council should review the way it manages its property to minimise the risk of antisocial behaviour. It should also consider whether there is any need or means by which police resources in Dersingham can be augmented.
- An examination should be carried out into how better facilities can be provided for teenagers and other young people.

The Parish Council wants to make sure that everything is being done to eliminate as far as possible the relatively minor antisocial problems in the village and to prevent them escalating into anything worse. To achieve this, the Council believes that tackling antisocial behaviour requires the active support of the whole community: it cannot be left just to the police and other officials. If you want to help make Dersingham an even better place to live, then do come along to the evening meeting. And if you want to make sure that your home is as safe and secure as it can be, then come to the afternoon event for free help and advice.

*Anyone wanting a lift to the meeting or further information is invited to contact the*

*Parish Council Clerk on 01485 541465*

## Letters to the Editor

**Sophie Fitzjohn of 'Patient and Public Involvement in Health' has asked us to publish the following:** Do you care about healthcare in West Norfolk? - Then don't let your opinions go unheard. Contact the Patient and Public Involvement in Health Forums. PPI Forums were created by the Government to act as the voice of the public on health related issues. The Forums in West Norfolk are made up of local volunteers who are enthusiastic about the health of our community. They are unpaid, unbiased and have statutory powers. One Forum looks at services provided by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and the other is the Forum for the West Norfolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) - the surgeries, clinics, dentists etc. As well as networking and promotional work, The PCT Forum has been involved with consultations including the future of the Narborough surgery and the closure of Wells Cottage Hospital. The Hospital Forum has attended a number of briefings, eg complaints, PALS, and has liaised with service managers regarding service changes/development, eg Observation Ward proposals. Members have also been involved in consultations regarding the change in visiting hours and the Chair met the Princess Royal on 11 February 2005, when the new Critical Care Centre was formally opened. Members of the public are encouraged to write to the Forum with any comments or concerns they may have about healthcare services. These comments determine the work of the Forums, so we need to hear your views! We would also like to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Forum; the more members we have, the more we can do to make a difference. You do not have to have experience in the NHS, merely an interest in raising the standards of its services. Members have the opportunity to attend a variety of training courses and networking days, will have all travel costs reimbursed, and will be guided by a team of friendly support staff. All we ask is that you can spare 4-5 hours per week, and can take on assignments of your own as well as working well in a team. It's a unique project; one that you will find interesting, challenging and rewarding. Administrative support for both Forums is provided by ACRE. They also facilitate other Forums in the area.

For more information or details on how to become a member,  
please contact Kim Armitt on 0845 0093477.

**Dick Melton of 'Sunny Hunny' writes:** On 30 July 2005 a reunion was held at Dersingham Middle School on Admiral's Drive of pupils who attended the school between 1952 and 1956, when it was St George's Secondary Modern.

The reunion was organised by Mr John Crowe, who used to live on the Sandringham Estate at Appleton, assisted by Mr and Mrs Doug Daniels. Around 100 ex-pupils attended, some of who brought their partners with them. Food was laid on and there was a good display of old photographs.

Mr Crowe thanked everyone who turned up as some had made the effort to travel quite a long way, with one person coming from as far away as North Wales. Mr Crowe also suggested that it should be held as an annual event from now on, as long as possible, and everyone agreed.

**Neil Richardson, Local Risk Manager for Norfolk Fire Service writes:** I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Neil Richardson and I have recently undertaken the new role of Local Risk Manager for Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service. My geographical work area will be in the King's Lynn & West Norfolk district but with a particular focus on Sandringham, Massingham and the surrounding parishes. The role of the Local Risk Manager is new to the Fire Service nationally and was developed here in Norfolk

with the key priority of improving community safety within Norfolk. I will be spending a great deal of my working week in the community and would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your colleagues to discuss my role with you in more detail. Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service believes that improving community safety is not always something we can deliver in isolation so forging partnerships with local community groups will play a key role in achieving a safer community for us all.

Please feel free to contact me on - Tel; 01553 775163, Fax; 01553 669836, MiniCom; 01603 223833 or by e-mail at: [neil.richardson@fire.norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:neil.richardson@fire.norfolk.gov.uk). I look forward to hearing and, indeed meeting with you in the near future.

**Mrs W N Nurse of Centre Vale writes:** After reading Dick Melton's notes on the travelling shops in the Village Voice and the information about the Post Office, I thought I would add my twopen'orth. From my 1900 Kelly's Directory, four years earlier than the 1904 mentioned, the Post Office information is exactly the same both letters and figures, but I wondered, if you had space, you might like to see the trades, etc going on in the village in 1900, also to take notice of the duplicate trades there were at that time (Editor's note; The mentioned extract from the Kelly's Directory is published on page 49 of this issue). As I did not arrive in Dersingham until 1933, at the age of seventeen, I only know what my husband had told me. I think Malcolm used to pick his brains sometimes - he was the son of my husband's eldest brother, and I appeared on the scene when Malcolm was two years old. It doesn't seem possible that I used to nurse and cuddle him. I must say it makes me giggle a bit at times when I think about past things. He was only six when I was married to his Uncle and I became an Aunt for the first time (Happy Days). I enjoy Village Voice and the articles you print. I do learn things sometimes, so you can say you are educational to an old lady of 80.

**David Wright of Dorridge, Solihull, West Midlands writes:** As a result of an article, which appeared in a fairly recent copy of Dersingham Village Voice, I have been reunited with Peter Hooks in Hampshire who I last saw 55 years ago. Peter took me to see his 100-year-old father, Alex, whom I also remember from long ago. It was wonderful to meet someone who could speak about my grandfather, let alone my parents. I had been sent an extract with the article by Peter Hooks about his father, hence my follow-up and meeting. My purpose in this message is to enquire whether it is possible in some way to subscribe to future editions and whether it is possible to read somewhere, the earlier editions. I was born in Dersingham in 1934 but moved away when I was 12.

**Some 'Concerned Dersingham Residents' (name and address supplied) write:** We think it is time that the laws about burning rubbish, etc in private gardens were changed to make this practice illegal. A lot of residents' lives are made a misery when they have to become prisoners in their own homes, because of doors and windows having to be closed, although the thick smoke still gets into our houses through vents. The population has risen greatly in Dersingham so we are living a lot closer to one another than years ago and a large majority of people are elderly and a lot of them suffer from breathing complaints, asthma, bronchitis, etc. We should be striving for a better cleaner environment and recycle rubbish instead. Surely this should be covered by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act

**George Billard of Dersingham ('having a senile moment' his words) writes:** May I make a few, maybe meaningless, points, about the Post Office parking and the former Garage, now a new Development - a much talked about topic: Post Office Parking. Back in the days when the Post Office was first built, there were very few car owners in the village consequently you either cycled or walked to the Post Office. Even a pony and trap was known to visit the establishment. The village has grown enormously, with several large

estates built, many in recent years, plus infill garden sites - all increasing the number of residents tenfold, and with modern affluent society comes, yes! transportation. Assuming each family has two cars, plus visitors, that's a lot of vehicles using one small road. I don't suppose you had to tax a pony and trap. Make Post Office Road a one-way system, surely not too much of a problem to change one would have thought. Or is it? Too many men in bowler hats maybe? Move the Post Office. Somewhere it was said the Post Office was offered a larger site, but the offer was declined for some reason or another. Former Garage/ New Development. The way modern life is today with massive conglomerates, the small village Garage cannot compete against such competition. Should the owner of the Garage sit on his ever-devaluing business? Just to keep the village people happy, as they pass by on the way to town to buy the cheaper fuel. Today villagers shop at Supermarkets in town buying fuel for the body, and now fuel for their transport. Maybe even some hay. Sell the site for development as numerous other garages throughout the country have been forced to do, and as we now know first hand. Is a Garage not a place where vehicles go in and out of all day? Plus large tankers, at times manoeuvring across the road to replenish the underground tanks. So then, if you have people buying their own property, will they not be at work earning a wage to pay a mortgage? How many properties? Ten! Not many vehicles compared to a garage, having a car park to the rear of the Development and opposite the Post Office. Have we all at sometime said to ourselves I'll just park here I won't be a minute?

*Mrs I M Laws of Gelham Court writes:* It was nice to see the article in the Village Voice about my late husband, Bob Laws. I appreciate that very much. If possible could you put a small piece in the next Village Voice saying that Bob's family would like to thank everyone for the donations given in his memory. The total was £283 which has been divided between St Nicholas Church and St Cecilia's Church.

## Dersingham Library V J Day Tea Party



A great afternoon was had by all in the Library to celebrate VJ Day on 15 August. Residents, staff and volunteers from The Gables joined veterans and borrowers in tea and cakes served by a variety of land girls and 'Nippies' masquerading as Library staff! Stuart Hall, outreach worker from the Lynn Museum brought along some wartime artefacts and held a reminiscence session. Some Dersingham residents and visitors

brought along their own memorabilia and photographs of their time in the Far East.

Library staff were very touched to be thanked for giving people the opportunity to sit and share their memories and would like to thank everyone who helped with the afternoon. The winners of the children's summer art competition were Emily Briggs, Ellen Carter and Ellie Brewer for their splendid Sea Monsters; Jamma Warrington, Lauren Doy and Georgina Norman for their Seascapes. Many thanks to everyone for their entries. Continuing our celebration of 'Sea Britain' there will be a photographic exhibition from 10 - 29 October by Jo Halpin Jones.

## Sarah's Page

Hi and welcome to autumn, it seems to have got cold very quickly this year. Christmas will soon be upon us. What would you like to see in the village this Christmas? Would you like lights and a tree on the recreation ground? Could we put on a nativity this year? Let me know what you would like to see.

Unfortunately you will see that we are advertising for another Clerical Assistant as due to personal reasons Norma Hart has decided to move on. I would like to thank Norma for the month that she was with us.

The Skateboard Park is up and running and is very popular with the children of the village. We hope to have an official opening very soon and also to unveil the Alderman George Pratt roundabout sign. Look out for posters for this event.

We are still hoping to hold a BBQ and have a bonfire to celebrate Trafalgar Day, just waiting to see if the land is available. If anyone has any other suggestions or ideas please contact me.

I still have the diary of village events in the office but as yet I have received no information of any of the village organisations etc. Please tell me what is happening as you may find it beneficial to your event.

Well I think that is all from me. If there is something happening in the village which 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*



## Can You Name These Bowls Players?



**All were members of  
the Dersingham  
Institute Bowls Club  
in 1955**

Dersingham Parish Councillor Dick Murrell is offering a prize of a bottle of whisky to anyone who can name **every** person in the photograph. Answers should be addressed to the Parish Clerk (address on page 70) to be received by

Friday 11 November at the latest. In the event of a tie, a draw will be held to determine the winner.

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## Dersingham Welcomes Its New Vicar!



**Michael and Carolyn Brock**

***The Reverend Michael Brock  
Induction Service  
Friday 25 November, 2005***

On Friday 25th November at 7.30 pm, the Reverend Michael Brock will be inducted as Vicar of Anmer, Dersingham and Shernbourne Parishes. This is a most significant event for the three Churches as well as for Michael and one to which we are all greatly looking forward.

The service begins with an act of Presentation and Commendation; this reminds us that as members of Christ's body we all share in his work in the world.

The new vicar makes his specific promises, emboldened and encouraged by what he has just heard. Presented by the Rural Dean and then invited by the Bishop to give his assent to the faith as it has been received by the Church of England, he will make the oath of allegiance to the Queen, and oath of canonical obedience to the Bishop.

The Bishop reads the Deed of Institution, the solemn and legal document stating that he shares his cure of the souls of the people of the parish with the new vicar. This reminds us that he will minister, not on his own authority, but in the name of the Church and the gospel.

After the induction, symbols of the Incumbent's ministry are presented to him.

- The making of disciples, represented by the water of baptism which is given at the font.
- A Bible is given, proclaiming God's Kingdom in Word and action which is given at the Lectern
- Pray in the Spirit, represented by a Book of Common Prayer at the Minister's stall.
- At the Sanctuary step a Jug of Oil is given for the healing of the sick.
- The fellowship we share in is sacramental, represented in bread and wine given at the altar.

Michael, like us all, is sent; for our ministry is apostolic. The Bishop then blesses him before the Archdeacon places him in the vicar's stall, thereby installing him as parish priest. After this, the churchwardens and others welcome the new vicar. The new vicar leads, for the first of many times, the prayers for the parish.

A new chapter in the long and rich life of our Churches begins. We hope that many of you will be able to witness this great occasion – a time of celebration and thankfulness to God by us all and join our guests and visitors for refreshments in the Church Hall after the service

*Rita Mathews*

"No-one can arrive from being talented alone. God gives talent:  
Work transforms talent into genius"

*Anna Pavlova*

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## VJ DAY



The West Norfolk Group of the Royal British Legion held their VJ Day

Commemorations at Dersingham on 13 August 2005. This event was to mark the 60th Anniversary of the victory over Japan and the final end of the second world war. On a day marred by poor weather there was still a good response by various stall holders present and the efforts they had put in to make the event successful were greatly appreciated. A parade of RBL ex-service members and other groups was held in the afternoon. The parade formed up in Station Road and marched to the Recreation Ground where the salute was taken by the Mayor of King's Lynn and Wing Commander A Knowles from RAF Marham.

A well attended service followed which was held by the village War Memorial, the Last Post was sounded, a piper played a lament and silence was observed in memory of those who had given their lives for our country followed by reveille. Wreaths were laid by the Mayor, the Royal British Legion and other

organisations. The Dersingham Branch of the RBL would like to thank all those who contributed in any way towards this event.

*Anyone who is interested in the aims of the RBL, whether ex-service personnel or not should contact Vic Staples at 01485 541741 or Alan Cross 540532 for further details. Dersingham Branch RBL.*

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**A Fishy, Bishy Tale**

*Kathy Jordan © 19/09/05*



Bishy Barnabee's a novel name its origin hard to know,  
Is it a humming bumblebee? With a yasin yellow glow? -  
Laced with its trailing deadly sting - buzzing around the barn?  
With no trace of sweetened honey there it sounds a likely yarn.

So should it end with Barnaby? - A wise man's dishy son  
This too appears a fishy tale yet the girls with him have fun.

But Barnabys aren't black and red ('less the dye pot they've been in)  
Bees don't have 'moons' instead of stripes 'less they've been on the gin!!  
Something, somewhere must have turned tail, has a miracle occurred? -

For a Bishy Barnabee hereabouts, is a spotted ladybird!!

*Local people have told me a 'Bishy Barnabee' is a saying for a ladybird, and there is a Bishy Barnabee Way in Norwich, but where did this unique name originate?? - K.J.*



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## Growing up in Dersingham After The War



*Primrose Bantoft moved to Dersingham as a young girl in 1945. Here are some of her memories*

My first memory of 'Springhurst' (it was called The-House-on-the-Hill then) in Fern Hill was in the winter of 1945, just before Christmas, soon after my parents bought it. I

got lost in it once or twice as I was quite young and had never lived in such a large house before. My bedroom was the one under the central gable. It faced the garden and you could see right across to Sandringham Woods. The room was painted pink - and how I loved it. The garden was very large with an orchard and a fenced-off part for the pony. We also kept chickens which initially free-ranged around the garden; later they lived in the orchard. I became friendly with Anna Smith who lived at Hill House Farm at the top of Fern Hill. I was very impressed the first time I went to the farm on seeing a real working pump beside the sink. I had never seen one indoors before. Every afternoon after milking we used to take our milk can up to the farm to have it filled with fresh milk. Anna and I were friends for years but lost touch when we grew up. One of my earliest memories is a summer evening in 1946 when I was waiting just outside the front gate for my pony to be delivered. Great excitement!

I had some wonderful times with that pony. Anna and I rode around the surrounding countryside for years. We knew Sandringham Woods very well and also rode in the Park when the Royal Family were away. As is to be expected, there have been some changes to the Sandringham estate. Where the marquees are erected now for events, there were once trees for miles. I remember a huge birch tree where we used to have family picnics: it was very shady and easy to climb. The avenue leading to the Norwich Gates was once lined with mature green beech trees, larches and firs. It is sad to see they have all gone now. Another favourite ride was across Dersingham Heath. We rode along a man-made path that was cut out of the heather and crossed the Heath as far as the railway line where it stopped short at a wire netting fence. I think it had been there for about 50 years even then. It was a very desolate place, and as parts of it were marshy it was home to quite a number of shelduck.

On one unforgettable occasion I was riding alone along the Green Lane when I met Princess Elizabeth. It was in 1951, not long before she became Queen, and she was riding the most beautiful iron-grey horse I had ever seen.

I belonged to the Sandringham Pony Club and the rallies were held in a very large paddock. I can't remember the exact location but I think it was near the Persimmon statue. I really enjoyed the rallies and on a recent visit to Sandringham I was very happy to see that Persimmon has remained completely unchanged.

*Primrose Bantoft now lives in Newmarket*

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## Watch this Space!

Copyright: Hugh Mullarkey – 20/09/05



Invaders from Planet Carbuncle  
Are taking over the Earth  
They need to find some living space  
As they've ruined their Planet of birth.

You'll recognise the species  
With their 'warts and all' approach  
As they roam the land in their JCBs  
Seeking land on which to encroach.

They infiltrate Planning Departments  
And enveigle permission to build  
Then endeavour to cover with concrete  
Every hectare they haven't yet filled.

They specialize in passing the buck  
They're impossible to find  
And if you try to pin them down  
You'll find that they've just resigned.

Their policy is simple  
(Of Space they've not had enough!):  
'Into any Carbuncular building site  
How many Earthlings can we stuff?'

And when the residents park their cars  
And traffic grinds to a halt  
Then the aliens can always claim  
That it's all the Earthlings' fault.

While he seeks to divide and conquer  
The Carbuncular alien plots  
To make our Planet a site for eyesores  
And to cover the landscape with blots!

## An Introduction To One of Our Local Parish Councillors



Councillor Jean Riches

I was born in 1930 at Bexwell Downham Market and moved to Wolferton in 1945. I then started work in the sewing room department at Carleugh's of King's Lynn, where I stayed for seven years, after getting married and starting a family. I met my husband, Eric, in 1947 and married four years later. I first became interested in becoming a Parish Councillor when I attended meetings on behalf of the WI. I worked at St George's School for 21 years after our children were older, and served my last years as Cook Manageress. Since working there I have worked part-time. We have a family of four, one daughter who is a Headmistress, and three sons, plus five grandchildren. I have lived in Dersingham all my married life and have been a Councillor for nearly 21 years. I am also a member of Dersingham United Charities.

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## Greenish Fingers – in Late Summer

**19 July** – Long-tailed tits in the bushes, and blackbirds already eating leycesteria berries, which they can't resist.

**10 August** – Young, wobbly hedgehog appeared, slept on the grass in the sun, disappeared when it rained; not seen since.

**12 August** – Robin singing. Green woodpeckers 'laughing'.

**24 August** – Made plum chutney.

**26 August** – Small, delicate blue butterfly on hebe – think it's a green-underwing blue.

**30 August** – Two garden chairs. Human sitting on one. Robin sat on the other, eyeing human quizzically!

**12 September** – England won the Ashes! Lots of birds reappearing.

Despite the blue butterflies and a few pretty little skippers, it has been a sparse summer for butterflies. Also for wasps, which need insects to eat earlier in the year. Too cold in late spring? We haven't seen a hummingbird hawk moth either; nor last year. In 2003 one fed at the buddleia, and as it flies by day we had a perfect view of its wing-whirring and its stunning colours, black, brown and orange. With its tufted 'tail' it did resemble a tiny, hovering humming-bird. Perhaps we may still see it, as it seems it produces a second brood in September, after migrating northwards from southern Europe. Its caterpillar is "green at first, becoming red-brown with fine white dots, white lines on back and sides, and a blue abdominal horn with a yellow tip, without hairs" (Collins Nature Guides). So now we know! We're unlikely to spot one, I fear, as they don't usually survive northern winters.

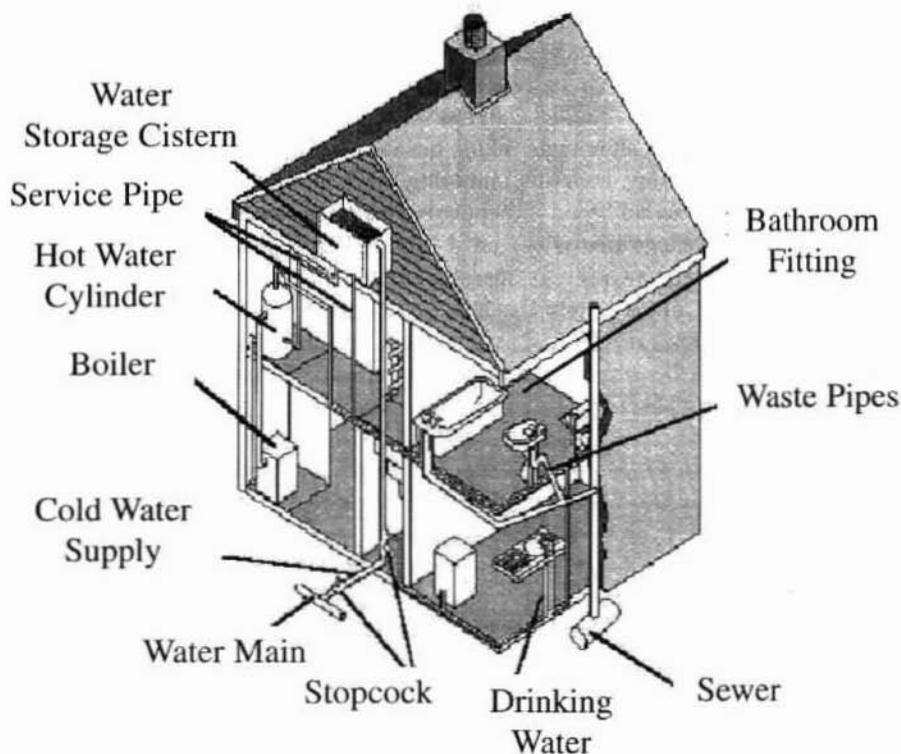
On hot days, and there have been some, we've found frogs of all sizes sheltering in the garden's damp, shady spots. Some are as small as my thumbnail. I wonder if frogs will become increasingly rare here; it seems a mysterious fungal disease is attacking amphibians. Frogs, toads, newts, salamanders, and their larger relatives, all are at risk, about 1,800 species worldwide, so I've read.

People who spend time, perhaps their whole lives, working to save species that many of us don't spare a thought for, fill me with humble admiration. At the same time I'm despondent, I'm sure I'm not alone in this, about the casual thoughtlessness with which we humans treat our immediate surroundings, whether these are the grass verges mown by public employees who are only doing their job, or the gardens of private individuals, you and I, who should pause and consider. How many small creatures are mown down by trimmers, cut into pieces by whizzing cord, caught up in unbreakable plastic netting, burnt alive inside bonfires, starved inside plastic bottles thrown down just anywhere, poisoned by slug pellets... It's an effort, sometimes, to remember there's a lot of good happening out there too.

**Tip for October** – Check a built-up bonfire before setting it alight. Better still, pile up your debris and build your bonfire in a different spot at the last minute. And be cautious about plunging a garden fork straight into a compost heap.

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## The Battle of Trafalgar - 20 October 1805

### The most decisive naval battle in history.

(Printed by kind permission of Malcolm A Baldwin, Editor, RAF Regiment (Birmingham) Newsletter)

#### Part Three of Four

Napoleon had had his troubles with the Royal Navy before. The French occupation of Egypt was ultimately undone when Nelson smashed the French fleet in the Battle of the Nile off Alexandria. Were this all Nelson had done, he would be still be regarded as a famous admiral, but his greatest day was yet to come.

Of all Napoleon's foes, the British alone remained undefeated and implacable in their opposition. Unlike his other enemies, who he was able to meet in open battle, the English were protected by the English Channel and the Royal Navy. As a naval victory alone would not subdue them, he needed to defeat the British on land and on their own soil as he had done the Austrians and Prussians. To do this, the British navy had to be distracted or defeated to allow his army to cross the channel.

In August of 1805, he wrote to his admirals: "Come into the Channel. Bring our united fleet and England is ours. If you are only here for 24 hours, all will be over, and six centuries of shame and insult will be avenged." It was an order, however, which his captains found impossible to obey. Although Napoleon had 2,000 ships and 90,000 men assembled along the coast of France, the British blockade of the French and Spanish harbours had virtually immobilised this gigantic force.

#### Comparison of the Fleets

The British had kept the French and Spanish fleets separated and locked up in port. Of the ships of the line available to Napoleon, 35 French and 25 Spanish; about one third were in the Mediterranean. In 1803, the British had 111 ships, of which 60 could be used in home waters and the Mediterranean. The rest were spread throughout the West Indies, North America, India and the East Indies to protect British interests.

Of the remainder, many were dispersed on blockade duty. In 1805, 12 were stationed off Brest, six at Ferrol, 11 at Toulon and five at Texel to keep an eye on the Dutch. There was an additional reserve, six in Kent and five at Plymouth. As a generalisation, the French and Spanish ships could be viewed as more strongly built and more heavily gunned than those of the British but they were blockaded in port and in various states of disrepair, many unseaworthy.

The French revolution had decimated the officer corps of the French navy. Most officers were revolutionary appointees, inexperienced in command and lacking in ability while the rank and file was no better. In 1793, the Corps of Seaman had been disbanded and army soldiers had to be used to fight on board ships rather than sailors and marines. The Spanish were in even worse shape, the French admiral Villeneuve describing them as "herdsmen and beggars." The allied navies were, therefore, inexperienced at naval warfare and unskilled at ship handling.

On the other hand, most English officers had been in battle. Sailors were mostly either volunteers or had been pressed into service from the maritime community. As a merchant ship sails the same way as a warship, they were experienced at ship handling and gave the British a distinct advantage in maneuverability. More importantly, most had seen action and experienced success. This resulted in confidence and an expectation of victory that the French lacked.

### **Prelude to Battle**

In desperation, Napoleon ordered his fleet at Cadiz to sail out and meet the enemy ships which sat quietly waiting on the green Atlantic swells at Cape Trafalgar, some 80 kilometres east of Cadiz. "His Majesty counts for nothing the loss of his ships," Napoleon's message ended, "provided they are lost with glory." In response to this order, a Franco-Spanish fleet of 33 ships, with 2,640 guns, commanded by Admiral Villeneuve, set out from Cadiz to engage the enemy. Massive though this force was compared to the force that awaited them, its destruction was an almost foregone conclusion from the very beginning.

There were several reasons for the inevitable destruction of the Franco-Spanish fleet, not the least being that it was commanded by a man who was haunted by the memory of his humiliating defeat at the hands of a much smaller English force only three months earlier. A man, moreover, that even Napoleon had decided at the last moment was ill-fitted for the task that had been entrusted to him.

As Villeneuve was sailing out of Cadiz, a horseman was hastening down the Spanish Peninsula, carrying a message, informing Villeneuve that he was to hand over his command to Admiral Rosily. It would be wrong to assume that if the messenger had arrived in time to stop Villeneuve sailing, and the highly capable Admiral Rosily had been in command, the outcome of the Battle of Trafalgar might have been a different one. There were too many other factors weighed in the balance against the Franco-Spanish fleet for this to have happened. Like Villeneuve, the captains of the French and Spanish fleets were imbued with a sense of impending defeat before they had even encountered the enemy. And with good cause! Demoralised by a long period of inactivity, and with 1,700 sick men aboard their ships, the French sailed out of Cadiz knowing that only a miracle could give them a victory.

### **Press-ganged crews**

The Spanish ships, manned mostly by soldiers or by beggars press-ganged from the slums of Cadiz, with gunners who had never fired a gun from a rolling ship, and commanded by Spanish captains who resented being placed under a French admiral, were in an even worse plight. Most unnerving of all for the captains of the fleet, was the knowledge that they were about to pit themselves against the most skilful sea captain of all time - Horatio Viscount Nelson. Only slightly less awe-inspiring was the British Jack Tar himself, that clay-piped, pig-tailed sailor, who, more often than not, had also been recruited by the press gangs from the scourgings of the English sea towns. Already an aggressive fighting man by instinct, he had literally been whipped into becoming a magnificent sailor by the iron discipline of autocratic captains for whom the lash was the answer to almost every infringement of the ship's rules. A seasoned French sailor would have had difficulty in holding his own against such a formidable foe, let alone those pathetic crews sailing out to meet the English fleet. On 20 October, 1805, the Franco-Spanish fleet was sighted, and soon afterwards the area where the British ships waited, became bright with patches of gaudy bunting as each ship broke out strings of flags which passed on the message: "The French and Spanish are out at last, they outnumber us in ships and guns and men: we are on the eve of the greatest sea fight in history."



## A Short History Of St Nicholas Church Dersingham

### Part Two

Compiled in 1958 by The Rev W P Tippen, Vicar  
Originally published [Price One Shilling (5p)] by Graham Cumming Ltd, The Church Publishers, Ramsgate and printed by Westwood Press Ltd., Broadstairs, and reproduced in Village Voice as a two-part series by kind permission of the publishers

### The Parish Church

Let us first look at the exterior of the Church built in the Decorated and Perpendicular styles, largely of local carstone. Referring to the photograph of the tower, just to the east of the second small clerestory window a distinct line can be seen on the wall. This is visible on both sides of the Church and probably marks the extent of the Norman building before the tower and the two western arcades of the nave were added about 1370. This earlier Church probably consisted of nave and chancel. When the present chancel was built in the early fourteenth century, the aisles were also added and later in the same century, the tower was completed, the aisles raised to their present height and the clerestory built to give greater height to the roof and so preserve the proportions of the building. Larger flat stones will be noticed near the top of the aisle windows probably denoting the original roof level, Note also the Sanctus Bell turret at the east end of the nave and the blocked up niche above the large east window. Remains of the old preaching cross are preserved in the churchyard and the oldest gravestone bears the name of Thomas Fitlin, grocer and his wife Sarah 1686. The stone figures on the tower are modern as is the organ chamber. Now let us look inside. Although considerably restored in 1877-79 at a cost of £6,000 much of the old building remains.

The fourteenth century arcades with octagonal piers having concave faces worked under a cap with trefoils are of interest. Some old poppy head bench ends have been retained note the one on the back seat on the north side of the centre alley, a bearded face with open mouth and protruding tongue. The stained glass is modern and commemorates members of the Firth and Parker families and the amplifying equipment is a memorial to Mrs F Lloyd-Pratt. The clock in the tower was erected at a cost of £160 on the Coronation of Edward VII.

In the seventeenth century the Church appears to have been rather dilapidated and there was difficulty in finding a Vicar. The oldest register shows that when Henry Scrimger died in 1653 the parish was without a Vicar for seven years, no doubt owing to the fact that "the Vicarage is not worth at the utermost above Sixteene pounds by the year." Then we read, "William Houghton, Vicar, began to preach in this towne August 1659 that was his first coming." During the intervening period an old document in the Church Chest dated 1655 entitled "the full answers of Godfry Dor" testifies that a certain Mr Stephens "supplyeth the cure and that he doe receive the perffitts of the said Vicarage to his owne use." He seems to be one of the "ministers" intruded into the living during the Commonwealth when the clergy were deprived of their parishes,

anyone who possessed a Prayer Book was fined £5 for the first offence and a year's imprisonment for the third, no service was allowed for the burial of the dead and the ring in marriage was forbidden. Our oldest register bears witness to the fact that not only were banns of marriage not always published in Church but the couple were "married" by the magistrate, the clergy having been forbidden to take the service. An entry in 1655 records that the banns of "Anthony Arnold of Dersingham widdower and Eliz: Woolstone of Bircham Tofts widd:" were published "three several days in the market Snettsham" and John Pell (whose monument is in the Chancel) a Justice of the Peace pronounced the couple husband and wife in the presence of the Vicar.

### **The Chest**

The beautiful Church Chest, probably dating from 1360 when a chest is mentioned in the Inventory of Church Goods, is one of the best Chests in England of the Decorated period. It is conjectured that the letter R that was in the centre of the lid, half of which, unfortunately, has disappeared, stood for Richard de Wiclewood who was Vicar here some ten years before and the other letters S.A. and R.A. for the Churchwardens. When the lid was complete, Cotman made a drawing in 1838 and we learn from this that the inscription round the edge was "Jesus Nazareus Crucifixus Rex Judaeorum." Note the beautifully carved pattern of birds and roses which runs along the top and bottom with the background filled in rich four leaved diaper. Also the traceried window-like panels with the emblems of the four Evangelists, SS Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - the Man, the Lion, the Ox and the Eagle. The names are carried on a scroll with Lombardic lettering. Like the ancient poor box, which should be noted, the Chest had three locks - one for the Vicar and the other two for the Churchwardens. It certainly prevented the loss of documents which seems to have happened in recent years.

### **The Font**

The Font, like the Church, is of the fourteenth century and it will be seen that the design is the same as on the pillars. Note on each of the faces two ogee headed arches. The fourteenth century cover was restored in 1914 to the original pattern from a water-colour sketch preserved in the British Museum.

### **The Screen**

The lower panels and upright posts are part of the original fourteenth century Screen, but the upper part, with the figure of our Lord on the Cross and our Lord's Mother and St. John on either side are a modern restoration. The Norfolk Screens are not so richly carved as those to be found in the West Country but usually more colourful. The panels on the south side seem to have been left unfinished, but the figures on the north side - left to right - appear to be St. Agatha, St Denys, St Agnes, St Hubert, St Martha and a bishop in cope and mitre who may be Simon of Sudbury, who was Archbishop of Canterbury at the time the Church was built.

Formerly there would have been a Chantry Chapel at the east end of the south aisle separated by a parclose screen. Fragments of this screen have been incorporated in the pulpit and choir stalls when the Church was restored in 1877, Besides the Guild of the Holy Trinity, mentioned by Blomefield, there were also the Guilds of St Nicholas, St Anne, St James, and St Thomas which met in the south aisle.

### **The South and North Aisles**

These are the original walls. Note the piscina with octofoiled basin and cinquefoiled ogee arch terminating in a traceried panel. The position of the hagioSCOPE or "squinT" in

the north wall of the Chapel would seem to indicate that in former times the Altar stood away from the east wall leaving a space behind for the Sacristy. Under the Altar will be seen part of a granite slab set in the floor, this is thought to be the Altar slab which was discovered when restoration work was carried out in 1911. It was found buried beneath the floor, probably when an Order in Council was made in 1550 for the destruction of all stone altars. Note also the ancient tiles in the floor, preserved on the north side of the Altar, bearing parts of two coats of arms, of the Felton family who owned Gelham Hall in the fourteenth century and which may have been part of the floor of St. Mary's Chapel built by Sir Thomas Gelham in 1264.

The Altar in the north aisle is a memorial dedicated to the fallen of two world wars. The Aumbry in the north wall is set in a plainly rebated square.

### The Chancel

The present Chancel was built early in the fourteenth century enlarging the Norman Chancel but the arch is partly modern. In 1602 the Church appears to have been in a dilapidated condition for in an account of ruined Norfolk Churches we read, "Dersingha", The Chauncell windowes being verie large arid great are dawbed vpp verie vncomelie by the default of Mr. Pells, fermor to the Rectorie there." In 1655, Godfry Dorr, who lived at Dersingham Hall and did "repaire the second seat in the parish church" said he did not think there was anything belonging to the Church worth removing to another church. This may well have been the case for, no doubt, many things of value were lost during the Commonwealth period when Mr. Stephens was intruded into the living.

Several years ago a number of fragments of painted glass was found during excavations in the Churchyard and some pieces bearing the name of Pell and the date 1650 are preserved in the Church Chest, others inserted in the windows. How the "verie large windows" came to be destroyed, there is no record. The preservation of the east window has, apparently, always been a problem for in 1823, Richard Stanton, Churchwarden, writing to the Vicar, the Rev. T. Kerrich, says "I am sorry to inform you the glass you mention was the greatest part of it destroy'd and the arched stonework entirely blown to pieces." In a later letter he writes "the Church window I am sorry to say has got none of the painted glass again as the whole of it was entirely spoild but it is properly repaired with plain glass. Dersingham seems to have been subject to gales for a letter dated 1779 from the previous Vicar, the Rev S Hey, says "Mr. Stanton has informed me by a letter that the Vicarage barn at Dersingham was blown down in the late high wind." The letter has the amusing conclusion "Pray thank Mr. Stanton for the brace of "lifine pheasants"

There is a good fourteenth century sedilia with pillars and cinquefoil arches under a square label and an octofoiled piscina.

The Low Window has modern tracery following the original. Its purpose is uncertain, but Munro Cautley is probably right in saying "the Low Window enabled the Sanctus Bell to be rung at Ter Sanctus in the Parish Mass in order that voillagers unable to be present, might pause and participate in the service" The Priest's door is rather fine, continuously moulded and with a label.

The Pell Monument is the most interesting. The incised figures on a black marble slab are of a man and wife in Elizabethan dress, gown and loose sleeves and wearing a ruff. Note the kneeling figures on the sides, of six sons and three daughters. The restored coloured shield is the arms of the Pell family. The only monumental brass in the Church is that of the Pells at the west end of the north aisle. The family have been benefactors of the Church

and in 1638 gave a Paten bearing this inscription "Posuit donum ad altare domini Katharina Pell" and later a Flagon with an old whistle incorporated in the handle showing its secular origin. The Elizabethan Chalice dated 1561 has the inscription - THE TOVENSHIP OF DASYNAM.

The Sanctuary Carpet was made 40 years ago by Communicant members of the Church.

### Registers

The oldest register dated 1653 "conteyneth a true and pfect Register of all Publications Marriages, Births ... and Burialls ... within the parish of Dersingham." But other events of interest are recorded. On September 12th 1671 there was a great flood "all the generall marshes in Darsingham and also the comon marshe there were overflowed by reason that the tyde did come over the tope of all the Bankes ... then it continued in the comon marshe by the space of two days, test : prime John Chamberlane and others whoe were in the fflood gitting out of cattell." John Chamberlane desired that the 29th Psalm should be sung on this date every year - a custom we have revived. John Chamberlane's will is still preserved in the Church Chest. In the margin is an account of another flood in 1735.

### The paraphrase of Erasmus and the Books of Homilies

In 1547 it was required that every church should have a large copy of the Bible in English and also the "Paraphrase of Erasmus" whose wish it was that "even the weakest woman should read the Gospel" and "that the husbandman should sing portions of them to himself as he follows the plough." In Elizabeth's reign the Books of Homilies, or sermons, referred to in the Articles of Religion in the Prayer Book, were issued to the Clergy to be read in Church. Dersingham possesses a copy of both The Paraphrase and The Books of Homilies, the latter being a reprint of 1640.

### The Bells

There are six bells bearing the following inscriptions - Treble, ++ 1773; second, J. M. Fecit 1750 NH. SS. CHW.: third, ARNOLD and OSBORN ST. NEOTS 1773; fourth, JOHN DRAPER MADE ME 1630; fifth, + Nic. Hendry, Sam Scarfe.

### CHURCHWARDENS. Joseph

Mallows fecit 1750 and tenor, Thomas Newman made MEE 1705. I. Pell, T Rogers. Cwardens.

So we conclude our little tour of this beautiful Church of St. Nicholas, Dersingham and as you leave the churchyard by the west gate you will pass the ancient Tith Barn with the date on the gable end 1671 IVLY the 31. The bells call us to worship week by week and when this life is over the passing bell bids us pray for the departed soul. Will you think on these things when you return again to your own home and you hear the bells of your own parish church calling you to the worship of God?



## Lifeboats

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## St Nicholas Arts & Crafts Festival August Bank Holiday Weekend



St Nicholas Church proved itself the perfect exhibition location for paintings in a variety of media. 162 paintings by 25 local artists were displayed alongside Bonsai, Contemporary Floral displays, Lace Making, Modern Embroidery and a selection of craftwork by Dersingham Evening WI. The Craft Fayre in the Church Hall proved popular with visitors and the Photographic Exhibition by Hunstanton Camera Club created a great deal of

interest. The club kindly agreed to judge the 8 entries in the A&C Festival Photographic Competition, "Norfolk - Nelson's County". Each entry had its own supporters and we are pleased to announce the result of the judging here:

**1st prize - No 8 "Behold - the sea"** (shown above) - **Mrs B Box**

Judges comments "Depicts Nelson as a young boy awaiting a career on the sea"

**2nd prize - No 3 "At Wells" - Mrs J Harris**

**3rd prize - No 6 "Low tide evening, Old Hunstanton Beach" - Mrs J Kelly**

*Dersingham PCC would like to thank all who supported this event.*

### Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

Monday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm

Tuesday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm

Wednesday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Thursday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

**The Dersingham Parish Council Office is at**

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## Dersingham United Charities Sunshine and Storms for Walk on the Commons



Chairman Alan Cross explains the reasons for clearing birch trees on the Fen to Tony Bubb (Parish Council Chairman and Jennifer and Neil Adams)

It had rained all day, but at 6.30 pm on Thursday 28 July 2005, 17 people turned up during a spell of brilliant sunshine at Dersingham Village Sign for a walk on Dersingham Commons. These are administered by volunteer Trustees of Dersingham United Charities.

Alan Cross, Chairman of the Trustees, led the walk and another Trustee, environmentalist Sarah Harmer, was on hand to answer botanical questions. Alan explained that the Fen, on the right as you leave Dersingham for King's Lynn, was formerly the site of a shooting range, but is now home to a wide variety of heathers and bog plants. Long ditches and weirs were built by English Nature to keep the level of the water high, but these have now been filled in again. There are boardwalks and paths criss-crossing

this common and some wonderful reeds in the river. When the railway crossed this common, there were often fires that kept the birch trees and undergrowth in check, but now a fringe of birches borders the road. The hill on the "Open Common" to the left of the road, has now been cleared of gorse. It is sprouting a thick haze of purple heather, as it did 100 years ago. To improve the vista from the seat at the top of the hill, English Nature has cut a swathe through the fringe of birch on the Fen, so you can see almost to the sea. Alan Cross pointed out the areas where the bracken has been removed, so sunlight can encourage the heathers to grow. Rhododendrons and gorse are inhospitable to wildlife, so both must be kept in check. The Trustees are also responsible for keeping the dyke clear, the paths open for walkers and the parking area tidy. After an hour or so, thunder rolled, the heavens opened and everyone ran for shelter in heavy undergrowth. It wasn't a brief shower, however, so we huddled together, getting wetter and wetter. As soon as there was a break in the storm, everyone made his or her drenched way home. But the Trustees were very pleased that so many braved the weather and asked such interesting questions.

The Clerk of the Trustees, Ruth Mountain, (01485 541523) can help with any enquiries about Dersingham United Charities. Questions can also be put to the Trustees at the Annual Parish meeting. The Dersingham Allotments are managed by the Allotment Gardeners Association, but administered by the Trustees.

*Mrs May R Davey, Trustee of Dersingham United Charities*



Some of the 17 walkers who gathered in sunshine at Dersingham Village Sign for a walk on the Commons, which are managed by Dersingham United Charities Trust  
(Photographs: May Davey)

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## Origins of Bonsai

Pictorial records show that around 200 BC the Chinese Han Dynasty developed miniature landscapes complete with trees, rocks and mosses. The Buddhists looked after them. Later they turned mainly to trees which they revered as part of their cultural heritage. The trees they used were collected from harsh environments in the mountains where their growth was very stunted and they were kept in this natural miniature state. Around the 12th century as Buddhism began to spread, the idea of growing miniature trees in pots was taken to Japan by Buddhist monks and the art of



Bonsai developed as part of their culture. For many years only those of noble birth and high office were allowed to own these trees which were deemed to possess spiritual qualities which would be passed on to the owners. Some of the Japanese trees are very old and are passed down through generations, but Western Bonsai is quite recent and has developed differently. The art and technique of Bonsai was first brought to the attention of the West at the Paris World Exhibition 1889 and soon many enthusiasts began collecting these trees.

### How to Begin

The art of Bonsai is to cultivate a tree or shrub by stunting its growth without any visual damage, nursing with food, water and general loving care and not just relying on nature as woodland trees do. The best way to obtain a tree is to find a seedling or any low-growing shrub with a thick stem that is no longer needed in your garden. Perhaps someone is digging up an old hedge for example. Buying a small inexpensive tree from a garden centre is also an option as is taking cuttings. Do not dig up trees from the wild.

For seedlings it is best to trim the tap root before planting out in open ground for a year or two to promote more hairy roots and top growth.

### Care of Plants

1) **Repotting** of deciduous trees starts in February before the new buds break to prevent injury to new shoots.

- i) **Trim the roots** by about a third
- ii) **Clean pot** - put in new gravel around the drainage holes
- iii) **Plant in Bonsai compost** - if necessary wiring to hold the tree firmly in position in the pot.
- iv) **Wiring branches** if required should take place at this stage.

2) **Repotting of conifers** can take place slightly later.

### Watering and Feeding

Trees should be watered daily and misted in dry weather. Feeding should be started 4 weeks after repotting and should be continued weekly at half-strength.

### Other Care

Shade outdoor plants in hot weather and continue to prune as required to shape the tree.

## **Indoor Bonsai**

The care of indoor trees follows the same principles and these trees should be looked after in the same way that you would care for any house plant with regard to positioning, temperature, watering and feeding etc.

### **Larger Trees in Pots or Tubs**

Larger Bonsai-style trees can make quite a feature in the garden or on the patio. These need not be wired and shaped as much as the smaller trees but the branches can be pruned to make the tree look natural and the roots need to be regularly pruned as with smaller trees to keep it to the size of the pot. Regular feeding and watering is necessary as well as repotting. This is a very brief introduction to the art of creating Bonsai and I hope it may encourage you to want to know more about this fascinating subject. I have been interested in Bonsai for about 20 years and belong to a small and dedicated group which meets monthly at the Church Rooms in Dersingham. You are welcome to come along to our meetings. There is no annual fee - just a token amount towards the rental.

*Brian Taylor, Tel: 01553 765836*

## **Dersingham Horticultural Society 17th Annual Horticultural Show**

Our 17th Annual Horticultural Show was again well supported. There was a total of 343 classes entered from 88 competitors. The caterpillars must have had a field day, with the Green Cabbages this year as that class did not have one entry. In contrast, Flower Arranging had a record 26 entries. Cookery was well supported as usual, as were the Children's Classes. The Society were granted a Banksian Medal again by the RHS.. This is for most points in Horticultural Classes only and this year's winner was Reg Eastwick. The medal has to be applied for each year, so we never know if we will get one. This year's was only the third we have had. I would like to thank everyone who entered and all the Members who helped on both days, especially the Stewards on Show Day, also all the people who came along to have a look etc.

*Derek Asker, Show Secretary*

## **THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Dersingham and Sandringham Branch Women's Section**

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**Tuesday November 1st**

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## Village Voice Live

Roger Haverson MRCVS, addressed the September gathering at St Cecilia's recounting the story of his forty odd years as a vet. Starting with his college years he entertained and informed with anecdotes about pig castration, vet school life and how students were taught that the base animal was still the horse and how all other animals were "like a horse but a bit different". Not so now, we were told, as small animals were now the mainstay of most practices. With some useful statistics and details of the legal niceties of the profession we were led up to date with pictures of his tobacconists shop, Heacham practice and the newer unit at North Wootton. Some thoughtful questioning rounded off an interesting talk.

Our August meeting also had a creature theme as the RSPB sent Paul Eel to tell us all about the Snettisham Reserve. With some excellent slides Paul gave us all the information one could ever wish to know about the reserve and plenty more as well. After the break, which included cakes for the first time, Paul took questions from the audience - mainly about the effects of global warming on the avian visitors we might see in the future and finished to a good round of applause.

Our thanks to both speakers for giving us their time.

### "Let's Talk" – I need to get it off my chest!

*Inspiring and topical thoughts from*

*Marian Lindsay of Earl Close*

I found that I'd got cancer a couple of months ago.  
Straight off to see the doctor to hear that it was so.

Away I went to hospital the specialist to see.

Mammograms and lots of scans, - it brought things home to me.

Yes, I had the dreaded lump. Why didn't I feel glum?

I guess at seventy years old I was still feeling so young!

I hadn't any pain at all, perhaps they'd got it wrong.

But off I went to QEH and soon the breast was gone.

An op! To my amazement I didn't feel any pain.

In fact now over two months on, I'm still as right as rain.

I'm now going to chemo, I go along each week,

The nurses are so very kind, I look forward to the treat

I get a cup of coffee or tea, an offer of a biscuit too,

It's a little kind of club where all take care of you.

At home my friends and family concerned to know of my health,

Keep the phone ringing, just to ask 'Can they be of any help?'

I just would like to tell them how much they mean to me

To have such friends and family no better life could be.

So, Let me tell you one and all, though cancer isn't fun,

The friends you meet along the street, will make you realise

That no matter young or old you be, it's great to be alive.

Thanks everyone for your concern!

*Marian*



## Dick Melton's Column

### Sandringham Flower Show

This is just a little article to show how Sandringham and the Flower Show have changed over the last 50 to 100 years. The first Flower Show at Sandringham was held in September 1864, which was two years after Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales, bought the 7,000-acre estate for just over £200,000. It was initially a small local show just for the estate workers, then, in 1866, the Sandringham Estate Cottage Horticultural Society was established and took over the running of the show. There was an attendance of just over 3,000 people for the first show and this, for a village the size of Sandringham, was very good.

The show stayed quite small until after the Second World War, when in the late fifties to early sixties the estate and show were run on more commercial lines. In the fifties Sandringham grounds were only open to the public on a Wednesday, with one of the main attractions being the kitchen gardens with their different vegetables and fruit trees. Two ladies, Mrs Magness and Mrs Senter would sit on either side of the Norwich Gates to sell postcards, and on the green opposite the War Memorial Dan Andrews would have his horse and cart, selling fruit and vegetables, while next to him would be Ray Dilks with his ice-cream trailer. These were the only commercial ventures allowed, until, after a few years, the Visitor Centre was built, the Museum was established and the house was opened to the public.

In the seventies a lot of demolition and reconstruction took place on the house to make it as it is today, up to this time there were 365 rooms, one for every day of the year.

When I went to school we did not break up for the summer holidays until the Friday of the August Bank Holiday, which was at the beginning of the month in those days, so we would get a day off for the Sandringham Show and a free pass to get in.

There was a large marquee for the schoolchildren's exhibits, one for flowers, one for the estate workers to exhibit their fruit, vegetables, flowers and cakes, and there was always a fur and feather tent. The main attraction, of course, was the beer tent, which was run by Brooke and Brooke Ltd from the Kit Kat at Hunstanton.

There were few trade stands and no parade ring, but there was always a marching band like the Dagenham Girl Pipers or such, a cricket match and a tug-of-war, but as always the main attraction was the Queen Mother who visited nearly every show from the end of the Second World War until her death.

In 1948 there were just six trade stands one of which was James Lambert and Sons, Ironmongers from Snettisham, who were there for many years. 1948 was also the year that the Royal Norfolk Show was held in Anmer Park, and the year that Fred Waite (ex-Head Gardener) came to Sandringham as a boy on the recommendation of Percy Thrower.

Since the sixties the Sandringham Flower Show has really grown in size with more and more attractions, though the attendance level has kept roughly the same (around 18,000 for the last 30 years) [*Editor's note - reportedly having increased to 20,000 in 2004 and 2005*]. The thing which has changed the most is the way people get to the show, nowadays they all come by car whereas they used to come by coach, in 1972 on Flower Show day 108 of these coaches ended up in Hunstanton looking for somewhere for their passengers to get a cup of tea and a cake. Nowadays the coaches stay at Sandringham all day as with over 150 trade stands and things going on from 12 noon to 6 pm there is plenty to see and do to keep them there, and also, with tickets at only a fiver, it is a really good day out.

## Dersingham Jetty and Shingle Pits

On Saturday 16 July the Eastern Daily Press featured a picture of the old Dersingham jetty on the beach. Later on that day a chap rang me to ask what I knew about it so I thought I would do a bit for the Village Voice. This wooden jetty was constructed around about 1941/2; there was a small gauge railway line that ran out of the shingle pits and along the length of the jetty (about 50 yards).

A tug would pull flat-bottomed barges up to the end of the jetty, and then the small wagons would tip the shingle into the barges. The tugs would then tow the barges over to Boston where they were unloaded on the quayside and the shingle taken to various places across Lincolnshire to be used in the construction of runways on wartime aerodromes.

A lot of the shingle from the pits was also taken away in lorries by road. One of the men who drove these lorries told me once that he would load up with shingle at Snettisham in the morning, take his load to Sculthorpe and tip it, then he would go through to Longwater pits near Norwich, pick up a load of sand, bring that back to Sculthorpe, tip that, and then come back to Snettisham. This would take him about eight to ten hours, in other words, all day! When we had the great flood in 1953 most of the jetty and all of the railway track and the machinery from the shingle works was washed into the pits and was never recovered, so, as far as I know, it is still down there today!



Photo reproduced courtesy of the EDP

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## Harvest-time and the Rabbit Hunt

When I was a young lad, fifty years ago, in the village of Dersingham, one of the best times of the year was July and August - Harvest-time. If you did not do a harvest as a ho-gee boy or any other job then you would spend the school holidays going around the harvest fields chasing and killing the rabbits to take home to eat, as in those days rabbits were part of the staple diet of most country folk, and were eaten as a cheap meal as they are today. I still eat about two rabbits a week, and even if you have to buy them, they are only about £2 each. We would have a ride around in the mornings to see which fields were being cut, there were no combines in those days, it was all binders, and I can remember Mr Smith, the farmer at the top of Fern Hill, still had one that was drawn by horses. Most farmers would let you go on their field to catch them, and, if we caught plenty, we would share them out amongst the farm-workers. Sometimes the gamekeepers would come along and ask you to hand them over, but we got wise to this and we would hide them in the hedgerows, going back for them later. I well remember one day we had not broken up for the holidays, and we could see from the classroom window that they were cutting the barley on a small field near the wood yard, so we skipped school at break time and it paid off, as about six of us caught over 200 rabbits! My great-grandfather was a full-time rabbit catcher (warrener) but he caught them for the skins. He lived in a little cottage at a place called Smokers Hole, and he worked for the Forestry Commission. He got no wages but his cottage was rent-free. Every Friday he would walk to the Lingwoods Fur Factory at Brandon, a round trip of 30 miles, with all his skins hung on a pole across his shoulder. He did his job for forty years, so he must have caught a few rabbits in his time. He never owned a gun; he caught them with nets, dogs and ferrets. On the Elveden Estate, next to where he lived, in the year 1908, 77,021 rabbits were caught on that one estate.

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## DERSINGHAM HALL

by Elizabeth Fiddick

The work at Dersingham Hall, the erstwhile Gamekeeper's Lodge, has at last got underway. All the newest buildings have been demolished, new housing is rising rapidly and the Hall itself is being converted into desirable modern apartments. It is pleasing to see the deterioration of this old house halted for it has stood on that corner for over 330 years. The Pell family who owned the Manor of



Brookhall or Oldhall built the original Hall in the 17th century. A Manor was the unit of rural organisation and was essentially a large estate owned by a Lord. The Manor House was the dwelling of the Lord or his residential bailiff and the land was divided between the Lord's Demesne and that assigned to the labourers. There were seven Manors in the village of Dersingham, Gelham Manor, West Hall Manor, Snaring Hall, Pakenham Manor, Binham Priory Manor, Shouldham Priory Manor and Brookhall or Oldhall Manor. A family named Brokedish owned Brookhall in the 13th century. It was later granted to Sir William Capel Lord Mayor of London who died in 1516. His son Sir Giles Capel inherited it and from him it passed to a John Pell. The Pells, who were descended from a soldier who had come to England with William the Conqueror, came to the village from Lincolnshire. The name had previously been de Pelle and then Pelle. An Alex Pelle is recorded living in the village in 1403 and a John Pell rented a considerable amount of land, including some where the Institute now stands, in 1465. There is a document dated 1549 that records that John Pell bought from Paul Warne houses and lands in Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe, Sharnborn, Sandringham, Newton and Anmer. This John Pell married Margaret Cletheroe the heiress of a King's Lynn shipping family. John and his father-in-law shipped wool to the Lowlands so that the wealth of the Pell family grew and John made frequent purchases of land in and around Dersingham. He is listed as one of the prominent merchants in Lynn. There were two manor houses on his property, Brookhall and Shouldham Priory. The old Manor house of Brookhall was built in the reign of Queen Mary I (1553-1558) and stood in the pastures behind our present Institute. The moat is still clearly visible. The House was described in later documents as "*Pell's Old Enchanted Mansion*" (*Haunted* as we would say today) John Pell died in 1555/6 and his will of 1554 required him to be buried in our Church. An inquisition was taken in Lynn and described the property of Shouldham and Brookhall thus, "*6 messuages, 320 acres of land, 120 of meadow, 40 of pasture, 50 of furze and heath in Dersingham, Shernbourne, and Ingoldisthorps held of the Manor of Pakenham.*" (A message is a dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use.) The son John married a shipping heiress, Margaret Overend daughter of a leading magistrate of Lynn. He became a member of the council in 1550, Mayor of Lynn in 1560 and in 1571 he was chosen to represent Lynn in Parliament. He worked to develop Lynn's shipping and associated trades. John and Margaret had six sons, William, Jeffrey, Valentine, Thomas, John (111) and Andrew. One of the three daughters, Joan, married Francis Cremer son of John Cremer of Ingoldisthorpe. Another daughter Lolvena Richers of Earnshed was bequeathed in her father's will, "*my gregorayne gown*". Jeffery and his father devoted their energies to shipping while William, Thomas and John managed the estates. Valentine became an attorney in Lynn but Andrew died without having any children. By 1601 the family had as many as six ships all named after the sons and were shipping wool from their own port at

Wolferton or from King's Lynn. It was on August 27th of that year that two of the ships, the *Valentine* and the *John*, returned to England with the news that the French were preparing for war. John 11 died in 1607 and his tomb can be seen near the altar in our church. The family coat of arms is emblazoned on one end and his six sons can be seen kneeling on one side with the three daughters situated on the opposite side. The family's wealth continued to increase. During the Civil War Valentine Pell, the son of Jeffrey, was appointed High Sheriff of Norfolk and served in the Parliamentary forces taking command of a troop of foot. As a Puritan family they were at odds with most of their neighbours. The Cobbes of Sandringham, the Hovells at Hillington, the Pastons at Appleton House, Le Strange of Hunstanton, Edward Yelverton of Grimston and the Mordaunts of Massingham were all Roman Catholic and Royalist. Ursula Gawsell of Watlington married Jeffery Pell's son John and it was her father who took the surrender of the Catholics in the area at the end of the war. Valentine married Barbara Calthorp and had two sons, William and John 111. William became a sea captain under Queen Elizabeth 1 while John married Elizabeth Pert and had a son John IV who inherited the manors. John IV became a Justice of the Peace and Churchwarden. There are records in Grimston showing five marriages were performed by "*John Pell of Darsingham, JP*" In 1658 John ordered that the vicarage that used to stand in the churchyard where the memorial cross now is should be pulled down. It was described as "*a studded clay house*" and had become so dilapidated that John objected to having such a ruin outside his front gate. The present hall, now being converted, according to some documents was built in 1671, the same date given for the Tithe Barn. However the Pells had been building prior to this date for in his will dated 1619 Thomas Pell states, "*I give unto my nephew John Pell, all the stuffe, as tymbre, stone, lyme, bricke, tyle, deale and all other provisions for the building that is within the house of my now building or in and about the grounds belonging to the said House. And also all household stuffe within the said house whatsoever*". The original Manor House was added to and changed over the next centuries to become the hall we know today. The fortunes of the Pell family changed after Valentine Pell died in 1690 without leaving an heir and the estate was willed to Robert Walpole, the father of Sir Robert Walpole. Elizabeth Pell continued to wield influence in the village until her death in 1732. She was highly regarded and remembered for her charity. She gave £100 for the purchase of land in the parish and the proceeds to be given to the poor in bread and coals. Another Elizabeth Pell died in 1752. Seventeen members of the Pell family are buried in the church and their memorials can be seen. So after 200 years the Pell family were no longer a part of the village life and their land passed into other hands. So what became of the moated Manor house in the Pastures and the Hall we know today. Dr. Samuel Kerrich who was vicar of Dersingham from 1729 to 1768 inhabited Pell's "*Old enchanted Mansion*". He wrote, "*I dwell in a house of Lord Orford's near the church in which my predecessor lived for many years.*" Samuel's son Thomas who also served as vicar (1784 – 1828) made sketches of the church and "*the old house I was born in built by Pell called Brookhall*". According to Mrs. Kerrich life in the old Pell house was not always very comfortable. In 1737 she wrote to her husband who was away in Cambridge, "*I am washed out of all ye rooms below stairs. The springs have risen very much in the garden all this week and run in ye little alleys in streams. I mostly sit in ye little parlour and yesterday as I sat there ye water rise under my chair before I saw it and we looked into ye Great Parlour it began to come out at ye door into ye kitchen and was near a quarter of a yard deep and this morning it was all over ye hall. William and Martin and all ye servants are trying to get it out but ye springs bubble and run sadly in ye garden still.*" From a

description of the village written by Doctor Kerrich we learn that *"The inhabitants are farmers and labourers except William Grigson Esq who lately sold his estate to Richard Hammond."* Faden's map of 1797 shows Dersingham Hall occupied by Hammond Esq. Dr. Kerrich and his family moved into Dersingham Hall in 1753 but when the old *"enchanted Mansion"* was demolished I have yet to discover. The tithe map and schedule of 1839 records the Hall and its adjoining land to be administered by the trustees of Robert Elwes. The house and land was occupied by Mary Ann Brett a widow from Mileham She lived there with her son Edward, a solicitor, his wife Ann and their three daughters Florence, Gertrude and Georgina. Her sister Lucy Jane Davy from Ingoldisthorpe also lived with them. They had five servants, Jemima Ward, nurse, Elizabeth Stanford, cook and Susan Savage, the Housemaid. Ann Marie Howard, an under maid, and Esther Hardy the Under Nurse completed the household. By 1874 the house was occupied by the family of John B. Goggs who came from Swaffham. He and his wife Hannah had nine children. Edward, Mary, Agnes, Annie, Nellie, Laura and John were all born in Swaffham. Bernard and Mildred were born in Dersingham in 1874 and 1875 respectively. The map of 1884 shows the extensive buildings of the hall and a large garden with a fountain and a flagstaff on the site now occupied by Croft House and the cottages. A more extensive wood covers the area up to the present Institute and pastureland surrounds the property and stretches through to Centre Vale. There are several glasshouses and a windpump is shown. The Directories of 1890 refer to *the Late John B. Goggs* and by 1896 the Hall is described as the residence of Mrs. Clarkson. In 1900 Theodor Jannoch is advertising *Dersingham Hall to be let Furnished*. Theodor Jannoch was a florist and nurseryman I have written about before who appears in the village records from about 1881. He was a German national and conducted his business first in Brandenburg House, now Lane End. By 1908 however he is occupying the Hall and James Stephen Edward La Fontaine JP occupies Brandenburg House. Mr Jannoch advertises himself as the biggest grower of Lily of the Valley in the country and some older villagers still remember the beautiful gardens and refer to the tight bend in the road as *"Jannoch's corner"*. Theodor, his wife Mary and three daughters occupied the Hall through the trauma of World War 1 although Theodor was interned. He returned to continue his business until he died in 1925. His wife remained in residence until her death in 1933. They are both buried in the churchyard and trustees administered the Hall. During the Second World War the old house entered a new phase as it was requisitioned by the military and Canadian troops were billeted there. One resident remembered that their cookhouse was just where the gateway is now. He remembered the tanks that were stationed there. *"We used to go for a walk around the village and we looked over that stone wall that is now missing from the Church Hall back to Jannoch's Corner and there were these dozen waltzing matilda tanks. One Sunday morning, well they slipped off over night"*. After the war when the premises had been released from military requisition it was acquired by Mr. G. W. Stratford and converted into Dersingham Hall Social and Camping Club. According to the news report the hall and grounds were already in use as a holiday centre, and were occupied during the week of the report by a large contingent from South Emsall Colliery, Pontefract Yorkshire. I am sure there are many villagers who have memories of this old house and the people who have used it since 1945 so I prefer to leave its most recent history to them. I like to remember the Pell family and all their children playing in the pastures. I hope that Samuel Kerrich, Mary Ann Brett and even her cook Elizabeth Stanford would still be able to recognise the Hall if they could return when all the renovations are done.

## All Change in Dersingham - Part Two

by Elizabeth Fiddick



Less than a year after the grand opening of the railway tragedy struck. On Monday August 3rd 1863, the 8.01 to Hunstanton travelling at 28mph struck a bullock that had strayed onto the line at North Wootton and was de-railed. Four people died at the scene and their bodies were taken into the Ship Inn at Gaywood. A fifth man died the following day. At the inquest the fact that fences had not been erected was criticised. It was also noted that the fatalities were in the third class carriage, which was of poor construction and not padded like the First Class carriage ahead of it. In 1864 the line was extended from Heacham to Wells so opening up more of the Norfolk coast to trippers. As well as using the train for pleasure the villagers had facilities for freight traffic. Our station was equipped to deal with the conveyance of coal, cattle and farm produce. A special train ran on Tuesdays to link with the King's Lynn cattle market and there was a noted increase in the number of cattle dealers and horse dealers recorded in the village as a result. There was also considerable traffic in parcels, luggage and newspapers. It is interesting to note the increase in the number of coal merchants in the village. In the Directories before 1862 none are recorded in Dersingham but in the years leading up to 1900 six are mentioned. Coal had been brought by boat to the small dock at Heacham but the railway ended this practice and hastened the demise of the port. The second significant event in 1862 was the purchase of the Sandringham Estate by Queen Victoria for her son The Prince of Wales. This brought the area to the notice of the whole country and it became a desirable area to visit. The Alexandra Hotel had been built opposite the station and other hostleries in the village soon realised the potential for business. In 1890 Enoch Taylor, proprietor of The Feathers was advertising, "*Feathers hotel and posting house; good stabling for hunters and first class accommodation for visitors.*" Not to be outdone Thomas Augustus Magness of The Dun Cow advertised, "*Seaside visitors can have good accommodation near to Sandringham.*" Six years later William Henry Mann now running The Feathers advertised, "*Feathers family and commercial hotel and posting house; good stabling for hunters and first class accommodation for visitors in the neighbourhood; conveyances to meet any train at Wolferton or Dersingham*". By 1883 The Temperance Hotel had opened on the corner of Chapel Road. In 1896 Mrs. Harriet Goodings was renting apartments and Theodor Jannoch the nursery man was proudly advertising that he was, "*Lily of the Valley grower by special warrant to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales ... The largest grower of Lily of the Valley in England*" You have only to walk around the village and look at the date stones on many of the houses to see how many were built in the 1870s, 80s and 90s. The new school and the Rectory were built in the 1870s and the church was thoroughly restored. The Primitive Methodist chapel was erected in 1878 to be followed in 1890 by the chapel in Post Office Road. The population of the village increased more rapidly. It grew by 365 in the first 63 years of the century. But between 1864 and 1901, in just 36 years there were nearly 500 more inhabitants. The range of shops increased. The Post Office became more than just a place to collect letters it became a Post, Money Order and Telegraph Office so that a new building was needed and the one we know today was built. There was of course a down side as well. Property prices increased and some trades did not survive with the introduction of rail travel. The local brickworks at Heacham eventually succumbed to the formidable competition now offered at Peterborough. The Malt house in Dersingham was

no longer viable and the area opposite the library called Malthouse Yard is all that reminds us that it once stood there. The village once boasted a milliner, a tailor, and glovers but these trades gradually disappear as travel to the town became more common. The number of shoemakers declined although we still have one in the village today. Nevertheless for the next 107 years the railway served the area. At one time excursions trains queued nose to tail along the line to Hunstanton. At holiday times there were regular trips to Hunstanton and London advertised in the local press. The station Master became an important member of the community and we read in the June issue about Mr. Chilvers who served the village in this capacity from 1900 to 1925. Other Station Masters before 1900 were Francis Perry (1874), Matthew Bullock (1883), John Hall (1890), and Frederick Paige (1896). In 1915 when there was a German air raid it was believed the Zeppelin had used the railway line as a guide. This led to the erroneous belief that the target was Sandringham and the King. The funeral trains of Queen Alexandra (1925), George V (1936) and George VI (1952) passed along a route lined with sad villagers. During the Second World War an armoured train patrolled the route and was stationed at Heacham. Dersingham children travelled daily into Lynn by train. In 1905 the Parish Council requested that the 4.55p.m. train should stop at Dersingham so that the children did not have to wait on Lynn station until 5.35 for a train home. This was considered a danger to their Health and Safety. A not unfamiliar argument used of many new regulations today! The school log books records a drop in attendance due to cheap trains to Lynn during the Mart weeks. Many villagers today remember vividly using the train. One recalled taking the children to Hunstanton on the train and going to London for the day.. She recalled that, *"It was a very dirty journey. If you had anything nice on you'd be all black by the time you got home."* A local farmer recalled sending the sugar beet to Lynn on the train. *"We had to cart it down to the station. We shovelled it into the trucks. I used to have to load mine early Sunday morning as soon as it was daylight."*

Although the line escaped the first swathe of cuts in 1963 the end became inevitable. The last train left Lynn at 9.05 pm on May 3rd 1969 with 250 passengers. It returned from Hunstanton at 10.16 with a wreath attached to the leading end.

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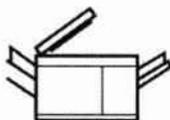


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## Extract from Kelly's Directory of 1900

*See Mrs. W N Nurse's Letter to Editor***Private Residents**

Cross, Arthur Henry. Cantelupe House  
 Culyer, Robert. Beech Cottage  
 Jannoch, Theodore. Dersingham Hall – To Let furnished  
 Penny, Rev. Edward. M.A. The Vicarage  
 Smith, William Henry. Hill House

**Commercial**

Bird, Frederick J. Butcher  
 Boothby, Alfred. William. And Ernest. Farmers and Coal Merchants  
 Boothby, Arthur. Grocer  
 Bunn, James. Coal Merchant and Agent for R. Collier and Sons  
 Chambers, George & Sons. Builders & Carpenters  
 Chambers, Henry. Carpenter  
 Chambers, James Ward William. Temperance Hotel  
 Chambers, John Henry. Cycle Agent  
 Clayton, Charles. Butcher  
 Collier, R and Sons. Corn and Coal Merchants (James Bunn, Agent. And at Norwich)  
 Cross, Arthur Henry. A.R.C.O. Professor of Music and Organist at Sandringham  
 Dodman, W.N. Valentine. Blacksmith  
 Elworthy, Harry Fuller. Assistant Overseer  
 Ewer, W.N. John. Music Seller and Stationer  
 Fitt, Matthew James. Baker  
 Forresters Hall (William Patrick, Sec.)  
 Goodings, Harriet, Mrs. Apartments  
 Green, Alfred. Coal Merchant  
 Hardy, Alfred. Coach & Horses Public House  
 Hartley, Frederick William. Beer Retailer  
 Houchen, Thomas. Butcher  
 Hudson, William. Builder and Wheelwright  
 Jackson, Albert. Cycle Repairer  
 Jackson, James. Farmer and Dairyman  
 Jannoch, Theodore. Nurseryman and Florist. Lily of the Valley grower to HRH Prince of Wales, by Special Warrant  
 Jarvis, Ernest. Saddler  
 Jarvis, James. Baker and Confectioner  
 Jarvis, James William. Baker and Farmer  
 Kiddle, George. White Horse Public House  
 King, Robert. Grocer and Draper  
 Lane, Albert Edward. Cattle Dealer  
 Linford, Frederick. House Decorator and China Dealer

Stanton, Richard. Ling House  
 Tingey, Edward. Manor House  
 Watson, Mrs. Hawthorn House  
 Wells, Miss. Rose Cottage  
 Wilkin, Robert A. Wellswill House

Linnell, John. Farmer. Wood Villa  
 Magness, Thomas. Dun Cow Public House  
 Mann, m Henry. Farmer  
 Mann, William Henry. Feathers Hotel  
 Middleton, Thomas Henry. Shopkeeper  
 Mitchell, George. Carrier  
 Parker, John William & Son. Drapers and Grocers (and Boot and Shoe Warehouse)  
 Playford, Herbert. Baker and Miller (Wind)  
 Potter, William. Smith  
 Rainbow, Joseph George. Upholsterer  
 Ralph, Frederick. Usher and Photographer. Victoria Cottage  
 Reynolds, Daniel. Shopkeeper and Coal Dealer  
 Riches, George. Builder and Contractor  
 Riches, John. Market Gardener  
 Robinson, Edward. Chimney Sweeper  
 Rudd, Thomas. Carrier and Market Gardener  
 Senter, Hannah, Mrs. Milliner  
 Senter, Harry. Market Gardener  
 Senter, Martin. Shopkeeper  
 Simonds, Chas. Alexandra Hotel  
 Smith, Montague & Co. Coal Merchants  
 Smith, Wm. Farmer. Hill House Farm  
 Stanton, Richard. Farmer. Ling House  
 Tansley, William. Butcher  
 Terrington, Frederick. Butcher  
 Terrington, Henry. Shoe Maker  
 Terrington, John. Boot Maker  
 Tingey, Edward. Farmer  
 Walden, William. Builder  
 Wallis, George. Cow Keeper  
 Walden, William. Builder  
 Whitmore, Henry. Butcher  
 Yaxley, William Henry. Agent Prudential Assurance

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## Flying with the Paras

© Patrick Marks

My job as a concert lighting designer with a rock band can sometimes provide me with some bizarre experiences. This is one of them...

The band had been booked to play an outdoor show in Germany for some British troops just back from a tour of duty in Kosova. The stage was on an airfield used to train some of Britain's finest crack troops – The Parachute Regiment. As our equipment was slowly being trundled towards the stage, the Paras were being thrown out of an aeroplane in the clear blue sky, high above us. Could I beg a ride, I wondered? Producing my recently acquired Private Pilot's Licence, I asked the nice officer-in-charge whether I could, perhaps, commit aviation in their 'plane. In spite of my dishevelled appearance, he seemed delighted to accommodate me and arrangements were made.

A stern sergeant in a red beret, green fatigues and shiny black boots came to escort me to the aircraft parked on the grass strip at the other side of the field from our stage. Giving me a short safety briefing in the MPV on the way around the peri-track, he explained that, as this was a grown-up soldier's airplane, with two propellers, driven by a pair of powerful turbine engines, I wouldn't be able to 'actually' fly it, but would get about an hour aloft, sitting at the front, throwing soldiers out at 13,000 feet. Not having 'actually' flown anything more than a kite for the last few months anyway, and feeling definitely 'skill rusty', I was definitely OK with that.

Capt Dick Daredevil, the duty pilot, met me under the wing of the jump 'plane. He looked everything you would expect a Para pilot to look. The black moustache above a broad smile on a healthy, sun-tanned face that radiated experience and confidence. Eyes that told of Kosovan conflicts and Gulf engagements. I felt totally safe with the idea of flying with this guy. "OK, we're just refuelling then Dave will be along to fly you. He's the Senior Pilot."

So Capt Daredevil wasn't flying me after all, I was to be honoured with the 'Senior Pilot' "Don't be worried by his leg, though," he added with a smile, "he's actually a really good pilot..."

Capt Dave Rubberleg, dressed in 'T' shirt and dirty shorts, hobbled towards me, dragging a disabled and near useless left leg behind him. His unkempt grey hair perfectly matched his gnarled grey face. Throwing away his cigarette, he coughed his way through our brief exchange of, his vast and my lamentable, flying experience, then, hauling himself awkwardly into the left hand seat, he picked up his gammy leg, dragging it into the aircraft behind him and dropped it onto the left-hand rudder pedal. Turning, he cheerily assured me that flying this was just the same as flying the little two-seat, single engine Cessna 152 I had trained in. I strapped myself nervously and tightly into the right hand seat of the cramped cockpit as he started the engines.

Behind me, sprawled on the aircraft floor were eight or nine large Paras, eyeing both Capt. Rubberleg and myself with malevolent anxiety.

A quick trundle along the narrow, bumpy grass strip and we were aloft, climbing steeply into the cloudless sky. Noticing the slow airspeed, I nervously enquired as to the stall speed. That is, the speed at which the aircraft stops flying; when it goes so slow that it stops being a 'plane and suddenly generates the lift of your average grand piano being tipped out of a thirtieth floor hotel window. "I'll show you later", he said, "when we've got

rid of these fat buggers at the back." I wish I hadn't asked and wanted to get out with the Paras.

We climbed quickly to 7,000 feet where preparations were made to throw out the first of the hapless Paras.

Capt Rubberleg then took his hands off the controls and lifted his gammy leg off the rudder pedals. "Here, just keep her straight and level for me, will you, whilst I fiddle with these knobs and switches. You have control." I took the controls without thinking; then felt my sphincter tighten and mouth go dry. I was flying the thing! Hadn't anyone told him I was just supposed to be an observer? Did the Paras realise they were now being flown by an old hippie? I kicked a bit of rudder just to feel how responsive she was and to make sure I had control. I had.

"The trick is to keep on this heading and not get too close to the village, down there on your right," Capt. Rubberleg mumbled as he fiddled with his bits, "'cos the locals start complaining about noise. Oh, and don't drift to the left, either. (He points to a vast scrubland criss-crossed with tank tracks and shell holes). That's the shooting range and they're playing with live mortars today. Those buggers reach 10,000 ft. before they start going back down again, y'know." We were at 7,000 feet. He pointed to a large stone cross set into a patch of grass on the edge of the range. "That's where a Belgian jump 'plane ended up a few years ago. Pilot got his approach to the field wrong and one of our boys lobbed a mortar through his wing at 5,000 feet. My tip would be to stay away from that area." I did.

This man was full of tips and tricks. "The trick is..." he would say, or "My tip here..." he would offer, as if the key to flying this bloody great thing was merely the acquisition of a few informal bits of common sense picked up in the club house.

"EXIT! EXIT! EXIT!" bellowed Capt Rubberleg and bodies threw themselves through the open side door. We climbed to 13,000 feet and positioned for the last of the jumpers to exit. Once gone, with door closed, he turned to me, pulling that gammy old leg off the rudders and said, "You were asking me about the stall speeds of this thing...you have control, let's do it."

I pulled back the yoke slowly and somewhat reluctantly, watching the airspeed drop. The first stall and recovery was quite gentle. With no power and no flaps, it just sort of waddled about a bit. So it's stick forward, nose down, break the stall, get flying speed and apply power. Ah, how it all comes back! Too easy!

I shouldn't have impressed him. He immediately set the 'plane up for a stall 'in the approach configuration'. This means flaps down and power on. The resulting stall can be quite alarming. As I pulled back more and more on the yoke the aircraft started to shudder and shake violently as we became a large airborne, yet plummeting, brick. I felt sure the wings were going to drop off. The instruments in front of me were now a vibrating blur. Then the nose dropped suddenly, along with the contents of my bowels. I pushed the yoke forward immediately and got the thing flying again as the smell of my fear wafted around the cockpit.

"OK, take me home. I'll call headings, heights and speeds. You'll be fine, just point the nose down and keep the speed out of the orange but right on the edge of the green, oh, and stick on about 30 degrees of bank." What you want me to do, then, I mused, is to put the 'plane into a steep, turning power dive...I obliged. I was soon in a 45 degree steep, descending turn, the nose of the 'plane pointing very, very down indeed. The needle of the Air Speed Indicator flickering on the very edge of the orange bit on the dial that says "VNE"

or "Velocity Never Exceed" that loosely translates as, "This aircraft will start to shake and shudder uncontrollably and will then disintegrate violently if you continue to fly it in this manner."

So this was the 'military style' descent I'd heard so much about. You can't afford to bugger about up there, you see. Some arse is quite likely to be trying to shoot you down. I try and get a fix on the mortars popping away on the spinning battlefield below, now hurtling towards me.

Now, in my usual mind-set of a low hour, pootle-about-the-skies-gingerly-avoiding-risk-in-a-slow-single-engine, this was what my old instructor would call "an unusual attitude". It's amazing the amount of euphemism there is in aviation terminology. 'Unusual attitude' is more readily understood by your average humble, private pilot as, "You're gonna die a very sudden and violent death if you don't do something about this RIGHT NOW!" An 'unusual attitude' is, thus, one to be avoided.

But now, under the supervision and express instruction of a British Army, Parachute Regiment, Senior Jump Pilot, I revelled in the 'g' forces pushing me hard into my seat, forcing my chin into my chest. I ignored all the instruments spinning and tumbling chaotically in front of me. Adrenalin induced, a manic grin fixed itself to my face. I was now entering the dreaded spiral dive, ever faster, ever tighter. This is fun...! I'm sure Captain Dave Rubberleg will tell me when to pull out. He's in charge. He knows what he's doing. I watched him grin blissfully out of the window at the rapidly approaching ground.

"Now my tip here," said Captain Dave, in a slow Yorkshire accent, pausing to consider whether it was even worth passing on the tip, as the needle on the Air Speed Indicator rapidly approached the red bit, "would be... just ease back on the power a touch and gently raise the nose. That'll keep us all nicely part of a flying aircraft, you see, rather than a ruddy great plummeting rock with no wings."

After asking me to pull back the speed and level off at 1500 feet, I turned onto the heading he gave me and there ahead, oh joy, deep, deep joy, beyond some trees and tall pylons, was the narrow grass strip we left some thirty minutes ago.

"Now the trick here is to stay high enough to avoid those power lines, but then drop low over the trees so you don't miss the airfield and land on the officer's golf course beyond." I waited for him to take control. He didn't. He's going to let me land the thing! I gave her just a little squirt of power to ease us over the pylons, then closed power to a trickle as we cross the trees, dropping onto the grass strip just beyond. Stick back and nose up and...yes! I greased it. Perfect!

"D'you want to do that again?" he asked as we taxi to pick up more Paras. I couldn't wipe the stupid grin off my face.

Oh, yeah. I had to do a show later that night. The annoying things you have to do to pay for playtime ...

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## Mobile Library – Timetable Information

Information about every mobile library route is now available on the Norfolk County Council Web Site at [www.library.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.library.norfolk.gov.uk). Follow the link to the Mobile Library section. In this you will find information about all our routes plus the dates of the next few visits. This is available at any time.

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## Dersingham Horticultural Society

**July Meeting:** Some forty-five members enjoyed cold meats, quiche, salad and strawberries and cream before an exercise, devised by our Fund Raising Committee, entitled 'Midsummer Murder', which involved members with suitable costume and props acting out the script and leaving the rest of the audience to guess the culprit. Thanks to the efforts of all concerned, a pleasurable and profitable evening!

**August Meeting:** I expect that many members, like myself, were not quite sure what to expect when they learned that the subject of the evening was to be a talk on 'Wild Flowers by a Bishop'. In the event Bishop Tony Footitt's talk gave his audience a perceptive insight into the beauty and current fragility of our native flora. Starting with the background of his introduction to the subject when, as a boy, he accompanied his father, a country clergyman, on nature rambles, he went on to say that he has been completely unable to pass this interest on to his own children. Then, by using the Christian calendar as a guide, he was able to associate each of the remarkable collection of wild flowers he had gathered from his own garden and its close vicinity with the various major events of the religious year. Innumerable facts, legends and folklore, biblical and literary allusions - far too many to mention here - all were part of the bishop's fascinating talk. Just to give you a flavour of the wide ranging facts which we heard - 90% of all living things are plants and trees, 180 species depend on the English oak for survival, there is a commercially available seed collection called 'Farmer's Nightmare' which contains all the common cornfield seeds, figwort is one of the few plants which has a square stem and, as one would expect, many references to plants with religious associations including those with the Virgin Mary (scabious - Our Lady's pincushion), the Holy trinity (the trefoils) and St Patrick (shamrock) although the precise species is not known - its origins lost in the mists of time. To finish, our speaker asked his audience to help with the preservation of our native plants by growing some wild flowers in our gardens, thereby counteracting the loss of our local flora which has been caused by intensive farming and the use of herbicides. All in all, a fascinating and rewarding talk based on a deep knowledge of the subject delivered with great sincerity, enthusiasm and gentle humour.

David Clark - 543182

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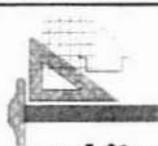
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## Sammy's Story



Sammy the black-winged stilt arrived at Snettisham RSPB reserve in August 1993. He stayed for a few days then moved to Titchwell RSPB reserve on 16 September, where he remained until 21 May this year. Sammy was a firm favourite with reserve visitors and it has been estimated that at least half a million people saw him during his long stay - making him probably the most watched wild bird of all time. It's not difficult to see why he became such an attraction because black-winged stilts are very elegant birds with impossibly long pink legs and distinctive black and white

plumage. They are relatively common in southern Europe, where their preferred habitats are old salt workings and saline lagoons. Both Snettisham and Titchwell RSPB reserves have saline lagoons so Sammy's choice of destination was not accidental.

Sammy was the only black-winged stilt in the country during his stay. He became very lovelorn - making repeated unwanted advances on Titchwell's oystercatchers - which are similarly coloured but dumpier and less elegant. Avocets are closer relatives and would appear to be more compatible - but their long legs are powder blue rather than pink. Sammy was obviously more turned on by short fat pink legs rather than long slender blue ones!

Part of the public's interest in Sammy came from the fact that he had a name. This seems to be a particularly English way of seeing wildlife - maybe because of all those Beatrix Potter and Toad Hall tales. It wouldn't be difficult to write a children's story about Sammy. In 1987, a pair of black-winged stilts bred on the north Norfolk coast. I have a picture of this family that shows a young stilt hurrying to the shelter of its mother's wings. This could be Sammy. When he disappeared there were a number of black-winged stilts in the south of England. It is just possible that they flew over Titchwell one moonlit night and Sammy heard his own kind for the first time in twelve years and took off to join them. He may be alive and well and living with his new family under a clear blue sky on one of the stark white salt pans of southwest France. A plausible tale and even Sammy's little indiscretions with the local oystercatchers could be spun as 'playing with his friends'!

*David Bingham*



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## News from your Village Schools

The new term is now well under way and children at both schools are settled and into their school routines. At the Infant and Nursery School we have welcomed 40 children into our nursery as well as welcoming some new staff to our staff team. We had four interactive whiteboards fitted in the holidays which are a superb classroom resource. A special event for our older children this term will be a visit to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford to see the planes, as part of their topic on 'Flight'. At the Junior School there has been some refurbishment of two classrooms and the ladies toilets, and the staffroom kitchen was completed too. The wildlife area continues to develop with the addition of a bird hide and further work is to continue during the Autumn Term. A special event at St George's School this term will be the Grassroots Multicultural Day.

The two schools continue to work together and have joint activities throughout the year. Leading up to Christmas we will once again have a joint choir and we will be singing at local venues in the community. Our Christingle Service will be held at St Nicholas' Church on Thursday 15 December at 6 pm - more details in the next newsletter.

Finally, we would welcome classroom support from parents and village residents if you can spare an hour or so a week. Please contact the schools if you can help in this way.

Jackie Austin  
Dersingham Infant  
& Nursery School  
Tel: 01485 540022

Carol de Witt  
Dersingham St George's  
C of E Junior School  
Tel: 01485 540308

## That's My Business

### **Karl Mendham**

#### ***Manager of Budgens Supermarket in Lynn Road***

I have worked for Budgens for 14 years, starting in the Fakenham Store, which has now unfortunately closed. Many changes have taken place over the years since I completed my managers' training programme. Budgens today offer more great value lines and the promotions are stronger than ever. We also employ many local people that are well known to customers. This offers everyone locally somewhere to shop where they can receive good service and get the items they require without having to leave the village. We also support local charities and events which all help to establish Budgens as a member of the community.

Late 2005 will see a refit of the store to bring more products to the range and also a Home Delivery/Shopping Service.



On behalf of all the staff and myself we would like to thank all our customers over the last 10 years.

### Paston Great Barn – its history and wildlife

Dating from 1581, Paston Great Barn is of exceptional cultural, biological and architectural importance. As well as being an outstanding example of one of the few remaining Great Barns in the region, the barn also supports nationally and internationally important populations of bats. The site is owned by the North Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust and managed by English Nature for its wildlife.

The main barn was built by Sir William Paston and, as well as serving to demonstrate the considerable wealth of the Paston family at that time, also served an important function as a grain store and threshing barn. The barn is one of the largest of its type in the county and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The buildings adjoining the main barn were constructed during the 19th century for housing livestock and are grade II\* listed.

The Paston family have played a significant role in the history of Norfolk and have achieved international recognition on account of their famous 'letters'. The letters consist of over 1000 documents written between 1390 and 1509 and provide a unique study of the life of a medieval family 'from the inside', candidly expressing their hopes, fears, ambitions and thoughts. Although termed the 'letters' they actually include bills and lists as well as the correspondence between family members. The letters provide a straightforward but fascinating account of three generations, spanning the reigns of Henry 5th, Edward 4th and Richard 3rd.

Paston Great Barn provides a home for a range of wildlife, including one of the UK's rarest mammals, the barbastelle bat. The barbastelle is a rare and threatened species throughout its range in Europe and Paston Great Barn supports one of the few known maternity roosts in the UK. Barbaselle bats were first discovered at Paston in August 1996 by the Norfolk Bat Group as part of an ongoing programme of identifying summer and winter bat sites in the county. The discovery of the barbastelle bat colony at Paston Great Barn presented a unique opportunity to discover more about the requirements of this elusive species and in 1999 English Nature commissioned the Bat Conservation Trust to carry out research and monitoring work on the colony. This work has since continued annually and has provided a wealth of information about roost sites within the barn, the size and behaviour of the colony and their foraging activity in the surrounding area.

Monitoring work has also illustrated the importance of the countryside surrounding the barn and radio-tagging studies have shown the barbastelles to feed along Bacton cliffs and even along the strandline on the beach!

In total, seven species of bat have been discovered using the site: soprano pipistrelle, common pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, brown long-eared, noctule, Natterer's and barbastelle bat. Some species, such as the Natterer's bat typically utilise a range of roost sites throughout the breeding season. Large barns with a variety of suitable roost locations can therefore provide important breeding sites for these species. The most recent species of bat discovered using Paston Great Barn is Nathusius' pipistrelle – a rare species in the UK with just a handful of known breeding localities.

The current monitoring programme at Paston aims to provide the following information:



- Counts of adults and young throughout the breeding season
- Dates and duration of site occupation
- Roost locations in the barn throughout the year
- Impact of temperatures/humidity levels on bats inside the barn.

The Bat Conservation Trust has recently produced its second annual monitoring report, covering the period February 2004 to February 2005, entitled 'A behavioural study of barbastelle bats (*Barbastella barbastellus*) at Paston Great Barn'. The results presented in this report show that, despite population numbers in the barbastelle breeding colony been slightly lower than in 2003, they were still higher than during the previous four years. The maximum pre-parturition count was 35 in 2004 (compared to 36 in 2003), whereas the maximum post-parturition count (adults and young) was 50 in 2004 (compared to 55 in 2003). The continued success of this colony is testimony to the careful planning and execution of the repair works which are required to ensure the barn continues to provide suitable conditions for bats into the future.

If you would like to obtain a copy of this report or would like to more about Paston Great Barn, please contact me at: English Nature Offices, The Smithy Workshops, Wolferton, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE31 6HA or telephone 01485 543044. *Ash Murray, Site Manager, English Nature*

### Recreation Ground Trees

Following on from the letter received from Mrs M Clayton in our last issue, 'Bernie' Twite has kindly supplied us with a photograph taken at the time of the planting of trees on the Recreation Ground.

Mrs Clayton has identified (the then Parish Councillor) Marshall Schorah as being the driving force behind the planting of these trees in the 60s/70s.

In the picture are (from left to right) Stanley Hedges, Stanley Lines and Wallace Twite (Bernie's father, who was Dersingham's Parish Clerk at the time). Although it does not show up so well in this reproduction, the original photo shows the barn adjacent to 48 Hunstanton Road in the background.



Orange Trade Refuse Sacks - £31.14 incl VAT per roll of 24  
 Green Garden Sacks - 60p each - Bio-degradable doggie bin bags - £1.50 per 100  
 can be obtained at the Council Office (see p31 for opening hours)

# **Dersingham Social Club**

**Lynn Road, Dersingham**

**Tel: 01485 543380**

Dersingham Social Club offers a friendly atmosphere for young and old alike, situated on the main road in the middle of the village.

We stock a good selection of beers, lagers, wines and spirits.

The Club has Darts, Dominoes, Cribbage and Pool Teams, a Snooker table, a Children's Room with TV and games console and Sky Digital Big Screen to enjoy televised events. Bingo is played on alternate Tuesdays.

Our entertainments calendar includes Discos, Karaoke, Bands, Singers and Quiz Nights (see coming events).

Dersingham Social Club is a Members' Club. We encourage new members and guests. Come along to see what we have to offer and enjoy our hospitality.

(Single membership £5 / Couples £7.50 / Senior Citizens £3)

We can now accommodate afternoon functions, ie Wakes, Christenings etc including catering and bar facilities

**Please contact Lyn on 01485 543365**

## **Coming Events**

<b>Saturday 22 October</b>	<b>The Cortinas (Live Band)</b>
<b>Saturday 29 October</b>	<b>Digital Road Show Disco</b>
<b>Saturday 5 November</b>	<b>Missing Link Disco</b>
<b>Saturday 19 November</b>	<b>Exile Live Band</b>
<b>Saturday 3 December</b>	<b>Nobby's Karaoke</b>
<b>Friday 16 December</b>	<b>Grand Xmas Draw</b>
<b>Saturday 17 December</b>	<b>Mark Royal Disco</b>
<b>Saturday 24 December</b>	<b>Disco</b>
<b>Saturday 31 December</b>	<b>Black Express Road Show</b>

**MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE NEW YEAR'S EVE TICKETS  
NOW ON SALE £2.50**

## War and Peace in Norfolk Part One

by Tom Ebert

My first recollection of Dersingham was as a seven-year-old boy in 1941. My mother, sister and I were evacuated from the East End of London during the blitz and arrived, after a long train journey, at the Station Hotel one late afternoon which was owned then by a Mr and Mrs Parminter. After some tea and sandwiches we were billeted on a retired couple, a Mr and Mrs Bush who lived in White Horse Drive, long before the council houses were built opposite.

The official procedure then was that anybody who had room to spare in their houses **had** to take in evacuees. No ifs or buts - if you had a spare room or two you ended up with evacuees. No doubt those and such as those who could drop a word in the right place never had to open their doors, but that's another story. This draconian ruling, as you can imagine, caused resentment amongst those people who had to take in these unwanted lodgers. I know how I'd feel being forced to take in asylum seekers, people alien to my culture as we were to theirs. Being so young I didn't know how my mum was treated but it was bad enough for her to consider us returning to Poplar to take our chances with the blitz. Fortunately for us the then incumbent, Rev. Oliver found room for us and two other families in the upstairs rooms of what is now the old vicarage. It was as if we had died and gone to heaven. From the slums of the east end of London to a spacious house in its own grounds, itself in a beautiful village.

I suppose that our family were some of the very few people that owe a lot to World War 2. Were it not for that war we would have spent our lives in London. Those children old enough, there were four of us, paid a price for our lodgings in the vicarage, though. At first, the three women went to church each Sunday, not wishing to offend the Vicar by not attending. We children went to Bible Study at 10.30 am, Morning Service at 11 am, Sunday School at 3 pm and Evensong at 7 pm. Then our mothers found out that if they missed a Sunday each month nothing was said, so then they missed two Sundays and finally never went to church at all. Every Sunday, rain or shine we children trundled off to church. As a bonus we had choir practice on Friday evenings. Every Saturday morning the Vicar's wife made a dinner for an old boy in his nineties who lived just past Twait's garage. He was a boarder with the Balls family. Us kids had to deliver it to him (minus any bits of crust that 'accidentally' fell off the meat pie on the way). He had served in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (the 'Mounties') up to his retirement and was present when Sitting Bull led the Sioux Indians over the border into Canada and then surrendered to the Mounties after he had massacred Custer at Little Big Horn.

The afternoon Sunday School was always well attended and not solely for the Sunday School outing each year, which always seemed to consist of a visit to Sandringham church followed by fish paste sandwiches and watery orange squash in the drawing room of the Vicar of Sandringham. They did their best for us though and there *was* a war on. The reason for the good attendance at Sunday school was because of the two wicker bath chairs that used to, might still do, stand at the back of the church for any incapacitated parishioners to borrow. Those boys in the know used to arrive at the church just after two and then began the bath chair races up and down the aisles. Other lads hid in the pews and hurled hassocks into the path of the chairs as they thundered down the aisles until at around 2.45 everything was tidied up and about fifteen attentive youngsters sat in the front pews waiting for the

vicar to arrive and take the Sunday school. If anyone ever wondered how that brass christening-ewer by the font got that dent in it – now you know! .... It holds a vast amount of water too. One can't condone that sort of behaviour but I suppose boys will be boys whatever the generation.

To my eternal shame my initials (TBE) are also scratched into the varnish on the pine panelling in the vestry at the back of the organ and also appear on the lead flashing on the church tower roof. During the frequent power cuts during the war the church organ was pumped by hand. The choirboy appointed to the job considered this a sinecure. All he had to do was to sit on the stool and watch the gauge slowly descend. When it was low he pumped like heck and brought the air pressure up again. Published at that time were very small comic books, about three inches by two inches in diameter called 'Mighty Midgets' These, hidden in hymn books got many a choirboy through many a boring service. In the vestry, on his own the organ pumper-upper was in his element. Sitting on his stool reading his comic book invariably he forgot the gauge until it was brought to his attention by strangled wheezes from the dying organ and furious whispers from Teddy Rye, the choirmaster and organist. The boy would then leap up and pump away like a demented galley slave until the music started again. My other church memory was that of a rare conducted treat to the top of the tower after Sunday school. Every boy dropped their caps over the parapet to watch them float down. One unfortunate lad's cap caught on the minute hand of the clock. It being four o'clock he had to wait until twenty-five past until his cap fell off the hand. The rest of us had long gone. When the Rev. Oliver retired, the new incumbent, Mr Carew-Jones needed all the space in the vicarage for his own family and my mother, sister and I moved to Church Cottages. There, the water supply was communal, supplied by a tap next door to No.6. Before that the supply came from a well near to No.4, which was capped off when my family lived there. There were no flush toilets, just earth closets at the end of each garden. The primary school's headmaster was a Mr Mason-Jones, a retired marine biologist who was called back in service as a teacher when the younger men were 'called up'. His nickname was 'Old Foss' from the lectures on fossils he imposed upon the class. Every day the top class was given a lesson on 'modern history'. This consisted of Mr Mason-Jones reading aloud from the 'Daily Mail' whilst his class scribbled furiously to get the news items down into their exercise books. There was never any discussion about the news. The work was never checked. It was just 'Old Foss' reading his morning paper aloud. He would also send some poor unfortunate to scrape a sample of moss from the boy's urinal that he would place on a slide under a microscope and in the science lesson invite all to tell him what we saw. I could never see anything, it always appeared out of focus to me but a 'Squiggly things, Sir!' seemed to satisfy him. The other teachers at the school were Miss 'Polly' Hudson, a formidable lady with a pudding basin haircut who taught the infants, Mrs Amy Boyce and Mrs Robinson. Shops in the village I can remember were in Chapel Road, Peter Houchin's general store, alongside a garage that had closed during the war, Dan Andrews greengroceries, at the junction of Chapel Road and Post Office Road. My mum used to help Mrs Andrews sell greengroceries from a horse and cart near the Norwich Gates at Sandringham in 1948 or 1949. She would never ride on the cart with Mrs Andrews but walk along behind, there and back. Twait's Garage (since burnt down) was at the corner of Lynn Road and Post Office Road. Opposite that was Ewers, a shop that sold wool and general haberdashery, Riches the boot mender was just a little way up Lynn Road and Fisher's fish and chip shop (the meeting place for village youth in the evenings) just beside Twait's Garage. Houchen's garage was at Bank Road, I think, opposite the playing field.

Linford's grocery store was on the corner of Station Road and Lynn Road and just a little way up was Mrs Rayner's newsagents. Newsprint was rationed then and comics as well so she only had a limited supply from the wholesalers. If you weren't registered with her for a comic, you had to wait until one of the older lads or lasses decided they were too old for such frivolities and gave up their registration. She found a supply of old 'Magnets' and 'Gem's in her loft once and sold them off to us. For weeks afterwards the village kids walked around putting on 'toff' accents saying things like 'Simply spiffing, old chap' and "I say, old bean". Terrington's Butchers were at the Lynn Road end of Chapel Road as was Wells Bakery where I worked as a delivery boy after school.

His meat pies were heaven on earth to a hungry lad between school ending and going home to dinner after deliveries. At the edge of the village on the way to Snettisham was Connie Wyre's wool shop. There were two coal merchants, the Bird brothers and 'Fyffe'. I never knew if that was his real name or a nick-name. Fyffe used to deliver by horse and cart whilst the Birds had the luxury of a flatbed lorry. At harvest time they contracted out carrying sacks of grain to Stanton's barn where there was a drying facility. Fyffe's claim to fame was that, when on guard duty one night with the Home Guard at Sandringham, he challenged something moving in the dark and when it failed to stop, shot it. It was found he had shot one of the King's dairy cows.

At the other side of the village opposite the Coach and Horses was Lines the Butchers. During the war and its strict rationing laws farmers had to account for every animal on their farms to ensure that none were slaughtered on the side for the farmer's own use. Herbert Lines and a local farmer colluded in slaughtering a lamb illegally and were brought to book. Herbert felt the shame of this so much that the poor fellow hung himself in a shed at the back of his premises before his trial. His nephew took us lads round afterwards to show us not only the shed where the deed was done but the actual rope with the noose still tied in it lying on the floor. The farmer was eventually taken to court and received a fine of one shilling (five pence) for his part in the affair. Poor Herbert should have abided by the old saying 'It's better to be hung for a sheep than a lamb.' Parker's grocery store was on the corner of Manor Road and Sandringham Hill (?), Terrington's Grocers and Playford's Bakery were opposite the Police Station. A bit further down was the wooden hut owned by George King the barber. There was a long wooden bench against the wall where we kids waited, dreading an adult coming in because, invariably, George would take them out of turn. Three walls were covered in pictures from the front cover of 'Picture Post' a news magazine of the time, the fourth wall had a large gilt framed mirror from which the silver was peeling off in places with two large cardboard signs in each top corner "Singeing Promotes the Growth of the Hair" was one and I believe the other was "Razors Sharpened". George must have sharpened the razors after office hours because I never saw any other than the one he used to shave the back of the customers necks being sharpened and certainly never saw any takers for the singed hair offer. Customers could have any style they liked providing it was short back and sides.

*Tom Ebert (e-mail [TomEbert@tomebert.worldonline.co.uk](mailto:TomEbert@tomebert.worldonline.co.uk))*

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Part Two will appear in the next edition of Village Voice

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To fill the hour - that is happiness  
*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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## News in Brief

**More motor vehicle deaths have occurred to young Dersingham villagers** since our last edition. It has been reported that, following an accident, which happened adjacent to the speed camera on the A149 in Heacham, two people have died. Martin Haywood, aged 23 who was a passenger in a car being driven by his girl friend, Carly Gosnell (22), died of his injuries shortly after being taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on 26 August. Carly suffered serious head injuries and died in Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge on Monday 1 August with her family around her. Our thoughts go out to both of the families affected. As a footnote to this tragedy, it must be recorded that it was only recently that Carly's brother, Rob, had acted as the backing musician in a CD which was made to raise funds for a memorial to Jamie Griffin who died following an earlier accident which took place in the village. Since her death, Carly has been awarded a posthumous black belt certificate for kick-boxing by her instructor Dell Mann of Cobra Academy of Martial Arts in North Lynn.

**The Malcolm Batterbee Trust Fund has raised £1,500 for the palliative care Shouldham Ward at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital** this from an event held at the Sandringham Club in West Newton. The fund was founded after the death, four years ago, of Malcolm Batterbee, a retained fire-fighter at Sandringham Fire Station and carpenter on the Sandringham Estate. This year's event to raise money for the Dersingham First Responders was advertised in our last issue being held on Sunday 14 August.

**Dersingham Hanover Residents' Association celebrated VE Day** over a period from Saturday 2 July to Sunday 10 July, coupling this event with a celebration of the fact that it is now 25 years since the estate was built. During the week of festivities the opportunity was taken to also to congratulate Mrs Jessie Bowers, an estate resident, on her 102nd birthday.

**Former army photographer Frank Girling of Dersingham** has been recalling some of the events which he experienced during his time in the services. Now 83, one of the highlights in his recollections was that of witnessing Admiral Lord Mountbatten receiving the sword of the Japanese Field Marshall and the signing and sealing of the document which signified the end of the war with Japan.

**Anmer couple Derek and Nancy Cooper have won the Lynn News/Thaxter's Best Kept Front Garden Competition** but the runners-up were both from Dersingham, being John Jenkins and his partner Gilly and Mary Ashworth of 28 and 36 Saxon Way respectively, whilst Mrs Maeve King of 11 Edinburgh Way received a highly-commended certificate.

**The Borough Council are considering changes to their methods of waste collection** by introducing larger (240 litre) bins for general waste, which would then be collected every two weeks instead of the present weekly collection. The 140 litre black bins which are currently used would then be used for the collection of

glass. In the meantime the issue of 240 litre green bins to West Norfolk residents who have not as yet received them is anticipated to continue.

**Congratulations are due to Sue Manton of Dersingham** who has managed to shed 9 stone in weight in just 20 months, replacing her size 32 garments for a size 12.

**Is this the end for our local 'Cop Shop'?** Although it has not been accessible to the general public for some years now, the Police Station in Manor Road has continued to service Dersingham and its surrounding villages, being a base for our local beat police officers, as well as servicing the Sandringham estate. It now appears that plans are under way for the building to be closed, for its special operations unit to be based in King's Lynn, and for other services to be provided from Hunstanton. This is planned as a part of a reorganisation of the policing operations in Norfolk. One impact of the planned closure is that the Parish Council would effectively be made 'homeless', as they have recently enjoyed the use of a part of the premises at a peppercorn rent.

**Gabriella Booth (8) of Dersingham has demonstrated her talents as a news reporter** by winning the opportunity offered by the Newsround programme to write a report on the film premiere of the Barbie movie 'My Scene Goes Hollywood' for the CBBC TV channel's website, her report being available to read on [www.news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews). Her attendance at the premiere, where she was given star treatment, was followed by involvement in a party at Planet Hollywood. Gabriella was accompanied throughout by her mother Julie.

**Revised bus 'First' bus time-tables came into force on 2 October** copies of the new times for service numbers 410/411/412/413 can be obtained from the bus station in King's Lynn or are available on the website

[www.passengertransport.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.passengertransport.norfolk.gov.uk) or e-mail [ptu@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:ptu@norfolk.gov.uk)

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## DIARY OF NOTIFIED EVENTS

Full details of some of these events will be found inside this magazine

Day	Date	Month	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Mon-Sat	10-29	Oct		Dersingham Library	'Sea Britain'	Dersingham Library
Wed	12	Oct		Dersingham Walking Group	Walk - Castle Rising	Contact Keith Starks on 542268
Fri	14	Oct	8 pm	Friends of St Nicholas Church, Dersingham	'Beowulf' with storyteller Hugh Lupton	St Nicholas Church Hall
Thu	20	Oct			<b>Trafalgar Day</b>	
Wed	26	Oct	3-6.30 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Community Day	St Nicholas Church Hall
			7.30 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Public Meeting	as above
Tue	1	Nov	7.30 pm	Village Voice 'Live'	'First Steps in Family History with Helena Aldiss	St Cecilia's Church
Wed	2	Nov	10 am - noon	Hunstanton Lifeboat Guild	Christmas Fair	Hunstanton Town Hall
Wed	9	Nov	10 am-11.30 am	Royal British Legion Women's Section	Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall
Wed	10	Nov		Dersingham Walking Group	Walk - Snettisham	Contact Keith Starks on 542268
Thu	13	Oct	1 pm	St George's School	Radio Broadcast	Exchange Radio on 87.7 FM
Sun	20	Nov	7.30 pm	Park House Hotel	From Goats to Gershwin (concert)	Park House Hotel Sandringham
Wed	23	Nov		Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Station	Budgens Car Park
Fri	25	Nov	7.30 pm	Anmer, Dersingham & Shernborne Parishes	Induction of the Reverend Michael Brock as Vicar	St Nicholas Church Dersingham
Wed	28	Nov	7.15 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Council Meeting	Infant and Nursery School
Wed	30	Nov	7.30 pm	Park House Hotel	Marcus O'Lone (Illustrated Talk)	Park House Hotel Sandringham
Tue	6	Dec	7.30 pm	Village Voice 'Live'	An Antiques Roadshow	St Cecilia's Church
Wed	7	Dec		Village Voice	Publication date	Citizen Newspaper
Fri	9	Dec	7.30 pm	Carole Brown Health Centre & Friends of St Nicholas Church	Quiz Night	St Nicholas Church Hall
Thu	15	Dec	6 pm	Dersingham Schools	Christingle Service	St Nicholas Church
Wed	21	Dec		Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Station	Budgens Car Park

**We would like to welcome to the Parish  
Father James Fyfe**

**the newly inducted Catholic Parish Priest at St Cecilia's Church**

His induction as the priest for Hunstanton and Dersingham took place in  
Hunstanton on Friday 23 September 2005

The Village Voice will look forward to learning more about him  
for a future issue of the magazine

## Norfolk Constabulary Western Mobile Police Station

West Norfolk Constabulary advise us that the Mobile Police Station will be open in Budgen's car park as follows; Wednesdays - 23 November and 21 December 2005, when Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forder and Pete Shaw will be in attendance along with PC Stan Cobon. Services include: Advice, Crime recording, Information, Lost and found property, Crime prevention advice and literature. Useful contact telephone numbers are: Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111 and Norfolk Constabulary: 0845 456 4567



### Advertising in, and articles for, 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.

**Advertisements for inclusion** in the next newsletter should be in the hands of Sarah Bristow, Parish Clerk, Dersingham Parish Council, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH **by Wednesday 16 November 2005** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

**Articles for publication in the December edition of Village Voice** must reach the editor at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, before the **deadline date of Wednesday 16 November 2005 for publication on Wednesday 7 December 2005**. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication).

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

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

### Village Voice is the bi-monthly Newsletter of Dersingham Parish Council

The Production Team consists of:

Editor: - Bob Tipling

In-house' Photographer and Illustrations Editor: - Tony Bubb

Layout Artist and IT Technical Consultant: - Stella Caunt

Advertising Representatives: - Betty Clark and Ron Brackstone



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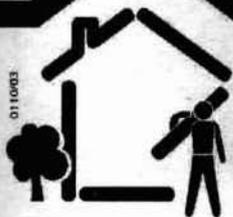
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**4.30 - 10.30pm**