

# Dersingham Village Voice

Issue 41

August 2006

# DERSINGHAM FESTIVAL



A week of activities for everyone  
Sat 29th July - Sun August 6th  
Come and join in the fun!

**Festival Programme on centre pages**

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## Parish Council Report

The meeting of the Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2006 agreed to disband the Holiday Activities Sub-Committee with the work being taken on by all Members of the Council. It was reported that the road and pavements in Hawthorn Drive are in a poor condition and similar problems in Whitehorse Drive and Gelham Manor were highlighted. The Council agreed to report these issues to Norfolk County Council, Highways Engineer, for remedial action. Problems exiting the junction of Manor Road and Lynn Road were reported and a similar scenario at the junction of Dodd's Hill Road and Manor Road was discussed. The Council decided to ask the County Council to put up mirrors to improve visibility at both junctions. A grant was awarded in response to a request received for funding a new flagpole at St Nicholas Church. County Councillor J. Eells advised that preliminary consultation over proposed parking restrictions in Post Office Road had been completed with no objections being received. Letters of resignation had been received from three Councillors, Nigel Kelk, Joanna Jones and David Benn.

*Anita*

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## Village Voice Live

Colourful village resident Professor Walter Blaney gave the June meeting a salty mix of history, geology, natural history and geography. Brilliantly illustrated with his own photographs, we were led down all sorts of 'snickets' of our coastal heritage. Our enthusiastic speaker even relocated Dunstable for us just to the east of Beachy Head but then thought better of it, thus sparing the south coast an undeserved eyefore.

July had David Paull from The Norfolk Wildlife Trust giving an absorbing presentation on the history and work of the trust. Slides of reserves and their inhabitants showed just how varied the work that they do is.

September brings a special treat to the village. Norfolk champion Keith Skipper and two of his entertaining colleagues are preparing to dispense squit wit and... plenty more in a special event at Dersingham on Tuesday September 5th.

The Cromer-based writer, broadcaster and performer will team up with singer Danny Platton and comedian Pat Nearney for an evening of Norfolk fun. 'We call ourselves Three Parts Light,' explained Keith, 'because we see ourselves as North Norfolk's answer to Lowestoft rock group The Darkness! We can promise plenty of squit in true Norfolk style - but there will be a little polish to go with it. After all, Dersingham is rather a posh place...'

Pat Nearney, known as the Norfolk Nut, and Danny Platton are both members of Keith's Press Gang troupe who have been doing the rounds for over 20 years, attracting full houses in village, town and city. Pat regularly appears onstage in local holiday camps and has been a key figure on the Mundesley pantomime scene for many years. Danny has built up a big following in local pubs and clubs with his mixture of musical items. He features several of the Singing Postman's whimsical offerings and has also penned several compositions of his own.

Keith Skipper has been involved with local newspapers, radio and television for over 40 years, and has also found time to write 30 books, all of them with that distinctive Norfolk flavour. His Bumper Book of Norfolk Squit is due out towards the end of the year.

As usual this will take place in St Nicholas Church Hall at 7.30 pm, admission on this occasion being £4.00 including refreshments with a raffle at half time. You are assured a good time.

*T.B.*



## Editor's Notes

It never ceases to amaze me when I see the reaction the magazine creates amongst our readers. I am constantly being asked to arrange for subjects which have not previously been covered to be researched and published, the letters increasing in number from issue to issue and I am often being introduced to new contributors. Our current writers strike the right note with you and I am constantly being reminded of the amount of talent to which we have access, for where would we be without such people as Elizabeth Fiddick, Dick Melton and Ion Trewin – who can create discussion with the stroke of a pen; and what about the poetical contributions from Hugh Mullarkey and Kathy Jordan – often topical and amusing; David Bingham and Ash Murray keep us up-to-date on nature happenings in the region; representatives from our churches,

schools, clubs and associations also keep us well informed; what about the 'Winter Ale' series; and, last but not least, it strikes me that Bernie Twite may be living in Cyprus but his heart is still in Dersingham (and long may that be!) I would also like to thank the authors of our many series articles (many of whom are deceased) and their representatives, who have allowed us to run stories about the Battle of Trafalgar, Tom Ebert, Harry Thorpe, the Tuck Brothers, Alan Cresswell, etc., and to those who have agreed to our using other material in the future. If I have not mentioned anyone by name who should have been included, I apologise, for I do not undervalue the input of any of our contributors. Whilst in the process of apologising it is my duty to report that, due to an oversight on my part in the June issue, one name was omitted from the celebratory article related to it being our 40th edition, being that of former Parish Council Member, Edgar Cooper (pictured right, photo by Tony Bubb), who was one of the main instigators at the magazine's inception, and who has made many contributions over the years to the village and its inhabitants. I am truly sorry, Edgar, for I do believe that you deserve recognition for your efforts! In order to rectify my omission, I invited Edgar to relate his version of the initial days of the magazine, in reply he said "The first Village Voice committee being part of the Parish Council was formed after suggestions were made of having a village magazine. The committee was Stella Caunt, Teresa Southam, Peter Merrich and Edgar Cooper with meetings at each other's homes with coffee and biscuits. On the final meeting of the first edition Peter informed us that he was changing his job and would be moving to Kent, so was unable to carry on as chairman, this is when Edgar Cooper became chairman. This team carried on until the end of their time as Councillors. Teresa was the editor, and Stella was the secretary doing all the typing, my job was scanning all pictures and taking the finished article to the printers and arranging for delivery. When the first edition was ready for printing, it was printed on Len Matthews' office machine, collated by the team, and delivered by hand, it was later printed in King's Lynn and remained with this company for twelve months, when it was transferred to Hunstanton. Only our limited finances controlled the cost of each edition, a limited number of pages were printed. To enable us to increase the size it was decided to have adverts to cover the cost of extra pages Many evenings were spent trying to decide which items could go in which edition and how to ask the Parish Council for more money to make extra pages."



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## Letters to the Editor



*Mr. J.W.J. Neal of Mountbatten Road writes:* I submit the enclosure for possible inclusion in the magazine "Village Voice" at your discretion in the future. In passing I must thank you and all concerned for the excellent job you are doing with the magazine. I wish you every success in your future efforts.



I have a little Granny, she's really very old  
But also unconventional in a most unusual mould.  
She doesn't wear her spectacles perched low upon her nose,  
She's into contact lenses and varnishes her toes.  
She dresses in a tracksuit, goes jogging in the park,  
Unlike other Grannies who are home before it's dark.

And when I wish she'd sometimes stay and tuck me into bed.  
She's off to study yoga and stands upon her head.  
Some Grannies sit in rocking chairs and crochet shawls indoors,  
My Granny jumps on horses and rides across the moors.  
She goes on day trips with her gang, The Over Sixties Club,  
They rocket round the countryside and end up in a pub.  
And on the homeward journey, like a flock of singing birds,  
They harmonise old favourites with very naughty words.  
I love my little Granny, I think she's really great,  
If that's what growing old is like - I really cannot wait.

*Dave Perry of Wymondham writes:* I am sorry that I have not got back to you sooner as regards the article that you so kindly added to the "Dersingham Village Voice" about my step father who served with the T.A.. Great news! Maurice Bix contacted me, and behold, he knew my Dad, and Maurice told me so much. Also I got a phone call from a chap who now lives in Cambridge. When we can my wife and I shall visit Maurice for a good old Norfolk 'mardle'. Thank you so much for starting the ball rolling and when we are out your way we shall look you up. Once again a really BIG thank you.

*Bernie Twite writes from Cyprus:* Reference the piece on Ted Dew, he worked for the Barwell Rubber Co. They sold car tyres and did retreads, the head place was Cambridge, but they had a depot in King's Lynn, in London Road just past Hospital Walk, it's now a car sales site. Ted worked there a long time certainly during the late forties and the fifties. At that time the shop that went with the house was used by a Mr. Dodd, he sold and repaired radios and charged accumulators, he also sold Dinky Toys and Hornby Trains, I seem to remember Derek Asker worked for him at one time. Peter Hooks, David Wright and myself have put names to the nurses' photo, if they don't get in touch come back to me.

*Gay Watt of Dersingham writes:* I was approached recently by Ken Tidd, at an exhibition of his paintings in Brancaster. He knew that I live in Dersingham and asked if I could help with an enquiry he had received from the Yukon recently. It seems that a very important person in their local history - Claude Tidd - lived in Canada between 1910 and 1945, when "he left for his native Dersingham, England where he died on June 12, 1949". Claude had worked as a farmhand, storekeeper, surveyor, piano player in a movie house, and locomotive repairman until 1914 when he joined the Mounties and was sent north, living in several Yukon territories and retiring in

1935. He met and married Mary Ester Ryder in Fort Yukon in 1925 and he was an avid photographer, filmmaker, writer and musician. Most of his writing and photography was intended to record the lifestyle he experienced in the Yukon, which is now highly valued by the Yukon people. Ken was approached because his website shows that he too is an artist and that he lives not far from where Claude ended his life, so it was thought that there could be a family link and that Ken might be able to shed some light on Claude's connections with Dersingham and have some knowledge of Claude's final years. He would have been about 64 when he died. Ken has spoken with members of his family and believes that Claude may be very distantly related, but has no personal knowledge of him. There are several websites that describe Claude's life in Canada, and his importance to their history, and many of his fascinating photographs are reproduced there. It may be that Claude's life has already appeared in Village Voice and that his connections with Dersingham have been set out. If not perhaps you would consider including something in a future issue and asking whether anyone has any knowledge of Claude that could be passed on to the Yukon.

**Editor's note:** *This subject is already being studied with a view to its inclusion as a series in future editions of the Village Voice, and permission has been obtained from the Government Records Archivist in the Yukon to use material from the Archive web-site, but in view of this enquiry, perhaps our readers may be in a position to pre-empt this by supplying us with their personal knowledge of the family concerned. If so, please write to me at the address shown on Page 70.*



◀ Claude Tidd      Mary Ester Tidd (nee Ryder) ▶



**Mrs. M. Clayton of Bank Road writes:** 'The Hole Truth' in June 'Village Voice' – Clayton Close was named after my late father-in-law, a retired builder who served on the Parish Council, and who mentioned, while having a meal with my husband and myself, that there was bound to be trouble where they were allowing bungalows to be built over the Dew Pond. That was before they named the road after him. I used to take my children to get frog-spawn and tadpoles from the pond in 1950. I can remember Dr. Telford Martin living in Dersingham in 1948, I thought in Shernbourn Road, that's where I used to meet him while pushing my children in their pram. He always used to chat and admire the babies – he seemed very interested in babies, asking if they were breast-fed? Their weight? Village voice gets better every edition, thank you, and your team, for all the hard work, it is appreciated.

**Joan Dixon of Lynn Road writes:** Dr. Martin was a retired doctor from the Sheffield area. They lived in the house on the left hand side at the bottom of the Old Vicarage Drive. He was a friend of my father and by 1941 he was needed back in Sheffield to replace one of the younger doctors in his practice. My father did find out that he survived the severe bombing of Sheffield and the Rother Valley. They did not stay more than 3-4 years in the village but he and my father were bowls partners and enjoyed a drink in the Feathers occasionally. In those days the Vicarage Drive was a sea of yellow and white in the spring, aconites and snowdrops. I have often wondered where they all went – and the churchyard snowdrops? We did at one point have sheep grazing the churchyard to keep the grass down, so perhaps that is where the snowdrops went!

**Bernie Twite writes from Cyprus:** Matters arising from June 'Village Voice'. Hole in road - I don't know which part of Clayton Close the hole is, but from the Old Chapel to where the old cottages are set back was a pasture which belonged to the Oaks, and there was a pond in it. Also some time ago some of the residents complained of a lot of frogs round the properties and they

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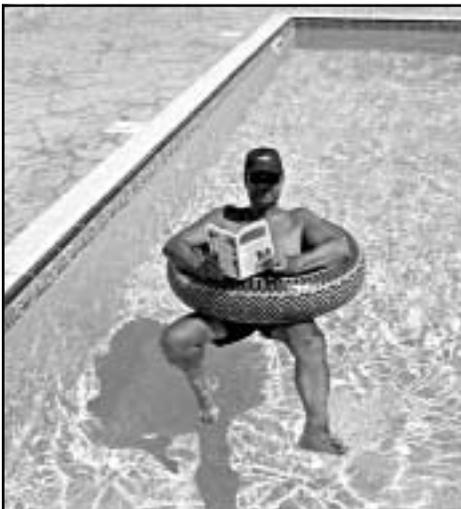
were told it was the frogs sensing water. A.R.P. First Aid photo some of the names. Back row: 2nd from right: - Jack Welham lived in Lynn Road was a painter and decorator. Centre rear: Peter Houchen, 3rd left: Joy Bowman married Bob Bowman gardener at Sandringham, lived at West Newton, I think before she was married Joy worked at the Feathers. Centre Row on right: Alex Fisher owned fish shop was scout leader had a potato crisp factory ran a wartime concert party. 3rd right: Dr Coxon was a dentist and lived up Fern Hill. Front Row John Playford from the baker's family. 5th right: Doris Goff. 2nd left: Gordon Emmerson, his brother John lives in Manor Road. Peter Houchen ran the Norfolk Stores in Chapel Road, which is now the big house on the corner of Kings Croft. I did an early 'Village Voice' item about my time there as an errand boy. The photo of St George's speech day, front row on right is Dick Melton. 2nd row, 2nd right, is myself. Sadly a lot of the faces on the photo are no longer with us.

**Mr. A.J.D. Coxon of 2 Bassett Road, Sully, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 5HS writes:** I received some cuttings from Village Voice today from John Crowe whom I understand you know. I know him from the Gallipoli Association 1915, as my Father was in the 5th Norfolks TA at Suvla Bay at the time of the famous Sandringham Company. My family lived at Highlands, Fern Hill, from about 1923 to 1945, and I was born and brought up in Dersingham. As I was a boy of 12 when WWII started I am able to give you some information on the War Workers' photograph, and the subject of the Wartime Doctor. The photo was taken outside the old Dun Cow pub, which was where the First Aid Room was set up. Later in the war it moved to the Feathers, now room is a bar. The Lady in the centre is my Mother, Mrs. Ella Coxon ARRC who was 'Chief Casualty Worker', she had been a Red Cross Nurse in WWI, and was an Assistant Commandant in the Red Cross. On her left is my Father. He was a qualified Doctor, but ran a Dental Practice in King Street in LYNN, taking over from his Father S.A.T. Coxon before the war and stayed until the end of WWII when they moved to Abingdon. He was also 'Capt. Mainwaring' in the Home Guard, and was not really one of the Dersingham Medical team but there he is in the photo. Faces are familiar but names elude me. I think that is Peter Houchen in the back row, he ran the Grocer's shop and sang in the Church Choir, a big man. Dad was Churchwarden for many years and ran the British Legion, the Cricket, and the Soccer, in the village. Mother ran the WI and the Mothers' Union. My Sister was four years older than me, and at 83 lives near Hythe in Kent. I am 79, and after 40 years at sea in the Royal and Merchant Navies, am settled here in Wales. **The Doctor** - The Doctor was in Snettisham I think each one lived in the same house which had a Surgery. Dr. Jolly was there throughout the War as I recall, Dr. Martin was before him, and before that Dr Steadman who I understand presided at my birth and that of my sister. Dr. Steadman was a family friend of my parents. Sir Frederic Willans was also a friend of Dad's but I don't think he acted as a GP, not in Dersingham anyway. My Sister and I will by chance be in Dersingham at the Barn House in Station Road, nights of Friday/Saturday 30-31 July for a family Memorial Service at Old Hunstanton. I hope the above will be of interest.

**Helen Buckenham of Park Hill, Dersingham writes:** On behalf of my sister, Liz, Mother, Anne Reynolds, and myself, may I send a sincere thank you for including us in the May edition of Village Voice. How kind of you. Towards the middle of April, ahead of the official launch during M.E. Awareness week (May 8th to 14th) Liz and I embarked on our joint Grand Challenge, this year's fundraising incentive, for each individual or group (duo in our case) to raise the sum of one thousand pounds (there is no time limit for this). We elected to auction Celebrity Clothes which we have been collecting over the past six years. By the end of the second week in June Liz and I had reached our target. On the evening of the 20th June our James Bond/Miss Money Penny suit, which had been up for auction for 10 days, sold for £920, but the successful bidder was so supportive of what we were doing that he rounded it up to £1,000!!! How often would that happen? So, that is our mother's Grand Challenge covered, although we are still appealing and writing letters. We still have many items to sell, both celebrity and miscellaneous, but now we revert to our usual

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designation of fundraising – i.e: 80% of all funds raised go to the children’s section and the remainder for research. (We have recently sent another one thousand pounds to our charity which was an accumulation of previous monies from such as stall sales and donations). We are thrilled, honoured and highly delighted to have been included on the guest list for a Celebration Reception to be held at the House of Lords this September, at which we shall meet other fundraisers. Although Liz and I have been on other occasions, our dear mother has not, so we shall derive even greater pleasure this time from observing her reactions to such historic surroundings and an honoured event. If anyone would like to follow our progress and/or bid for any of our lots, then go to eBay, click on Community and enter the User I.D. 263liz. Happy bidding!





## DERSINGHAM MINORS PRESENTATION EVENING 17TH JUNE 2006 AT THE SPORTS FIELD



Hopefully everybody enjoyed themselves at the presentation. Thanks to the minors committee for organising the barbeque, the bar, the shop, the bouncy castle and obstacle course, CITB for the marquee, Redgate Bakery for the rolls and managers/parents for the spectacular football match against 50 children.

Every member of the minors received a squad trophy, the results are as follows;

### **Under 8 - Kingfisher (a)**

Player of the year: Jack Casey  
Player's player: Connor Daniels  
Manager's player: Adam Wood

### **Under 8 - Kingfisher (b)**

Player of the year: Alex Martinez  
Player's player: Maccsen Heath  
Manager's player: Alex Havers  
and Ryan Hatton

### **Eagles**

Player of the year: Evan Minns  
Player's player: Joe Collison  
Manager's player: Jamie White

### **Under 9**

#### **Harriers**

Player of the year: Scott English  
Player's player: Jordan Cribb  
Manager's player: Alex Kettle

### **Swifts**

Player of the year: Sam Coleman  
Player's player: Stephan Foot  
Manager's player: Isaac Large

### **Under 10**

#### **Kestrels**

Player of the year: Jake Huggett  
Player's player: Daniel Tuddenham  
Manager's player: Thomas Carlton  
Most improved; Rhys Burton

### **Robins**

Player of the year: Timothy Race  
Player's player: Luke Page  
Manager's player: Anthony Kelly  
Most improved; Bella Nicholl  
and Darren Griffin

### **U11 Mini Soccer**

Player of the year: Henry Rust  
Player's player: Nathan Daw  
Manager's player: Jack Melton-Doy  
Most man of the matches; Nathan Daw  
and Henry Rust

### **U13 Girls**

Player of the year: Kelly Kitchener  
Player's player: Lucy Carlton  
Manager's player: Holly Melton  
and Lyndsey Bunn

### **U15 Girls**

Player of the year: Claire Austin  
Player's player: Jody Melton  
Manager's player: Ellen Whitely

### **U11 11 Aside**

Player of the year: Jack Melton-Doy  
Player's player: Jess Desborough  
Manager's player: Jack Southgate  
Most man of the match:  
Jack Melton-Doy and Gregory Rix

### **U13 11 Aside**

Player of the year: Luke Biles  
Player's player: Liam Barron  
Manager's player: Daniel Batch

### **Club person of the year Jamie Griffin Memorial Cup**

Darren White

Well done to you all, good luck next season and good luck in our Dersingham Tournaments on 23 July and 13 August. Anybody needing information please contact Karl 01485 543228

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## **DERSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH**

Thank you to all who visited our Flower festival in May. We had a very busy few days with many people from far and wide enjoying the beauty of the flowers, the singing by the children from Dersingham Infants School and St. George's School, buying from the stalls and of course sampling the excellent food. We raised just over £3,000 and felt truly blessed with 'all good gifts around us.'

Our Harvest celebrations start on Saturday 23rd September with a Coffee Morning from 10.00 am. The Harvest Service on Sunday 24th September at 10.30 am will be led by Jackie Austin, Head Teacher, Dersingham Infant and Nursery School, and at 6.30 pm by Rev. Kim Nally. The Harvest Supper will be on Monday 25th September at 7.00 pm. We look forward to welcoming you to any of our events.

*Elizabeth Batstone, Church Secretary,  
Dersingham Methodist Church*

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## Summer events for children at Dersingham Library



The *Reading Mission* summer reading challenge begins on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Sign up for your special mission folder and as a special agent you will discover three missions to challenge you. Parts of the mission are explained in code so you'll need to use the code-buster included in your pack. But cracking codes and solving puzzles is just one aspect of your mission –agents must also read 6 books, keep track of their reading, write reviews, and spread the word about how good books are using special 'top secret' message cards! There'll be bookmarks, fridge magnets and pens along the way to help with your mission and at the end of the challenge there will be special 'Mission Accomplished' medals and certificates.

### **Wednesday 9th August**

2.30—3.30 pm

#### **Holiday Storytime for under 7s.**

This event is ticketed and limited to 25.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

### **Monday 21st August**

from 10.30—11.30 am

#### **Family Spy School**

This event is aimed at 7-11s and their parents. Crack the codes, learn about spies, invent top secret gadgets and discover the best spy reads for kids and adults.

This event is ticketed and limited to 10 families.

### **Wednesday 23rd August**

2.30—3.30 pm

#### **Holiday storytime for under 7s .**

This event is ticketed and limited to 25.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

It's very easy to join the library. Just bring along proof of your address and you can get your own library card and start borrowing books straight away.

### **Dersingham Library is open on:**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>10 -1</b>	<b>2—7.30</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10 -1</b>	<b>2—5</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10 -1</b>	<b>2—7.30</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10 -1</b>	

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# THE THIRD OF THE WINTER ALE

by Frank Nichols, Steve Nowell & Ian Stockwell

The Editor reported back to the Three Not-So-Wise Men that, very surprisingly, he had had feedbacks on their last article from a chappie in Tooting and a lonely crofter in North Uist, Outer Hebrides. He didn't say that their comments were exactly complimentary but the 3 N-S-W Men were surprised and pleased that their work was getting national coverage both urban and rural. The crofter had actually implied that the piece was just big enough for a certain sanitary operation. So they decided to press on.

The last article dealt with the Conscious, the Sub-Conscious, and the Unconscious. This time they would look at:-

## THE EDUCATION AND POWER OF THE SUB-CONSCIOUS

This subject was specifically requested by Dersingham's new Vicar, the Reverend Humphrey W Wallingham. Since moving to the village, Humphrey was satisfied that his church attendances were increasing but he was not convinced that the messages of his sermons were being totally taken on board. Looking from the pulpit he would see half the congregation staring back at him, wide-eyed, smiling and alert; whilst the other half were virtually asleep, several of them actually snoring. But he suspected that even the 'conscious' ones only *appeared* to be alert and were all putting on a big act just to keep him happy. So not only was he not getting through to the unconscious, he wasn't faring much better with the supposedly conscious either. He would have to concentrate on penetrating the 120 or so Sub-Consciouses out there which constituted his congregation.

What could the Three Not-So-Wise Men do to help?

As a self-confessed eccentric, Miley was also a competent 'lateral thinker'. So his approach was to ask Larry:- "Say you were driving down Centre Vale and suddenly saw a herd of elephants in the road ahead of you. What would happen in your brain?"

"What in heaven's name has that load of rubbish got to do with Humphrey's sermons?"

"I don't know, but I have this feeling that all will be revealed".

Larry decided to play along with this game.

"All right. My Conscious would say to my Sub-Conscious 'There's a herd of elephants'. I'm not daft, you know. Then after drawing upon its vast reserves of experience and knowledge, my Sub-Conscious comes to the conclusion that I can't get down Centre Vale because there's a lot of big, grey, lumpy obstructions in the way. It advises my Conscious accordingly. So I stop."

"So what happens the next time you drive down Centre Vale?" asked Miley.

"My Sub-Conscious fleetingly says to himself 'The last time I was here there was a herd of elephants in the road' so he asks Conscious if the road is clear. Conscious says 'yes'; and I proceed"

"But what if your next ten similar journeys all come to a halt because of elephantine obstructions?"

"Then Sub-Conscious gets to the state when he thinks that *all* journeys down Centre Vale are going to be impeded by big animals with long trunks. This, my hairy-faced friend is 'learning by repetition'. In the first case, Conscious didn't teach Sub-Conscious anything much but after repeated bombardment with the same information, Sub-Conscious actually believes that this is the 'norm'. The same sort of thing happens all the time. Look at Parliament for example. If the Opposition - call them 'Conscious' - repeatedly blasts out the message to the public - call them 'Sub-Conscious' - that the Government are a waste of space, then eventually the Opposition will convince the public that this is true and the message becomes ingrained. What really happens of course is that the Government is pushing out their equivalent message at the same time, so the public merely reaches a state of confusion".

"So what you're saying, Larry, is that Humphrey should repeat his sermons week after week until he's penetrated all those Sub-Consciouses sitting in front of him ?

“Oliver had been quiet up to now, just listening. He sipped his ale; leaned back in his seat and put his huge thumbs behind his lapels. “Ahem. It would work, but I don’t think he wants to take six weeks delivering one sermon. There’s a better way.”

“Which is, oh Master?” said Miley, rather sardonically.

‘**SUBLIMINAL INPUT**’ said Oliver.

“It works like this. Back in nineteen-something-or-other; can’t remember exactly when, there was an advertising technique used on TV whereby brief messages were repeatedly flashed up on the screen. These messages were so quick that the ‘conscious’ didn’t know they were there. But all the same, they were passed on to the ‘sub-conscious’. There was quite a hue and cry at the time because people couldn’t understand why they had a sudden urge to buy a very expensive motor car every day. So if the Reverend Humphrey repeatedly flashed a big card above his head saying ‘Read and discuss Mark 4:1-20’, the congregation should automatically split up into groups and act accordingly. It’s a new way of delivering sermons, isn’t it?”

“There’s a snag” said Larry. “Only half of the congregation is really awake. Remember?”

Miley had the answer. “Just before the vicar flashes his card, he signals to ‘Ding-a-Ling’ Bell to fire the bells; that should wake up the others”. (Note: to ‘fire’ the bells means to ring all the bells simultaneously. Very noisy.)

“There’s another snag”. This was Larry again who always uses massive safety factors. “I know our new Vicar is an honest and honourable chap, but just suppose he ‘flipped’ one Sunday and flashed some cards reading ‘Give the Vicar £10 as you leave church’ ?”

“Then we demand a large percentage of the proceeds for giving him the idea in the first place!” said Oliver, and proceeded to the bar.

Miley leaned on the table deep in thought. Then he said “You know, Larry, this education of the sub-conscious via the conscious that we were talking about earlier can be very therapeutic. I heard it the other day on Radio Leicester”.

“You’re being serious, aren’t you? That’s a change”.

“Yes I am. Say for example that you haven’t been sleeping properly for a while. Well, apparently if you say to yourself enough times before you go to bed ‘I *will* sleep well tonight’, and be positive and cheerful about it; then the chances are that you will have a good night. It’s Conscious talking to Sub-Conscious again.”

Miley duly wrote up the findings of the Three Not-So-Wise Men and submitted it to the Editor of Village Voice. Now the Editor is a very busy man and doesn’t have the time to read every single word put before him. So as he wrote, Miley included the words ‘marvellous choir’ at the end of every third sentence. The idea was given to him by Oliver who felt that, as in the House of Commons, if something was repeated often enough, then the readership would believe it. In this way, Oliver hoped, the Choir would get better recognition; and they did! The Editor of Village voice was inundated with phone calls saying that it was about time the choir received their deserved praise, and why had he not realised earlier just how good the choir was. And the church was packed for several Sundays thereafter, of people who had come just to hear these marvellous singers. The net result however was that it was standing room only in church on Sunday mornings; and the Editor threatened that he would never publish any further submissions from the Three Not-So-Wise Men

Despite this, they were not dispirited. They felt that they were on a crusade of enlightenment and vowed to try to carry on sharing the results of their researches with the people of Dersingham.

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## War Workers - A Series of Archive Photographs

This, the fourth in a series of photographs taken of local people who 'did their bit' during the Second World War, shows a number of Canteen Workers who have been identified by Elizabeth Fiddick as follows:

**Back Row** Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. M. Senter, Mrs. Chilvers, Miss Warren, Mr. Mason-Jones, Mr. C. Rayner, Mr. Lloyd-Pratt, Mr. A.L. Tuck, Miss Allen, Mrs. S. Bird, Miss M. Stanton, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Shipton

**Middle Row** Miss M. Beck, Mrs. Linford, Mrs. Courtney, Miss Butcher, Hodges, Miss E. Stanton, Mrs. W. Walden, Mrs. C. Reynolds, Miss Reynolds, Miss Garner, Mrs. Leathersetch, Mrs. Taplin, Mrs. A Bird, Mrs. Rutherford, Miss. Miss D. Chambers, Mrs. Wyer, Mrs. Yaxley.

**Front Row** The Committee: Mrs. W. Twite, Mrs. A. C. M. Coxon, Mrs. C. Rayner, Mrs. F. Bunn, Miss Sitwell (Treasurer), Mrs. R. Stanton (Chairman), Miss Hough (Secretary), Mrs. Pain, Miss Yallop, Mrs. Lloyd Pratt.

Miss Hough, the secretary, ran a private school in Manor Road at a house then known as Wellswill, now called, I think, Wood Royal. Mr. Mason-Jones was clerk to the Parish Council and Headmaster at the village school. He was nicknamed "Old Foss". Mr. L. Tuck was a nurseryman. Mrs. Chilvers was wife to Arthur Chilvers the Station Master. The Coxons lived at a house then called Highlands. What is it now I wonder? The Lloyd Pratts lived at The Oaks, the house burnt down in 1965

### Dersingham School Staff



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## **Elizabeth Fiddick has provided us with the following information related to our series of Archive Photographs of War Workers**

### **VILLAGE VOICE June 2006 Archive Photograph A.R.P. First Aid Team**

**Back row (Left to right)** Miss Athow, Mr. F. Houchen, Miss Goss, Mrs. Glyde, Mr. P. Houchen, Mrs. Bunting, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. J. Welham, Miss Reynolds.

**Middle Row Mr. Drayton, Miss M. Stanton, Colonel Morphew, Mrs. A. C. M. Coxon (Senior Casualty Worker), Dr. A.C.M. Coxon, Mrs. Burton, Mr. Fisher.**

**Front Row Miss M. Rolfe, Mr. G. Emmerson Miss D. Goff, Miss Standaloft, Mr. J. Playford, Mrs. Stoveld, Miss Rout.**

### **VILLAGE VOICE February 2006 Archive Photograph Home Guard**

**Back Row** Messrs.G. Blowers, H. Standaloft, J. Walker, Taplin, H. Prime, L. Tuck, C. Lincoln, R. Linford, Rayner and Barnard.

**Front Row** Messrs W. Walden, sen., Potter, G. Coates, D. Terrington, Lloyd Pratt (Senior Warden), J. Jackson, Jun., Mason-Jones, Rolfe and E. Tingle.

## **Lynn News and Advertiser. Copy of article accompanying photos Duty Well Done at Dersingham**

Mr. R. Linford and Mr. A. L. Tuck were Dersingham's first wardens in April 1938. The following joined in September 1938, and are still wardens: Messrs Lloyd Pratt, T. H. Potter, J. Jackson Jun., H. Prime, H. Standaloft, W. Brown, G. W. Blowers, D. Terrington, C.L. Rayner, W.R. Senter, A. J. Mason-Jones. Those joining later were: Messrs G. B. Coote, A.W. Rolfe, A.E. Tingle, G. Batterbee, A J. Smith, Capt Martin was head until he resigned early in 1940 and was succeeded by Mr. W. Lloyd Pratt.

Wardens' posts have been at 'The Oak', 'The Feathers', and Mr. Linford's house. Six wardens who formed an efficient rescue team were: Messrs. W. H. Walden, C. Lincoln, M.W. Taplin, S.C. Barnard, and J.C. Walker.

Someone has been on duty day and night since September 1939, Messrs Linford, Jackson, Prime and Lloyd Pratt having taken night duty. Wardens who joined the Home Guard Reserve were: Messrs W. Lloyd Pratt, H. Prime, H. Standaloft, G. Batterbee, G. Blowers, R. Linford, L. Tuck, C Rayner, M Taplin, S. Barnard, J. Walker, C. Lincoln.

Mr. Lloyd Pratt pays tribute to the loyal service of all helpers, especially Mr. Linford and Mr. Standaloft. Wardens, Police and Casualty Service have worked together in Dersingham as a team. The work has given many an opportunity of knowing and appreciating others better.

Dersingham's efficient casualty service included trained stretcher-bearers under Mrs. C. Coxon (Senior Casualty Worker). Other members were: Mesdames, Bunting, Burton, Boyce, Barret, Wilson, Stoveld, Glyde, the Misses Rout, E. Linford, M. Stanton, Reynolds, Goss, Standaloft, Keeler, Rolfe, Hyner, Dennis, Goff, Athow.  
Associated doctors: Dr. A.C.M. Coxon, Col Morphew.

Stretcher bearers: Messrs, Drayton, Welham, Fisher, A.W. Houchen, C. Borley, S. Eastwick, F. Houchen, S.H. Emmerson, J.Playford.

The First-Aid point was at "The Feathers" and later "The Dun Cow". There have been innumerable lectures, examinations and exercises (in which Sergt. W. Keeler has rendered

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## DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

In May the Group celebrated its first birthday after a very successful year. 15 walks had been held with an average attendance of 20 on each occasion. The programme has continued over the summer and readers are reminded that they are welcome to join us on the following walks in August and September. There is NO CHARGE: just turn up.

**Wednesday 9 August** - start 6.00 pm from junction of Green Bank with Ringstead/HoIme Road (map ref. L132/708 420). A 4 miles circular walk to Holme led by Sue Eastmure (543870)

**Sunday 20 August** - start 10.30 am from car park behind the Dogotel on A148 at Harpley Dams (map ref. L132/772 255). A 5.5 miles circular walk led by Michael and Valerie Smith (540728).

**Wednesday 30 August** - start 6-00 pm\* from lay-by south of Ingoldisthorpe on B1440 (map ref. L132/683 325). A 4.5 miles circular walk led by Keith Starks (542268).

**Sunday 3 September** - start at 2.00 pm from Great Massingham church (map ref. L132/798 229) A 5.5 miles circular walk led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807).

**Wednesday 20 September** - start at 2.00 pm from Ringstead Village Hall (map ref. L132/707 403) (charge 50p per car). A 4.50 miles circular walk led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940)

\* Note start time: not 5.00 pm as shown in previous editions of Village Voice

Look out for details of our programme for the rest of the year in the next edition and on the notices displayed in the village.

**KEEP THIS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

**Keith Starks (542268)**

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## Dersingham Flower Club

Dersingham Flower Club is a very thriving active and friendly club with practice evenings held on the first Thursday of each Month (except January and August). These are held at St. Nicholas Church Hall from 7.30 pm. Potential new members are always welcome to come along and join us for a couple of sessions to see the many varied arrangements that our members produce each meeting. A theme for each month is given in the yearly programme. There are two to three demonstrations a year, when the meetings are open to the public in Spring/Summer, usually April/June with a Christmas demonstration at the November meeting. Homemade biscuits, tea and coffee are served with a bring and buy stall that helps local charities. So far donations have been made to Addenbrooke's Kidney Patients Association £150, Lynn News Air Ambulance Heli-Pad Appeal £100, Dersingham First Responders £100, St. George's School Football Kit donation of £35. Last year during V.E. Celebrations held by Hunstanton Rotary Club table arrangements were given. At the Christmas Tree Festival the Flower Club sponsored a display at St. Nicholas Church. At the June open meeting Roz Hamilton gave a demonstration and the bring and buy stall raised £100 for Addenbrooke's Neurology Dept. *Further details can be obtained by telephone from Doreen Asker on Dersingham 540601.*



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## Important Notice From The Alliance Pharmacy



The notice published, without consultation, on Page 23 of the last issue of Dersingham Village Voice is rather misleading. Although the shop is open all day (except for Saturdays) the Pharmacist is at lunch between 1.00 to 2.00 pm. This means that, by Law, we cannot process prescriptions, hand out completed prescriptions, nor sell certain over-the-counter medications if the Pharmacist is absent from the shop.

Our opening hours are as follows:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9.00 am to 6.30 pm

Tuesday and Thursday: 9.00 am to 5.30 pm

Saturday: 9.00 am to 1.00 pm, 2.15 pm to 5.30 pm

We hope this clarifies the situation to all our customers

***Editor's note:** The notice referred to was submitted by a person whom I believed to be a reliable source, which led me to believe that it had been authorised by the Pharmacy, which was not the case. I must apologise to the Pharmacy for any difficulties caused by this mis-information, which was published in good faith, and in the belief that we were, in fact, being of benefit to this excellent service to the community.*

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### The Electoral Registration Officer Asks That You Read This

The annual canvass for the Register of Electors begins at the end of August, when a form and reply paid return envelope will be personally delivered to every property in West Norfolk. Completion and return of the form is both obligatory and important because the register is used not just for electoral purposes but also by many financial service providers dealing with, for example, mortgages, loans or new accounts.

Anyone whose name is not on the register will be **UNABLE TO VOTE** at the Borough and Parish Council elections due to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 and likely to have problems using any service which involves a check of the register.

The form is intended for the present occupiers of an address. The name of anyone expected to be resident at the address on 15<sup>th</sup> October and who is already 18, or will reach that age by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007, needs to be on the form and the names of anyone no longer at the address deleted.

Forms received by owners of properties which are either already empty or are expected to be so on 15<sup>th</sup> October simply need noting "Empty property on 15<sup>th</sup> October" and returning. This will avoid the issue of reminders.

#### **A reply is also needed if the address on the form is a second home or holiday let.**

Guidance regarding second homes is that if residence amounts, in total, to at least 3 months of a year, a person may register. This would give a right to vote in local elections (possibly by a postal vote), although at national elections only one vote would be available and a choice of areas to cast it would need to be made. If residence is for less than 3 months, or if a person does not wish to register in West Norfolk as a second home-owner, the "No one eligible" box can be ticked and the form returned.

***In the event of any queries when the form arrives, householders can telephone 01553 616773 and any of the electoral staff will be glad to help.***

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## Westhall Manor



West Hall Manor as cottages.

Directly opposite the bungalow where I live is West Hall Road. When I first moved here it was possible to walk to the end of that road and take a footpath past the Albert Victor Public House onto Manor Road. Modern bungalows now occupy the land where the footpath ran and the Albert Victor is a private dwelling well screened from the road. However the old house of the Manor of Westhall is still standing at right angles to the road more than 330 years after it

was built. Its surroundings have changed enormously of course in that time and the old house is not the way it was but at least it still stands witness to the village's past. The Lordship of Westhall, as with others in the village, goes back to the time of the Conqueror. At one time a family called Deorsige held these lands. The name of our village can be broken up into Deorsige + ingas + ham translating as "Homestead of Deorsige's people". Another explanation of the name, which is given in some accounts, is Der (water) + ing (meadow) + ham (dwelling) translating to "Dwelling by the water meadow". Personally I like the poetry of the latter version. In the Domesday Book the name is spelt Dersincham. In about 1303 one Sir Robert Tateshall held the lands "in capite", that is directly from King Edward 1. (1272-1407) Documents describe Sir Robert as holding "one fee" which the Prior of Binham held from him. A knight's fee was a feudal estate normally worth £40 or more. Just two years later a member of the Pakenham family is recorded as holding some of the lands. During the reign of Henry V 111 (1509-47) the Manor was held by Sir Thomas Paston who had also acquired other lands in the village as a result of the dissolution of the monasteries. I have no information of how the lands were disposed after this time until the Cobbe's of Sandringham acquired them in about 1646. The Cobbe's have appeared before in these accounts as they had also acquired the lands of Pakenham Manor, Binham Priory Manor and Gelham Manor. They were a Catholic family who sided with the King in the English Civil War and as a consequence their lands were sequestered by Parliament. Although they regained their property later their fortune never really recovered and their estates were sold to the Hoste family in 1686. However all references I have found to the Manor House give 1671 as the date of its construction when it was still part of the Cobbe's estate. 1671 was a very significant year for the village. It was the year of the great flood. Battles against the waves were a common feature of life on the East Coast. In late August and early September of 1671 there was a period of extremely stormy weather. It reached a peak on or around September 12<sup>th</sup> and the whole countryside around Lynn was inundated. The tide rose so high it swept over all sea banks and every able-bodied person would have been summoned to the fight against the sea, and to save what livestock and property they could. Winter fodder was ruined, livestock perished, coastal roads destroyed, and many ships were wrecked in the Wash. The event is recorded in Dersingham's parish register. "*September the 12<sup>th</sup> 1671. The fflood was on the twelfe day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and seaventye and one. All the generall marshes in Dersingham and also the common marshes there were overflowed by reason that the tyde did come over all the banks first and after made severall breaches of the said bankes. The like was also knowne by the space of fifty or as some say sixty years before..severalle cattell were lost in the Common Marsh there.*" Water entered many cottages but fortunately there was no loss of human life. The mention of a previous flood that occurred sixty years earlier tallies with an account of a

historian called Dugdale. In 1613 he wrote of a storm that battered Norfolk Marshland. “A dreadful inundation of the sea on the 13<sup>th</sup> November.....A bridge was shattered, over 2000 head of livestock drowned, 480 acres of land sown with corn were swamped and 13 houses ruined.” I mention these floods because the Cobbes owned not only Westhall Manor but also Gelham Manor. Gelham Manor Hall used to stand as I described in the last issue on the Marsh side of the village down The Drift almost opposite the present West Hall Manor House. If Gelham Manor House were still standing in the 17<sup>th</sup> century it would surely have been badly affected by these great floods and any in previous years especially as the waters of the Wash then approached much nearer to the village. So was this the time when the decision to abandon that house was finally taken and a new Manor House of Westhall built at a safer distance from the fury of the Wash? This is only conjecture. I have no historical evidence to prove or disprove the theory. 1671 also marked the building of the Tithe barn and the Hall opposite. Fifteen years later in 1686 the Manor of Westhall passed to the Hoste family as part of the Sandringham Estate. Armstrong’s History states that in about 1780 Dixon Hoste was the Lord of the Manor. Dixon, the grandson of James Hoste of Sandringham, lived at Ingoldisthorpe Hall. He lost much of his fortune in supporting the political ambitions of Coke of Holkham and was finally forced to sell the house at Ingoldisthorpe and the estate. At some point the house in Manor Road was administered by the village council. There are several references in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the village Town House. In 1754 an overseer John Doyle did work on the Town House and there is a bill dated 1754 for “2 days work of thatching on the Town House by order of Mr. Doyle.....3s. 6d.” The suggestion is made that this Town House was Westhall Manor. Certainly on Bryant’s map of 1826 it is clearly marked as a Workhouse. Various Acts of Parliament had made the Parish the administrative unit for the relief of the poor. Parishes were encouraged to establish workhouses where the poor could be set to work. Then in 1834 the Poor Law Amendment Act was passed and a central authority was set up. This led to the establishment of the new Poor Law Unions when larger workhouses were established. In this area one was built just outside Docking and another in larger workhouses were

turn to page 21 ►



West Hall Manor showing The Albert Victor Pub and a policeman. Can he be named?

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**Wednesday** Dersingham Scout, Guide HQ.  
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**Thursday** Sedgeford Village Hall  
9.30-10.30 am

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smaller Parish workhouses became redundant and were often sold. The inmates in Dersingham were transferred to the Docking Union Workhouse. (I hope to write a fuller article on Westhall Manor as the Workhouse and how Dersingham provided for its poor at a later date when my research is complete.) The Tithe Map of 1839 reveals that one Elizabeth Rouse was now the owner of the land and cottages in the area. At some time the old house had been divided into three separate cottages with further houses added on. Although the identifying numbers on the map are difficult to read it would appear that Moses Grimes and others unnamed occupied these cottages that once formed the Manor House. Moses Grimes is listed in the 1851 census, age 74 an agricultural labourer with Fanny Wales as his housekeeper. His neighbours were John Green, John Flegg, wheelwright, William Flegg and William Daw, a fisherman. In the twentieth century villagers recall the area about the Manor and The Albert Victor being called Laundry Yard. Several villagers recall seeing the steam rising from the roof of the washhouse as they passed on their way to school. A dyke with flowing water once ran down from Doddshill, along Manor Road, down The Drift and thus to the sea. On Mondays water was taken from the stream to fill the coppers and heat for the washing. A chore that took up most of the day. Before Mains water was laid on the villagers fetched their water from wells one of which was behind the Albert Victor. Opposite was a Blacksmith who frequently had an audience of children dawdling to and from school. So the area about the old house has always been one of constant bustle. It was in 1966 that Mr. S. C. Turner bought two of the cottages that were once part of the old Manor and re-converted them into a single dwelling. The sympathetic alterations have restored the character and charm of this old house, but it still has many secrets to give up.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> August 1880 the following announcement, which is relevant to the series of articles on the Manors, appeared in the Lynn Advertiser

The General Courts Baron of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for the undermentioned Manors will be held as follows, (namely)

For the several Manors of West Newton, Buckenhams with Appleton, and West Newton Rivetts on Thursday the 26th day of August instant at 12 o'clock at noon at the house of Mr. Sherrington in West Newton.

For the several Manors of Shouldham in Darsingham and Brookhall in Darsingham on the same day at 1 o'clock in the afternoon at The Cock Inn Darsingham.

Of which all persons concerned are requested to take notice and attend accordingly, and pay their Quit Rents and perform their suits and services.

L.W.Jarvis Steward.

The Cock Inn is now The Feathers. A quit rent was a single annual payment to be offered in lieu of ancient goods and services.

*Elizabeth Fiddick*

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## **PHOBBIES (DERSINGHAM)**

It was with great sadness that on Thursday the 8th June we had to say farewell to our Chairman and Founder Ann Butler due to health reasons.

However, by a unanimous vote, she was elected our Honorary President so she still is having a say in the running of the club without all the worry of it.

She was presented with an I Pod, subscribed to by every member so that she can play her music wherever she goes.

This is the second blow to the club recently, the other being the closure of the Sue Ryder Home.

Our secretary Marguerite Wright, who has recently retired from teaching, volunteered to take over as Chairman and was duly elected. Thank you Marguerite.

The day was concluded with a delicious two-course meal provided by Eileen and her ladies and the cutting of a cake.

With the loss of a number of members due to the closure of the Sue Ryder Home I would like to take this opportunity to invite any handicapped person in the area to visit us, and hopefully if they like us, we would be pleased to welcome them as new members.

*Cyril Critchett*



# Sarah's Page

Hi!

Well it is summer time at last, I did not think you were going to make it. It is raining very hard as I write this but the gardens need it so we must not complain, it is refreshing.

The Parish Council have been accused of not doing anything for this Parish, but I think all of you must acknowledge that this Council is trying very hard to move forward. I recently sent out consultation letters to nearby residents regarding putting up bus shelters in the village. I am amazed by the amount of negativity that has come back with only one resident saying what a good idea. According to your comments re the shelters, the Parish Council are apparently trying to make the village into a town, not looking after our equipment, the shelters would become play toys for the youth and would be an eyesore. Can I assure you that none of this is correct. As more people are getting free bus travel I would have thought it would have been welcomed. The Council have a duty to look after and maintain its equipment, shelters are see through and unfortunately or fortunately what ever way you wish to look at this, Dersingham is now bigger than a nearby town, but I hope we are still very much a village. What has happened to **Community Spirit**.

Talking about Community Spirit we are all prepared and ready for **The Festival**, are you? We have had very little response from organisations, business and the parishioners of this village. We are going to enjoy ourselves and I hope you will. Please see the programme in the middle pages. **Come and enjoy the Festival it is your Festival.** You can still enter a team or have a stall, you are not too late, we will do our best to accommodate.

Can you make a difference to your village? Would you like to make a change? We currently have four vacancies on the Parish Council - would you like to come and join us? Your village needs you. Anyone interested can write to me at the Parish Office.

The Web Site is up and running ([www.dersingham.gov.uk](http://www.dersingham.gov.uk)). Can we have your comments good and bad and suggestions always wanted. If you would like a link from the site please get in touch.

I still have the diary of village events in the office but as yet I have received very little information from 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 that you wish to know more about, or not happy about, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office, and I will do my best to help.

*Sarah*

## **Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times**

Monday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm  
Wednesday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Tuesday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm  
Thursday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

**The Dersingham Parish Council Office is at**  
The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE316LH  
Tel: 01485 541465 E-mail: [Dersingham@wncb.net](mailto:Dersingham@wncb.net)

Orange Trade Refuse Sacks - £34.08 incl. VAT per roll of 24  
Green Garden Sacks – 60p each : Tags for Black Refuse Sacks £1.00 each  
Doggy bags-£1.50 per 100  
Can be obtained at the Council Office during the above times

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## DERSINGHAM EVENING W.I. - May 2006

A large part of our May meeting is reserved for Resolutions: Throughout the Country each W.I will discuss and vote on different Topics and the result of these will be used by our local delegate to vote at the National Annual General Meeting held in June in Cardiff. Dianne, our president, introduced Janet Rose, W.I. Adviser from Pott Row, to whom this task was given, and she was accompanied by Joyce Peart from North Wootton who will be our delegate.

Janet explained the two subjects to be voted on. (1) Alternative forms of Power:- giving examples (a) Solar Panels (b) Wind Turbines (c) Geothermal - these proved very interesting.

(2) Participation in Sport:- this caused some surprise especially when Janet quoted statistics which gave the over 50's as being the age group least likely to take part in any sport. Take a glance through any W.I. Gazette and the reader will clearly see many activities being undertaken or recently completed by that interesting age group and sometimes older members, examples include:- Walking groups, cycling challenges, bowls and taster days for other sports. Votes were taken and Janet was thanked for her clear and thorough briefing.

"The Pudding Party" - no not a party for ladies in an interesting condition - a small celebration of everyone's favourite part of the meal - Pudding - members brought along their favourite puddings and we all sampled them, voting on which we considered the most popular -guess what - 1st. Chocoholic Pud., made by Pam with Ginger Cake and Sauce made by Beryl a close 2nd. As the evening closed maybe the 2nd resolution namely "Participation in Sport" hovered in the back of our minds after all the sampling.

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## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - WOMEN'S SECTION DERSINGHAM AND SANDRINGHAM BRANCH

For our June meeting our speaker was unable to attend. However, we spent a very enjoyable afternoon putting the world to rights over tea and biscuits and our raffle. This month Docking Branch invited us to a Musical Evening, they laid on a lovely supper and a raffle which we all appreciated very much. Many thanks Docking Branch. June was quite a busy month for us as it was our Group Meeting on the 19th held at the Bell Inn in Flitcham. The speaker gave a very interesting talk on bees and we completed the evening with tea and biscuits and a big raffle.

Our July meeting was held in the garden of our President, Mrs. Betty Edey, Champagne, Strawberries and Sunshine complete with tea, cakes and a big raffle, this really was a delightful afternoon.

We do not meet in August but hope you will visit our stall at the festival at the Recreation Ground.

### Green Sacks

Out all day working? Not able to get to the Parish Council Office when it's open? Need some green sacks? Well you are not alone. So we have found out where else you can get them:-

King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council offices in Valentine Rd, Hunstanton, and King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn are both open between 8.45 am and 5.15 pm Monday to Thursday and till 4.45 pm on Fridays.

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## ALL THE FUN OF A PARK HOUSE SUMMER FÊTE

Where else on a hot (even humid) mid summer afternoon in Norfolk would one find the following, all in one place? (1) Elderflower biscuits flavoured with elderflowers picked just a few days before (2) World War One matchbox covers on the ninetieth anniversary of the disastrous Battle of the Somme (3) A group of owls – eagle, snowy, little and tawny being shown off as part of a raptor display. The occasion was the Park House 'Annual Summer Fayre', which not only raises funds for this special hotel run by the Leonard Cheshire Foundation



Steve Tyers, Roy Waller & Ion Trewin

for people with disabilities, but also allows visitors the chance to see inside the building that was once the home of the Spencer family, including Diana, later Princess of Wales. Visiting the stands set out on the lawns to the front, the side and at the back of the house it was not difficult to imagine the Spencer children playing here in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The idyllic setting for the afternoon of the fête was enhanced by carriage driving on the horizon in Sandringham Park. Boys splashing in the Park House pool enjoyed impromptu water polo. If only a game of cricket had been taking place on the square alongside the garden boundary the typically English summer scene would have been complete. Roy Waller of Radio Norfolk declared the Fayre open. For broadcasting personalities weekends are spent helping to raise money for charities. Waller's summer is no exception. He was though especially intrigued by what Park House does. In a trice the conversation had turned to whether it might be possible to transmit a future programme from the house, interspersing music and record requests with interviews – with guests, with staff, with volunteers. So if one day later this year you hear Park House on Roy Waller's Radio Norfolk programme you will know where the idea was conceived. In addition to a variety of stalls – among them bric-à-brac, homemade jams and cakes, an art show, teddy bears, a test-your-weight machine – Park House contributed to the Englishness, the country house feel of the afternoon by setting up croquet on the side lawn. Can its lack of popularity that afternoon possibly have had anything to do with the press photographs a few weeks before of the deputy prime minister playing the game when most people were working? Or was it simply too hot? The display of raptors came appropriately from the Royal Air Force Association in King's Lynn. I say appropriately because never a day goes by without one learning something and Raptor, we were told, is the name of the aerial photographic system on the RAF's Tornado aircraft. And the eagle – a fine specimen graced the grass of Park House – is, one was also reminded, part of the Royal Air Force's symbol. It was a delight to see a flower show with entries that included an arrangement to indicate a recreation. And with Wimbledon rather than the World Cup attracting more attention two arrangements using rackets and tennis balls demonstrated that where flowers are concerned imagination is never far behind. The first and last stand – depending on whether one was coming or going – was the Tombola.

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## The Son of a Railway clerk

*A delightful recollection by the late Alan Cresswell*

*Reproduced by kind permission of the Webmaster of Dersingham.com*



### Part 3

On another occasion I was returning to my unit from leave and crossing London after the city had suffered a heavy bombardment, streets around St. Paul's cathedral were littered with fallen masonry and firemen were damping down still smouldering buildings. It was evening and hundreds of people were settling down on the underground platforms with blankets and pillows and a supply of hot drinks and sandwiches they had carried from home, in anticipation of yet another night of air raids. London Bridge station, where I was to catch a train for Catford had been hit but miraculously trains were running.

During one of these raids the entrance to an underground station received a direct hit entombing a number of people who were sheltering there. Rescue

work carried on while there was hope of finding anyone alive, after which the entrance was sealed. To best of my knowledge it was never re-opened.

And so life carried on until Hitler lost a considerable number of planes in one raid, brought down by R A F pilots in Hurricane and Spitfire fighter planes, and so ended the "Battle of Britain". Other cities suffered heavy raids, reducing large areas to rubble and killing and injuring thousands of people. In April 1942 Norwich was subjected to two of these raids in which some 200 people were killed and many injured. King's Lynn was also hit and in one raid a direct hit on a crowded public house killed a large number of people and there were scores of injuries

During the time I was stationed in Catford I suffered several painful incidents, whilst skylarking about one morning I injured muscles in my left shoulder and neck, the Medical officer was called who bandaged me with yards of 3 inch wide Elastoplast tape. I was excused all duties for ten days and then suffered the painful experience of having the tape ripped off, after a few days light duty I was back on duty again.

At another time I had pain in my lower jaw, reported sick, the medical officer applied for a dental appointment but after a couple of days waiting I could stand the pain no longer, went to a civvy dentist who promptly extracted four front teeth, the army dental appointment came through and on attendance I was told the teeth should never have been removed as this was a gum infection, after a few more visits everything was back to normal, with exception of four front teeth!

During November 1941 I developed severe tonsillitis and was taken to the Royal Artillery hospital at Woolwich; where during Medical Officers (doctors) rounds, patients were ordered to lay to attention, as if on parade, those who were able stood at ease by their beds and on the officers approach were called to attention.

After ten days I was granted sick leave and was soon on my way to the cosy one up and one down cottage to spend seven days with my wife and daughter and the villagers. At this time it was still possible to get a good pint of beer at the three locals, the women's institute had organised a writing-room come canteen and reading-room in the church hall for service men stationed in the area, this was lit by oil lamps and candles, the ladies providing sausage rolls and sandwiches from their rations with some help from the local grocers and butchers. Some local musicians formed a

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dance band and organised dances in the village hall. My wife was now happily integrated into the village life.

Before Christmas 1941 I was posted to Northern Ireland and after a long train journey in a packed overcrowded train crossed from Stranraer to Larne aboard an equally overcrowded ferry, another train took me to a base-camp. In about a week I was sent to a workshop set in the grounds of a large house. This was to be my first experience of living in Nissen huts, sleeping on a straw filled pallias on a concrete floor a kitbag for a pillow.

Here I met a textile-refitter who had been an apprentice one year ahead of me in King's Lynn. The camp was situated at the foot of the Mountains of Mourne and was so very muddy every man was issued with Wellington boots, the regulation army boots being quite useless in these conditions, concrete paths had been laid which helped but even so if two people met one had to give way and step into the mud. This situation was totally unsuitable for carrying out our work in the tented accommodation provided. Whenever the sun did shine we saw it for just a few minutes, the mountains shaded it most of the time.

Early in 1942 we moved to a far more suitable situation once again in the grounds of a large country house on higher ground overlooking a small town about a mile away still living in hatted accommodation but with a decent cookhouse and dining hut we also had a NAAF I (canteen).

The workshops were housed in farm buildings much more suitable for carrying out the work required of us. Service in Northern Ireland was designated Home service the same as service on the mainland and so our letters home were not censored. During time off duty we were able to walk to the town and were made welcome in the clubs, pubs, churches and shops etc. by the local people.

We were very pleasantly surprised one evening when a regular invited three of us to join him after the pub closed and took us to his daughters house, she was a woman of about 35 to 40 years of age with three young children, her husband was serving in the army somewhere in England, and after introductions he left us saying "wait there I'll be back" it turned out he was the local butcher and it was not long before he returned with a supply of steaks and daughter got busy cooking a meal for all of us, this became a frequent occurrence, usually on a Friday evening.

We were constantly reminded that first and foremost we were soldiers and our work as tradesmen took a secondary role and so to this end we spent one day each week weapon training, field craft, orienteering, map reading, unarmed combat and manoeuvres etc. Drivers were something of a rarity in those days and so driving lessons were laid on; it was considered that in battle conditions every man should be able to drive in order to take over if one man got knocked out. We were encouraged to learn to carry out the all-important "Daily Tasks" on vehicles; checking oil, water, tyres etc.

One hot summers day I was leading a patrol on manoeuvres, we had drunk all the water from our bottles, knocked on a farmhouse door and on asking if occupants could give us a refill were quickly invited into the kitchen, sat at a long wooden table and soon we were facing a meal of bacon, eggs and tomatoes etc.

All of this took quite a long time to consume, which meant we arrived at the rendezvous somewhat late. It seems a search party had been out looking for us and so I had some explaining to do. "Well sir somehow we got lost and on realising this we consulted our map, looked around for church spires and the position of the sun and were able to find our way", albeit not the route we had been expected to take.

And so I was commended for leading my men to safety. Sunday afternoons, during the winter months were usually spent in the huts laying on our beds or sitting around the tortoise stove swapping yarns and playing cards gambling with money which was strictly forbidden; we had a blanket laying handy to throw over cards and money just in case we should hear someone approaching.

We were often short of "fags", maybe only one or two of us having a last one in the packet, one of these "gaspers" would be lit and passed round for each of us in turn to have a "drag", and so the

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afternoons passed. "In bed or out of barracks" An old army saying I remember; was not observed on those Sundays.

We often listened to a radio programme put out by the Germans in English by a British traitor who was constantly giving advice to our womenfolk as to the futility of carrying on with the war; We could not possibly win! He spoke at great length and with considerable exaggeration on any point he thought would impress us, thousands of people tuned in to his daily outpourings, simply to have a good laugh, we honoured him with the title of "Lord Haw-Haw". (After the war he was tried by Allies at the Nuremberg war trials, for treason; and executed).

One good point about serving in Northern Ireland was that goods that were rationed at home were readily available over the border from the Southern province; cigarettes silk stockings, nylons and tights had not yet been invented; watches and jewellery were favourites to take home to wives and sweethearts no doubt to mothers as well. While serving at home in Britain an entitlement of leave known as Privilege leave, became due every few months.

In Northern Ireland this was not always possible when due, space on ferries to the mainland was disrupted during periods of rough weather, at times they were cancelled for days. When I was granted leave for 14 days it meant quite a long journey; train to Larne, ferry to Stranraer, train to London and train to Brandon or King's Lynn so that 2 of the days leave was spent traveling. However, it was good to get home for a while with the wife and daughter and I was able to visit my parents for a day.

Our son was born on the 10th of May 1942 at home in the tiny cottage, no going to hospital in those days unless some serious complication arose. A neighbour was woken about 2 o'clock in the morning, he then biked a mile or so to rouse the midwife who in turn biked along with him to tend mother and child.

The neighbour then roused members of the wife's family, water had to be boiled over a paraffin-oil stove and the open fire which was stoked up with wood and coal, all soiled linen was hand washed.

No washing machines or disposable linen in those days. Everyone lent a hand. I was granted 10 days compassionate leave on the 25th May and so all the mayhem of childbirth was over before I arrived and apart from 1 or 2 sleepless nights I enjoyed a few pleasant days with family and friends.

Army workshops had always been under the command of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps but towards the end of 1942 the corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) was formed to take over workshops and leave RAOC the job of stores and supplies, since making the army mobile; workshops had become a huge operation and warranted its own command.

On the 12th November we paraded and swapped our RAOC cap badges for the new REME badges and the former rank of Private was replaced with Craftsman, a number of other rank titles were also changed. I was fortunate in that in July '42 and again in October '42 I was granted 7 days leave.

Soon after this the whole of our operation was cancelled and we were shipped to England, some 1000 men and all our workshop equipment to a location in Hampshire. We had no idea what lay ahead, simply unpacking and repacking equipment. After a while it became clear we were bound for service overseas and after Christmas were sent on 7 days embarkation leave, on returning we very soon entrained for Gourrock on the Clyde and boarded a troopship, this being a liner converted to carry thousands of troops and their equipment. The holds had been fitted out with bunk beds 4 & 5 beds high packed in like sardines, described by one journalist as the "Stinking, sweating hell of a troopship".

Meal tickets were issued allocating times to be on a certain deck for meals and only a short time to eat and allow the next group to take their places, quite a production line! Long queues wound around the decks for mugs of tea. Each unit of personnel was allocated a deck-space for parades and roll calls, lectures were given and talks by anyone with an interesting subject, on dismissal men sat around playing cards and telling yarns.

Drill periods were organised, as were boat drills to be sure everyone knew where to be in the event of an emergency. We sailed out of the Clyde into the north Atlantic where we discovered we were in a large convoy with a naval escort, the sea was very rough; huge waves tossing the troopships about like corks, in a very short time quite a number of us were hanging our heads over the rails being very sick.

After a few days of routine familiarisation; personnel who may have had experience in certain named activities were given the opportunity to assist in the day-to-day running of the ship, I opted to work in the sick berth, this being the medical centre of the ship furnished with hospital beds and other medical equipment, manned by a nucleus of members of the Royal Army Medical Corps (R A M C), supported by volunteers such as myself, this proved to be a good move; I was now working in the coolest part of the ship listening to interesting lectures, learning about tropical diseases and medical care as applied in the forces, this was to stand me in good stead later.

Our first port-of-call was Freetown on the west coast of Africa, the whole convoy sailed into the harbour and anchored for a couple of days while victuals were replenished, we were not allowed ashore. As we left the harbour our naval escort went into action against enemy submarines and the convoy swung round in a very frightening maneuver and entered the harbour again which was secured by a boom drawn across the entrance; we watched as mines, dropped by our escort, were exploding in the sea. When peace resumed we set sail again and headed into the calm of the Atlantic Ocean. Soon after this we were issued with Tropical clothing including a pith helmet which we were ordered to wear at all times when on deck, I witnessed a burial-at-sea one day when off duty; a padre conducted the service after which the body, wrapped in a stout canvas bag, was laid on a wooden chute and slid overboard into the sea, one wondered whose husband, son or sweetheart had perished and how long it would be before the folks at home would learn of his passing.

So life carried on quite pleasantly despite the overcrowding. During off-duty periods we watched dolphins and flying fish "galloping" alongside the ship and at night the electric storms in the sky were quite a spectacle, the fluorescence caused by the propellers churning the sea aft of the ship was also wonderful to watch.

We rounded the Cape and some of the convoy went into Capetown, the remainder carried on up the east coast of Africa to Durban where we docked and were allowed ashore for two or three days, returning to the ship at night, this was a most welcome break from the cramped conditions we had endured over the past few weeks.

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We are grateful to Alan Warren and Park House News for the following:

### 'A REAL MUSICAL TREAT'



I wonder how many of you who attended the very enjoyable 'Music for a Summer Evening' concert at Park House on 4<sup>th</sup> June, or who are just interested readers of 'Dersingham Village Voice' play the piano? If you do so, have you ever tried playing piano duets, four hands on one piano? You will know that it is much harder than playing a piano solo. The celebrated Piano Duo Nicola and Alexandra Bibby gave us a superb demonstration of how it can and should be done after many hundreds of hours of playing together.

The Duo played five contrasting and technically demanding 'masterworks' which showed us the range of their skill and musicianship - Anton Dvorak's tuneful three Legends, Franz Schubert's always impressive Fantasie in F Minor, Johannes Brahms' Hungarian Dances with their constantly changing moods, Gabriel Fauré's delightful Dolly Suite (with its famous opening 'Listen With Mother' tune) and finally a sparkling performance of George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue which had our feet tapping and our hips swaying to this barrier-breaking music between jazz and classics

In between these famous pieces of music came two novelties - a chirpy little piano duet entitled 'Sparrows' composed by your reviewer; and a performance of Francis Poulenc's remarkable 6 minute sonata for four hands with its fistful of notes in the opening movement and mysterious final chord. Did this clever and witty composer intend to wake us all up after our wine and snacks on the terrace during the interval on a lovely summer evening? To add to our delight Nicola and Alexandra looked elegant (as ever) and introduced the music with humour and modesty. A lady said to Nicola after the concert 'That was a real musical treat'. It certainly was.



was.

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## Dersingham Bog News

Butterflies and moths include some of the most beautiful and spectacular wildlife in Norfolk. Both are closely related and belong to a large group of insects called Lepidoptera (derived from the



Comma, Swanton Novers ride 61, 17,5,2005.

Greek 'lepis' meaning scale and 'pteron' meaning wing). Like the Cinderella of the insect world, moths are far from the drab insects that many perceive them to be. In fact, moths exhibit an incredible range of colours and shapes – a point illustrated by evocative names such as Peach Blossom and Burnished Brass. Over time, a range of other myths have evolved regarding the differences between moths and butterflies, including; moths only fly at night and that it is only butterflies rest with their wings held back over their backs. Perhaps the most consistent difference between moths and butterflies is that nearly all moths have a hook-like structure joining the hindwing to the fore-wing – a feature not present in many butterflies.

In total, almost 2,500 species of moth have been found in the British Isles, compared to just 70 species of butterfly. Of these, a staggering 400 species of moth and 27 species of butterfly have been recorded at Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve, making it one of the most important places in Britain for this intriguing group of insects.

However, England's Lepidoptera are increasingly at risk, with the number of farmland butterflies declining by 30 per cent during the last ten years, according to a study carried out by the Butterfly Conservation Trust on behalf of the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Butterflies and moths are iconic species in the British countryside and their decline is an alarming signal that the widespread changes that have occurred over the past century are having a major impact on our wildlife.

The good news is that anyone with a garden, no matter how big or small, can help our butterflies and moths (as well as a host of other wildlife in the process). Most butterflies and moths feed on nectar which they suck from flowers using their long proboscis like a straw. The sugar rich drink provides them with the instant energy they need for their flight. In general, the more food-plants there are the more species a garden will potentially support. Another great advantage of gardens is that they are sheltered.



Pebble Prominent *Notodonta ziczac*

Generally speaking, the flowers that butterflies and moths like are the traditional cottage kinds that most closely resemble their wild counterparts. Butterflies and moths require a constant supply of nectar throughout their flight period e.g primulas are an early source of nectar and pollen whilst Michaelmas daisy provides an end of the season treat.

Not all plants are equally as attractive to butterflies and moths. The Butterfly Conservation Trust ([www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)) has produced a Top 100 list of butterfly nectar plants from a survey of gardens around the country. The highest scoring were buddleia, ice-plant, lavender, Michaelmas daisy, marjoram, red valerian, aubrietia, field scabious and bramble. If you have room for a wild corner many native wild flowers are attractive to butterflies and moths. Among the best (besides those mentioned above) are fleabane, lady's smock, bugle, mint, thistles (especially marsh thistle), common valerian, knapweed, teasel and musk mallow.



The Herald, Wolferton Workshop , April 2005

English Nature has produced a range of free leaflets centred on gardening for wildlife. These colourful publications include a variety of information on garden wildlife and provide practical tips on how to improve your garden for wildlife. Titles in this series include:

- Enjoying moths and butterflies in your garden,
- Composting and peat-free gardening,
- Wildflower meadows: how to create one in your garden,
- Plants for wildlife-friendly gardens,
- Wildlife-friendly gardening,
- Wildlife on allotments,
- Garden ponds and boggy areas,
- Minibeasts,
- Dragonflies and damselflies in your garden,
- Amphibians in your garden,
- Reptiles in your garden,
- Birds in your garden,
- Focus on bats; discovering their lifestyle and habitats,
- Mammals in your garden, and
- Living roofs.

To obtain copies of these leaflets contact English Nature's enquiry service on 01733 455100 or via English Nature's website [www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk).

Ash Murray  
Site Manager  
English Nature



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# **DERSINGHAM FESTIVAL**

# **PROGRAMME 2006**



**A week of activities for everyone  
from Saturday 29th July  
until Sunday August 6th  
On the recreation ground\***

### **Saturday 29 July**

Car Boot Sale on Recreation Ground - 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

### **Sunday 30 July**

Open Worship on Recreation Ground - 3.00 pm

Three main Village Churches

With David Johnson (Solo)

Salvation Army Band

Melanie and Bradley on Keyboard and Guitar

### **Monday 31 July**

**AM**

Multi-Sports 5-7 years on Recreation Ground from 10.00 am to 11.30am

**PM**

Netball 8-14 years on Recreation Ground from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

### **Tuesday 1 August**

**AM**

Football 8-14 years on Recreation Ground from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

**PM \***

Village Voice Live - St. Nicholas Church Hall -7.30 pm  
A guide to home security. £2.00 including refreshments.

### **Wednesday 2 August**

**AM**

Football 5-7 years on Recreation Ground from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

**Pm**

Tag Rugby 8-14 years on Recreation Ground from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm  
4.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Various exhibitions on the Recreation Ground to include Lace Makers,  
Local Artists and Cinnamon Trust.

### **Thursday 3 August**

**AM**

Cricket 8-14 years on Recreation Ground from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

**PM**

4.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Various exhibitions on the Recreation Ground to include Lace Makers, Local Artists etc and Line Dancing from 7.30 pm

**Friday 4 August**

**AM**

Multi Sports 5-7 years on Recreation Ground from 10.00 am to 11.30 am

**PM**

Rounders - 8-14 years on Recreation Ground from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm  
4.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Various exhibitions on the Recreation Ground to include Local Artists, Cinnamon Trust and Dersingham First Responders

**Saturday 5 August**

Fool Hardy Circus on Recreation Ground - Children's Workshops and Performance - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Various other children's amusements

Scoles Hog Roast and Bar-B-Que from 5.00 pm

Blue Tubes Band from 5.00 pm

Wally the Roadrunner Disco from 5.00 pm

Outside Bar

Finishing at 9.00 pm

**Sunday 6 August**

Old Fashioned Sports Day on Recreation Ground from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm

Welly Throwing, Egg & Spoon, Wheelbarrow Races etc.

Hot Meat & Salad Lunches

Outside Bar

Various Stalls and Amusements

Various Village Organisation Stalls

Various Village Business Stalls

Pampering & Jewellery Stall

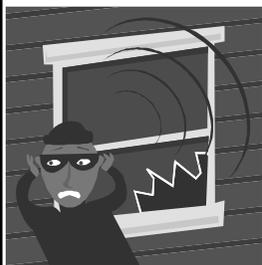
Bath of Beans

Helen Batterly Baby & Toddler Dancing around 2.00 pm

**Tuesday August 1st**



**Sgt Mark Gregory,  
Community Safety Officer  
will be presenting :-**



## **A Guide to Home Security**



St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.  
7.30 pm Admission £2.00 including refreshments. Raffle

## **VILLAGE VOICE LIVE**

**Keith Skipper** Tuesday Sept 5th  
**and Friends** - "Three Parts Light"  
**with Squit, Wit and ..Plenty More!**



Danny Platton



Pat Nearney

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.  
7.30 pm Admission £4.00 including refreshments. Raffle

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## Grant for great ideas - big or small

### News from the Norfolk Coast Partnership

A new grant is opening doors for local people. Ideas that have only been dreamed of can and are becoming reality with the Sustainable Development Fund. With help offered, a simple application process and money available now, this fund is for everyone. Set up to benefit the people and environment of Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) this grant is available for any individual, school, organisation or business with a great idea that fits the criteria. Sustainable development is about promoting the health and well being of the environment and people; now and into the future.

In 2005, the fund's first year in Norfolk, around £50 000 was granted to a diverse range of projects along the coast. These ranged from coastal education packs to community work on a local common; from equipment for reedcutters to travel bursaries for children. Projects such as recycled furniture schemes, green energy and building developments, organic projects and local product support can all be considered.

The Fund Panel is now looking for more new and innovative ideas. Project grants can be worth anything from a few hundred to thousands of pounds. "We want people to feel free to be creative, and give it a go. If they've got an idea with sustainable benefits for the environment and people of the area then we would love to hear from them. It's all about small changes making a big difference" says fund administrator Maree Limpus.

Supplied by DEFRA via the Countryside Agency, each application for funding will be assessed by a panel of local experts to see how well it fits, with the best applications being funded.

- **To share, stimulate and gather ideas, the Norfolk Coast Partnership is holding a local meeting in September with everyone welcome. Further information will be available closer to the time.**

So if you've got an idea, big or small, or you want to find out more about the meeting, give Maree a call on 01328 850530, [maree.limpus@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:maree.limpus@norfolk.gov.uk), check out the website at [www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk](http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk) and come along in September.

### **Background information:**

The **Norfolk Coast** was designated an **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)** in 1968. The 450 sq km area includes a coastal strip from Heacham to Bacton, plus outliers around the Sandringham area and between Sea Palling and Winterton.

There are 41 AONBs in England and Wales. Along with National Parks, these are recognised as being important scenic areas, worthy of special protection.

The **Norfolk Coast Partnership** was set up in 1991 to work in partnership with local communities and all relevant organisations to safeguard the special character of the Norfolk Coast AONB.

The Partnership works to raise awareness of the importance and sensitivity of this special area. It aims to balance the needs of local people, businesses, tourism, transport, farming and conservation, to retain the qualities that make the area special and maintain social and economic progress.

*The Norfolk Coast Partnership is funded by the Countryside Agency, Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council, the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and the Environment Agency.*

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## Growing Up In West Norfolk

By George Porter

Part One of extracts from his booklet entitled "Poems and Comments on Hillington, Dersingham and Thornham"

### Old Norfolk Rhym

Once Wootton was a seaport town  
And Lynn it was a Marsh  
Now Lynn it is the seaport town  
And Wootton fares the warse.

Hunston Lighthouse  
Snet'sham Spire  
Shernbourne s\*t-house  
All on fire

Swaffham where they do  
Three days troshun for nothun  
Thas suffan.



### My Earliest Memories in Norfolk

*I was born on October 16th 1919 at Hillington. My mother was the youngest daughter in a family of eight and had stayed at home to help her parents. This was a common practice, while other daughters went out to work or into service. My mother, Winifred Mickelburgh, married my father, Edward Porter, at Hillington in 1915.*

I have early memories of living at Valley Farm, Hillington, when my father was away working as a coach builder in Dewsbury. After leaving the Canadian army in 1919, (having emigrated to Canada in 1910) he tried to get work in Norfolk in his old trade of Wheelwright but had eventually to move up North. My mother was staying at the farm with her parents and an elder sister, Sarah, was there at the same period although she married a cousin of my father when I was three.

My first memory is of waiting for Father Christmas on the Christmas Eve of 1922 when my new Uncle George, who was staying at the Valley, bought me a little fretwork set and some tools fixed to a card. Strangely, I don't remember my mother at that time or my sister (who was three years older than I) and I expect as my younger brother was born only ten days before, I would have been kept out of the way.

I can remember my grandfather at that time with his full beard and my granny who always seems to have worn black. As I recall, she was always very neat – and well organised. She was apparently, the manager and had to organise my grandfather as well as the family. It was she who remembered to work out the farm labourers' pay and reminded him about tasks to be planned as he sat dozing in his high-backed chair - at least this was what my mother has recalled of those days in the early twenties.

I have many more memories of the year that followed when I was three and a half and I have a clear image of coming down to a sunlit breakfast room and eating my soft boiled eggs with bread fingers and of being very happy with my grandmother and Aunt Sarah present. I loved to collect eggs from the hen-house and from the nests the wayward hens made in the hedges and shrubs around the farmhouse. One would often come across a nest of half a dozen eggs where an old hen was obviously tending to become broody. The hen house was next to the back scullery and overlooked the enclosed crew yard (byre or whatever other names one gives to the winter quarters of cattle). Collecting eggs was a great adventure.

---

Climbing trees was also great fun and I was very adventurous in that field from an early age. On one occasion, I got stuck in one of those yew or cypress trees with a narrow cleft in its trunk. The women had to fetch a ladder to get me down and I think it was my Aunt Sarah who climbed up to rescue me.

I must have been very self-centred and a loner (I always have been to some extent) because I have no recollection of sister Edwina and brother (baby) Bill at that time. This was probably due to my father returning to Norfolk and having found a job as a Wheelwright and Carpenter in Dersingham, which lay the other side of the Sandringham Estate, some six miles away. My mother moved into a small house in Dersingham and left me with my grandparents for quite a while. This was also why my encounter with King George V and the Royal Family seems to have concerned only my grandfather and myself.

Every year, the King used to come to Valley Farm for the pheasant and partridge shooting. My grandfather used to be told to leave cover for the guns at certain hedgerows and plantations (the farm was owned by Major Wilson but the shooting was leased to the Royal Estate). Lunch was usually taken at Valley Farm in a large tent, or in the implement shed and occasionally, if wet, a few of the party would come into the farmhouse.

On the day I met the King, my grandfather, with a show of exhibitionism no doubt, took me for a walk round the cart-shed where the King was sitting on a bale of straw or something of that nature. He called out to my grandfather, "Give the boy a ride on my horse, Mickelburgh". I was taken over to his white pony Jock who was tethered on the grass but I refused to get on its back. The King laughed as did the Prince of Wales and Duke of York who were sitting close by as I recall, and then he said, "Give the lad some bread and cheese then". A hamper lid was lifted and a large hunk of bread and slice of cheese was thrust into my hands. This must have been early in 1923. Strangely enough, I always had a fear of horses when I was small - even little Jock as well as the big Shire and Suffolk Punch cart horses on the farm - and there were probably a dozen or so of them, seemed like giants. I can still remember being put on the back of one of a pair of horses being led back to the farm after a day in the harvest field cutting barley by binder. I wasn't very happy about the ride but I became terrified when the horses walked straight into the pond to drink. Several teams of horses were milling around enjoying the cool water. My horse bent down to drink and I found myself looking down this great neck as if down a steep slope. I was near to panic.

Later in life, I was on holiday on Exmoor and my, wife (then my fiancée) persuaded me to take a pony, ride. In a narrow lane, she slapped my pony's backside and it took off like a shot with me clinging to its neck for dear life. I said never again in such circumstances!

I had a lucky escape at Valley Farm. It must have been in the spring of 1923 because I was out birds nesting I believe after the spring sowing had been carried out on the farm. The rollers and harrows had been leaned up against a hedge just off the lane. I climbed up a large frame harrow with its long spikes pointing outwards. As I neared the top of the harrow, it tipped over on top of me. Fortunately, I was small enough to fit between the tynes so that it pinned me to the ground, but I was unhurt. This time, my Uncle Cecil found me. He was the youngest of the family of eight.

There was one trauma in that period in my life. In August of that year, I went to stay with my Aunt Emily at Thornham, a village on the North Norfolk coast - from the Valley, and my Aunt had already been looking after little brother Bill for some months. My mother was expecting her fourth child, my brother Alan to be. I think I was happy at Thornham (I certainly was in later years) but what I do remember is coming back from Thornham to a new home at Dersingham and finding a usurper there. I can remember the pain and sadness - the lack of light - in a smaller house - being no longer a centre of the Universe. The baby had taken over and in any case, winter was coming and I had no longer the same freedom as on the farm.

My grandfather used to come over to see us with his horse and cart usually with his two whippets lying under the seat on an old horse blanket. In fact, riding with him to and from the valley is one of my magical moments from the past, (I was - granny's boy apparently, and I was often taken back for holidays). He usually had to travel after the day's work was ended so that in

winter, the side lights (brass paraffin lamps) would be lit and I would be wrapped in a large rug and tucked up beside my grandfather on the bench seat. Then with a gee-up, off we would go into the darkness through Hillington Village and Sandringham Woods to Dersingham.

One more memory sticks out of those days which lingers with me as almost a fantasy. I had an uncle Herbert and cousins living at Flitcham, a village a mile or two North of Hillington. I can see myself in this quiet lane being taken to Flitcham by a cousin only perhaps ten years old and in this hot, sunny, timeless lane with the hedges full of flowers (stichwort, may, campion and cow parsley), cousin Len found two yellow hammer's nests full of eggs. I was fascinated by birds and birds' eggs and the wonder of it was that there should not be one, but two nests in that lane and the excitement of even other discoveries.

I became a great birds nester later on and would go on long expeditions to search out the rarer eggs for my collection. Reprehensible, no doubt, but we did it in those days.(we were only small boys). I found after going onto Grammar school and getting involved in organised sport that I had less time and other interests, so that by twelve years of age, I added little further to my collection.

It is so easy to look back to the past and say things were different when I was a boy, but it amazes me now, when I find myself trying to be over-protective with my own children, that when I was four years old before attending primary school, and this would be in 1924, that I would go off for an hour or so at a time onto the heathland of common and fen and never feel in any sort of danger, and apparently, my mother was not over anxious. Perhaps she had more idea about my whereabouts than seems evident when looking back. But we (my young friends and myself) came to no trouble even though we fell into ditches sometimes or tore our clothes.

The year before I went to the village school was blissful. I lived in the great outdoors and the common was my playground the rabbit cropped greensward, the heather, gorse, bracken and silver birch. There was a large warren on what we called the 'shut-up' common and down by the stream great clumps of pussy willow and bog myrtle. It was heaven in the sun, and going to school in the Autumn of 1924 before my fifth birthday was misery. I think I was a submissive child, shy and not able to deceive. Like my grandfather, I have never been able to dissemble. Even at the risk of letting the cat out of the bag if someone in Authority asked me a question like "Did Smith do it?" I would have to say yes. At least I was afraid of teachers and older people and had been brought up to speak the truth whatever! I have always found white lies difficult. Being literal-minded is a great handicap!



◀ *The assembled family at the wedding of George Porter and Sarah Mickelburgh at Valley Farm, Hillington, 1923*

## Mickelburgh

Mickelburgh – My grandfather.  
I've often wondered whether in Bavaria  
or Holland there are others  
of that name.  
Did his ancestors come to Norfolk  
In Hanseatic times, for the wool.

He was of medium height,  
A square man with a beard,  
Snowy white at 90,  
And washed blue eyes.  
A quiet man, chapel going,  
Who never swore stronger than  
Bother - and never told a lie.  
Who at 80 could still guide  
A horsedrawn plough;  
Who was a master-hand  
For catching a rabbit -  
You needed to be with eight children  
To feed as a shepherd  
Or teamsman.  
They say no rabbit in a field  
Escaped Arthur Mickelburgh  
When he went out to plough -  
He knew the runs  
And had the tricks.  
He had two whippets, one called Floss,  
And a single barrelled 10 bore shot gun.  
He had little ambition,  
But my granny had.  
And later in life he managed  
A 600 acre farm  
And lived in the farmhouse  
As foreman - but declined the title  
Of Bailiff.

That farm was my birthplace,  
And there I stayed until my father  
(Who built railway, carriages  
at Dewsbury) found a job  
As wheelwright in Norfolk.  
The long chalk lane from the level crossing,  
the flints, the pimpernel and speedwell  
In the stubble I remember,  
And the pond where teams of horses  
Thrashed around after a hard day  
In the fields.

It was Granny and the daughters  
Who did the accounting  
And saw that the men were paid.  
While the out-door, hard working  
Head of the family dozed  
In a wooden-backed arm chair.  
Work, family and chapel  
Were all he knew.  
You didn't travel far  
From your village in his day.

He remembered the building  
Of the M&GN Railway  
From Lynn to Melton Constable -  
A line that dominated  
The farms and villages  
Which were his homeland  
All his life.  
He told me once of a man  
At Fakenham called 'London' Smith  
Who it seems had once gone away  
To work at Sutton Bridge.

My grandad went there, too,  
By horse and cart,  
To have a cataract removed  
From his eye. A specialist  
Came there once a fortnight.  
The eye had been damaged by a flint  
While road making.

Eyes featured prominently in my talks  
With Grandad Mickelburgh.  
He told me that as a boy  
He would pop his eyes from their lids  
On to his cheek to frighten the girls.  
A strange thing, I thought,  
For one so God-fearing and quiet,  
Dominated by women.  
Mind you, my Granny was a strong  
woman.  
She had to be - but in later life  
She became crippled and testy  
And that took the zest out of  
Arthur Mickelburgh, who would retreat  
To the garden and the bees  
When he could - But then  
My mother took over the care  
of both and Grandad flourished.

Went out to watch the vegetables grow,  
And talk of farming and the weather;  
Waiting for the women to Provide  
Tea, little loaves and cakes.

At 90 he told a Reporter  
He wanted to learn to drive  
A car. He had his Picture  
In the Sunday Express.

When a boy he had seen  
Jem Mace box - fisticuffs -  
At country fairs he would let  
The lads fling punches at him  
Standing in front of a wall.  
There were few hits and many  
Bleeding knuckles.  
When I was a child  
The Royal Family used to come  
From Sandringham  
To shoot over the farm.  
They lunched on the home  
Pasture or came inside  
If it was wet.

King George the fifth  
Sitting in the cart shed with his sons  
Is an early memory.  
Sunlight and harvest.

And, as a good Primitive Methodist,  
The Christian Herald.  
Daily papers didn't interest him  
Though he did once have a wireless  
A crystal set with earphones.

He loves the harmonium  
And we sang hymns,  
Whenever the family came over  
For Sunday Tea we would sing  
The old Methodist Grace,  
"Be present at our table, Lord,  
Be here and everywhere adored "  
He certainly was of the old school -  
Of Camp Meetings, Love Feasts,  
And preaching from wagons  
On village greens.

I like to remember him  
As a kind man and mild.  
A keeper of bees  
Who lived a good life  
And in whom there was  
Not an ounce of malice.



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## DERSINGHAM BROWNIE GUIDES ANNUAL PACK HOLIDAY

*Brownies*

Twenty-four members of the 1st & 2nd Dersingham Brownies enjoyed their Annual Pack Holiday during the Summer (Whitsun) Half-term Holiday. They spent four days at the Jarman Centre, Newmarket a purpose built Brownie Pack Holiday Centre owned by Cambridgeshire-East Girl Guides. The brownies and their leaders enjoyed a varied and exciting holiday taking part in many activities. They worked towards their pack holiday, cooks, toy maker and out-and-about badges, visited the National Stud in Newmarket, went swimming and shopping and enjoyed making a variety of crafts. The centre is set in an area of woodland and they enjoyed walking and playing games outside as well as a traditional campfire on the last evening. They sang songs and toasted marshmallows. The girls slept in bunk beds in 6 person rooms and learnt a great deal about getting on with each other, keeping tidy and helping the other girls. They helped with the cooking, washing up, laying the table and tidying and left at the end of their stay tired but ready for next year's event.

*Lynne Wheeler and Sandra Hullett - Brownie Guiders 2nd and 1st Dersingham Units.*

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## Dick Melton's Column



**Dersingham 1965** Sorting through the cupboards, as you do, the other day, I came across a 1965 edition of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Blue Book, an alphabetical list of residents and trades, and in it was a list for the village of Dersingham, so I thought that I would pick out a few bits that I think will be of interest.

In 1965 the village had four petrol stations (none today) there were three coal merchants, eight grocers' shops and seven builders' yards.

There were fourteen houses occupied by people with the surname Riches, and sixteen with the surname of Brown. There were not so many with the surname of Lines, only twelve, but when it came to Nurse there were eighteen houses occupied by them. The landlord of the Coach and Horses was Fred Watson; Harry Chester was still looking after the White Horse with his wife, Mabel. Jack Symonds, who was football crazy, had just moved into the Dun Cow

from the Ship Defiant at Wisbech. Peter Rogers was the landlord of the Albert Victor (he kept horses on the old bowling green). Jack Spencer was the proprietor of the Feathers Hotel; he then went on to own the Ingoldisthorpe Manor Hotel, before he took over the Garden House at Hunstanton. George Blowers, who had kept the blacksmith's shop opposite the Albert Victor in Manor Road, was the landlord of the Ship public house at Ingoldisthorpe. The post office was run by the Baker family in 1965, and, I think, there were only about four postmen, but they never had vans, just bikes, and their post round took them down to Shernborne, up to Red Barn, and right across to Ling House as there were four cottages and a farmhouse there in 1965. The Scott family, who had a furniture shop and china shop in King's Lynn High Street, had moved into Wellswell, the old school down Manor Road, having bought it from a chicken farmer named Elton Rose (who rode about the village in a huge Canadian car called a Hudson) and who had renamed it Wood Royal. Fred Wagg and Reg Houchen both ran motor coaches, and the name of Fred Wagg's house in Lynn Road was 'Why Worry', and he didn't! There were two used car dealers, Richard Dix in Lynn Road and Fred Easton in Manor Road, also in Manor Road was a bookmaker's shop, which was run by Mrs. Joan Milton. Peatling and Cawdron's had a wine and spirit merchant's shop in Chapel Road, where, before that, was a grocer's shop called the Norfolk Stores, well, that's just a little bit about the village of Dersingham, in 1965.

**The Sandringham Estate** A newcomer to the village of Dersingham was asking me about the Sandringham Estate as he did not realise how big it was, so here for the benefit of your readers are a few facts and figures about the Sandringham Estate. The then Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward VII, bought the estate on the 4th of February 1862 from the Hon. Charles Spencer Cowper, a stepson of the then Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston. It was purchased for £220,000. The whole estate at that time comprised 5,450 acres, and just took in the villages of Sandringham, Wolferton and Babingley.

The house was made much larger with a billiard room and bowling alley, and in 1909 Sandringham House possessed 365 rooms, one for every day of the year, and more rooms than any other English private house. Over the years the number of rooms has been greatly reduced. In 1906 there were ninety-one gardeners, now there are only ten.

---

The present Norwich Gates were made in 1863 and were a present from the County of Norfolk and the City of Norwich to the then Prince and Princess of Wales. Over the years the estate has purchased a lot more land and it now covers over 20,000 acres (20,456 acres). The Queen farms 3,310 acres, there are 1,954 acres devoted to forestry and the Sandringham County Park extends to 702 acres. All the rest of the estate is let out to tenant farmers. Villages that are wholly on the estate are Anmer, Appleton, Babingley, Fritcham, Sandringham, Shernborne, West Newton, Wolferton and parts of Dersingham, Bircham and Fring. Sandringham Estate has always been renowned for its game shooting, and between 1870 and 1910 the number of pheasants shot each season was around 30,000. Well these are a few facts about the Sandringham Estate, and no doubt the readers of Village Voice will be able to add a few more.

***The picture of Manorside taken from the Open Common*** reminded me of what it used to look like. There were three fields along there between the Common and Manor Road. As you went up the path on the edge of the Common from Lynn Road the first field on your left belonged to Mr. Archibald Leslie Tuck who lived in the second house on the right down Manor Road called 'Courcellette' after the battle in Belgium during the First World War. Every year he would grow flax for the factory at West Newton. When the flax was ripe a gang would come in and pull it up by hand. Then it was bundled up and carted away to the factory. There was a small apple orchard in the corner of this field right next to Manor Road. The next field belonged to 'Wellswell', a private school that was on the opposite side of Manor Road. Ken Martins rented the field for some time and grew potatoes and corn on it. When the school closed and Mr. Elton Rose bought the house and the field he kept chickens on it. After that it was sold to Mr. Scott, he changed the name from 'Wellswell' to 'Wood Royal' and developed the field. The next field which was much smaller, next to the barn, or fire-station as it was then, was used for long while by Mr. Norman 'Buster' Towers, the butcher, to keep his horses on. This field also had chickens on it when Mr. Clarence Tiddenham had it, and then after that it was used again to graze horses on. Norman Towers also used to keep horses on the Shut-Up Common and on the field that is now Willow Drive.

Seeing a picture of my great uncle Tom Drew in Village Voice also brought back a few memories. Tom Drew started the 'Dersingham Building Company' and built some of the houses in Dun Cow Lane (as this was what Lynn Road was originally called). Before that, Tom Drew's brother, my grandfather Mr. William Drew-Melton, had started building the houses in Dun Cow Lane around about 1900, he then moved away in 1929 to become a builder in Clenchwarton, and then Brandon in Suffolk. Tom Drew at one time kept the Albert Victor public house in Manor Road. When he retired in the early 50s he lived in a bungalow at 58 Lynn Road and I lived opposite at number 63. By the side of Tom Drew's bungalow was a vacant building plot and Tom let my father have it to grow vegetables and keep chickens on. In those days Lynn Road, especially on a Sunday, was one of the busiest roads in Norfolk, and my father would have a job to get across the road to feed the chickens, so he would stand on our side of the road, throw the corn up in the air and hope that the wind was blowing in the right direction!

Now then – what about these Dersingham doctors that Ion Trewin is trying to find? Well, I cannot find any proof of a doctor living in Dersingham who had a practice there until the early 60s (Dr. Shaw). I had heard of Dr. Telford Martin, and he was definitely a doctor in Dersingham in 1935, when Nurse Stanton was the District Nurse, but try as hard as I might I cannot find out where his practice was, or where he lived in the village.

What about that pond on Clayton Close? Oh! Yes! There was a pond there, as we would skate on it in the winter, and of course in them days it was known as Lloyd Pratt's field. If I can remember correctly, after the war, and before all the building started, there were as many as eight ponds in and around the village, the one on The Emblems near to the Feathers Hotel being the largest one, and though it is nearly all covered over with undergrowth it is still there. Also every road in Dersingham had a dyke running down the side of it. The longest dyke was the one that started in Manor Road

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Sketch by David Powell

## Norfolk's Natural Areas

### 3. The Broads

By David Bingham

*"It is well known that Yarmouth is, upon the whole, the finest place in the universe" – Peggotty*

To me The Broads are a summer place. I was there yesterday watching swallowtail butterflies flying over a wet meadow full of marsh orchids - while a Norfolk hawk dragonfly patrolled over a patch of water soldiers in a nearby dyke. I've been told they can also be very atmospheric in the winter, when tundra bean geese come to visit and this country's only resident flock of cranes can be found foraging in the fields. The Broads proper are actually by-products from the activities of 13<sup>th</sup> century peat diggers who operated at a time when sea levels were much lower than today. They cover the lower valleys of the Waveney, Yare and Bure - along with the Ant and Thurne (tributaries of the Bure). They are mainly in Norfolk but just trickle over the border into Suffolk. The Broads are one of our richest wetlands and have been given National Park status in recognition of their value for landscape and recreation as well as wildlife. Broadland habitats include drained marshes, fens, reedbeds, carrs (wet woodlands) and estuary as well as the more familiar rivers and broads. The system no longer operates as a natural wetland with flood defences, dykes, pumps and sluices controlling water levels and flows. This control has been going on for centuries and until recently has been done in harmony with nature (arguably with beneficial effects by keeping rivers and broads open and managing reedbeds for thatching material). There are numerous threats and problems facing The Broads today. Water quality is a major issue because of increased salination due to sea level rise and nutrient enrichment. Until the middle of the last century, water quality was excellent. Anyone lucky enough to take a boating holiday on The Broads then would have found they were floating through a mass of water lilies and looking down into crystal clear water full of large fish and submerged plants. Since then, a process known as eutrophication has taken place. This is where nutrients from sewage and agricultural run-off enriches the water and encourages algal growth. The process sets up a feedback whereby oxygen levels fall and large fish die. The remaining small fish eat the water fleas that would normally control the algae. More algae means less vascular plants that are needed to protect the riverbanks from erosion by pleasure boat wash - and so it goes on. This process is reversible and the control of sewage and other nutrients together with active removal of nutrient rich sediment is having a dramatic effect in some areas. Great Yarmouth is the only town of any size in The Broads Natural Area. It is a well-known "bucket and spade" resort but it also plays host to one of our rarest seabirds. The largest colony of little terns in the country breed on North Denes beach each summer (peaking at 361 pairs this year). The sprats that spawn on Scroby Sands just offshore attract them. This harvest also brings in other species of terns and the last time I was there a pod of harbour porpoises had joined the feasting directly underneath Britannia Pier.

#### Things to see in The Broads

**Cockshoot Broad** - Isolated broad that has had its nutrient levels reduced. An amazing difference in water quality can be seen when standing on the path that separates the broad from the River Bure. **Strumpshaw RSPB Reserve** - Good for swallowtails, Norfolk hawkers and plants (and some birds!). **North Denes Beach** - Summer colony of little terns guarded by RSPB staff (visitors welcome, no charge). **Burgh Castle** - Massive Roman fortification built to keep out illegal immigrants (the Angles and Saxons!). This gives great views over Breydon Water and the drained marshes of Berney and Halvergate. **Hickling Broad** - A NWT reserve with a full range of broadland habitats. **Ranworth Broad** - NWT reserve with excellent visitor centre. **South Quay**,

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## **News from Dersingham Infant and Nursery School and Dersingham St George's Church of England Junior School**

By the time people are reading this edition of Village Voice, the summer holiday will be well under way. We would both like to thank the village community for all the support that you have given to the two schools during the past academic year in so many ways. We have really enjoyed being active in the community and the community active in our schools, so thank you to everyone who has played any part in that. During the past year the two schools enjoyed a range of joint events including a joint Christmas choir that sang at local venues, sporting events and opportunities for the staff from both schools to work together. The strengthened links between the two schools are of benefit to all those connected to the schools, but especially to the children. We already have lots of ideas for future joint events next academic year. We'll keep you posted!

### **News from Dersingham Infant and Nursery School**

We have enjoyed a lovely summer term especially including lots of sporting events for our children both in school and in West Norfolk, educational visits connected with our topics to Church Farm, the Dinosaur Park and Sedgeford Premier Racquet Centre and also fun days in school. Our Art and Architecture Day was very successful and lots of fun too! We built small tetrahedrons and then fitted them together to make a huge one to fill our hall which really impressed the children. We were delighted to have artists from the West Norfolk Artist group work with us to produce our lovely artwork for the Hunstanton Art Exhibition. It prompted one child to say in a rushed sentence (as they do at this age) "I really like doing this, can I paint another one and do you know I want to be an artist when I get bigger"! And finally, I would like to wish Carol all the best as she leaves St George's School. It has been good to work with Carol over recent years and I wish her all the best for her retirement. I look forward to continuing the partnership between schools in September with the next Headteacher.

**Jackie Austin – Headteacher of the Infant and Nursery School**

### **News from Dersingham St George's Church of England Junior School**

This term is always very busy in school with reports, educational visits and sport fixtures. It is also when our year 5 pupils have the opportunity of taking their cycling proficiency test. On the 4<sup>th</sup> July children from the Infant school, who are transferring to us in September, will spend a day at St George's meeting their teachers and their classmates. Our year 6 pupils will spend the day at Smithdon Secondary school taking part in induction activities. Moving schools is always a big step for our pupils and all the schools involved work closely together to make these days successful. The end of the school year is an opportunity to celebrate the success of our pupils and St George's Prize Giving Service will be held at St Nicholas Church on the 14<sup>th</sup> July. I would like to thank all the parents and members of the community who have helped and supported St George's school over the nine years of my headship. I am delighted to tell you that Mrs Ann Pope will be the new Headteacher from September 2006.

**Carol De Witt - Headteacher of St George's School**

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7.00 - 8.00 - Hi / Lo aerobics £3.75

8.00 - 9.00 - Step & Condition £4.00  
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## Wednesdays

SNETTISHAM MEMORIAL HALL

9.15 - 10.15 - Step & Condition £4.00  
(ring to book step)

SCOUT HUT, FEATHERS CAR PARK, DERSINGHAM

7.45 - 8.45 - Body Conditioning £3.75

## Thursdays

Suzie's Morning Walks - Meeting at Thaxters Car Park  
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10.30 - 11.30 A more relaxed walk  
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## From The Manse

They're all talking about it, the Archbishop of Canterbury in his Easter sermon, the Pope, the Greek Orthodox Primate, TV programmes, historians and theologians and people from the general public who like a bit of a read. And now I'm talking about it! What is it? Well it's the "holy grail." I have read the book by Dan Brown, "The Da Vinci Code," which has been released in a film version starring Tom Hanks.

It may be flavour of the month but interest in the Holy Grail is not new. Leaving aside all the conspiracy theories and treasure seeking trails and not wishing to go down the line of Dan Brown and make the grail into a blood line (sorry if I have given you the plot of the book if you were thinking of reading it) what is it about?

In popular Christian folklore of the middle ages, the grail was supposedly the cup Jesus used at the last supper. This same vessel was then used to collect Christ's blood as he was crucified. The Holy Grail thereafter became an object in the imagination of medieval minds, connected to the world of courtly love, quests, chivalry, dragons and heroes and round tables and mythical figures like King Arthur. Even today it exercises the interest and imagination of people, even popes and prelates have made their pronouncements known.

A little bit of research and reading will I believe reveal to you the mystery of the grail. It isn't an object or a person or anything such but it does impart spiritual truth and power. There are many grail stories but the one I think represents the highest grail ideal is the story of Perceval who comes to the Grail castle, and meets the Grail King, who is brought in on a litter, wounded, kept alive simply by the presence of the Grail. Perceval's compassion moves him to ask, "What ails you, Uncle?" But he doesn't ask the question because he has been taught by his instructor, in line with current theory and practice of being a top medieval knight and hero, that a knight doesn't ask unnecessary questions. So he obeys the rules and the adventure fails. It takes Perceval five years to get back to that castle and ask the question that heals the king and heals society. The question is an expression, not of the rules of the society, but of compassion, the natural opening of the human heart to another human being. That's the Grail, a spontaneous compassion, a suffering with and oneness with the other in a common humanity. Isn't that what Christ is for us the truth of our faith and the testimony of the biblical record?

To me it is silly and unnecessary to literalise spiritual truths, but what is glorious and necessary, is to open your heart and mind to them and to do them.

*With every blessing, Kim Nally.*

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**National Tesco Collection** Hunstanton Lifeboat Guild has raised £2,693.22 for the RNLI during the National Tesco Collection held over the Bank Holiday weekend (26/27 May) - a record sum and £500 up on the last time. Guild chairman Margaret Bullen expressed her grateful thanks to the 36 volunteer collectors who covered the three local stores at

Hardwick, Gaywood and Hunstanton.

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**Sandcastle Competition** The popular Sandcastle Competition, organised by Hunstanton Lifeboat Guild, takes place on Tuesday 15 August on Old Hunstanton beach in front of the Lifeboat Station. As usual, entry is 50p and competitors will be divided into three age groups. From the start time of 2.30 pm they have just 30 minutes to produce their sandy masterpieces decorated using only natural materials – shells, stones, grass. This is the 17th year of the event and the organizers are hoping for as good a turnout as last year when over 120 children took part.



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## Albert Victor Bowls Club, Manor Road, Dersingham

The Albert Victor Bowls Club opened the bowls green for the coming season on Sunday 23rd April. All players past and present are invited to come along for a game, also anybody who wishes to join the club or just have a go (bowls shoes or flat smooth shoes only). The club will again this year be competing in leagues on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings and odd Sunday mornings Please come along and enjoy a friendly game and relax in the clubhouse after. We also run prize bingo sessions on the second Wednesday of the month through the winter period of September to April – eyes down 7.30 pm – open to anybody, young or old, who enjoys a game in a friendly environment For further details please contact Barbara Daw 01485 542414 or David Hines 01485 544799 (Evenings)

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## The Former Albert Victor Public House



This picture shows the former Albert Victor Public House in Manor Road around 1900. The building is now a private residence. Standing in front of the pub are Ellen Eliza Drew or Hartley (nee Melton) & Florence Eva Drew, wife and daughter of the Landlord (Thanks to [Donna McMillan](#), descendant of the family shown, for supplying this picture to Dersingham.com - the Webmaster of which has allowed us to reproduce it here)

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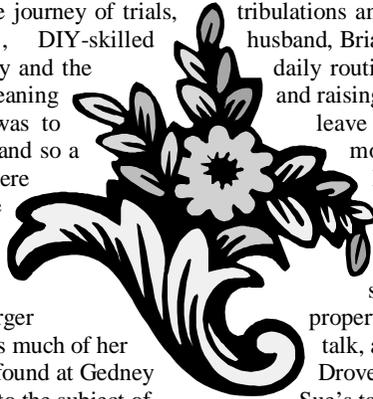
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## Dersingham Horticultural Society

For the speaker at our May meeting, Sue Stephenson's ambition was to emulate "The Good Life". To this end she described the journey of trials, tribulations and happy times she had made with her 'long-suffering', DIY-skilled husband, Brian, through their early married years of the usual domesticity and the daily routine of earning a living to pay the mortgage, cooking, cleaning and raising a family.

However, Sue's dream was to leave all this behind and to raise and tend her beloved plants, and so a move from their original bungalow to a larger one, where Brian's skills created the perfect home and, during the following two years, Sue created what she thought would be her dream garden.

But it was not to be. Sue hankered after more land and after much heart-searching and with Brian's agreement, the search for a larger property began. Sue's account of this was most amusing, as was much of her talk, and finally a semi-rundown property with more land was found at Gedney Drove End on the Lincolnshire Fens and so, at last, we came to the subject of Sue's talk "Puddle Paddock, an acre of land" as the new property was named.



It was here that Sue's dream really came true. With more restorative DIY from Brian to create another perfect home, Sue was able to create another garden, a nursery specialising in hardy perennials and bulbs, a wildlife pond and a bog garden!

In addition, Brian has assembled a collection of domestic poultry and animals together with other pets such as budgerigars and chipmunks.

An entertaining talk full of interest and humour much enjoyed by all present.

**In brief:** Our thanks to all who supported another successful "Gardeners' Fair". The monies raised will help towards the society's annual donations to local good causes.

Once again, a team from the society was successful in winning the annual Clenchwarnton Society's quiz.

Letters of thanks have been received from the St. George's Junior School for the society's donation to its recent fund-raising appeal and from the First School for the members who helped restore its Wildlife Garden

Mark Leach, the speaker at our May meeting, gave his audience the benefit of the knowledge obtained over six years working at the African Violet Centre (now under new ownership but well worth a visit) encapsulated in his talk "How not to kill your African Violet".

Full of helpful facts and hints, Mark's talk outlined some of the major causes for any lack of success with these plants.

Discovered in 1896 in Tanzania by a German botanist named Saint-Paul, the fifteen wild species – all of which are blue in colour, were given the botanical name *Saintpaulia* – hybridisation has produced plants of various types, colours and leaf variation.

Over-watering is by far the main cause for plants dying. They should always be watered from the bottom at 2 – 3 weekly intervals. The method is to stand them in a maximum of one inch of water, tepid for preference, for half-an-hour, then lift out and allow pots to drain. Do not get water on foliage as this causes rotting.

These plants are often included in multi-plant arrangements. In these cases the plant should be lifted and potted separately in a peat based compost (Mark regretted this but felt it necessary for best results). The plant can then be replaced in its original position and lifted out as required for correct watering as described above.

African Violets need good light but not direct sunlight. They should not be left in bathrooms as

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these are now often too humid. Mark recommended a north facing window from May to September and a south facing window through the winter months.

Feed every six weeks one pellet per pot of the type used for hanging baskets. If pests are troublesome, mix your own pesticides as some already prepared sprays may contain harmful elements.

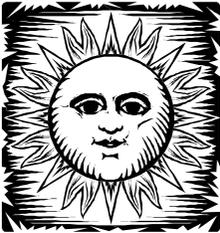
Mark also demonstrated how to propagate African Violets from leaf cuttings but since this involves waiting for thirteen months before flowers are produced I have not described it as I feel few of us have the necessary patience!

Finally Mark suggested that these plants often appear quite solitary and lonely on windowsills and suggested that they achieve greater impact when grouped with other house plants.

So why not have a go! Class 85 of Annual Show on the 9th September reads "African Violet, any colour. 1 pot" You could regret on the day saying "I've got a better one at home!"

*David Clark (Tel: 543182)*

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## In The Summer Sun

*By Kathy Jordan © 3-6-2006*

Forget about that winter's grey,  
Now is the time for 'making hay',  
To bring some joy to every day,  
In the summer sun.

Treat others with respect and care,  
Help change the "needie's" distant stare,  
Their eyes will light the brightest flare,  
In the summer sun.

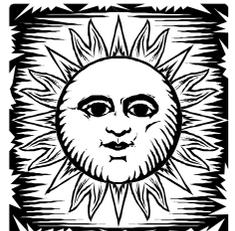
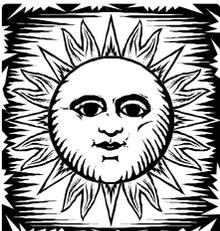
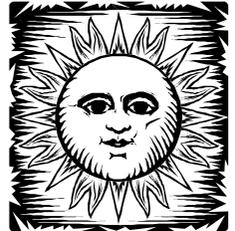
Forgive those doing harm to you,  
For inside they are hurting too,  
The coldest heart you may thaw through,  
In the summer sun.

We all feel better in its gleam.,  
Achieve our most outrageous dream,  
Nothing deters us – it may seem,  
In the summer sun.

But sunburn on our head,  
Can turn into the rawest red,  
To 'cover-up' is wise – it's said,  
In the summer sun.

Indian summers linger long,  
Though denseness of the heat has gone,  
Yet healing powers are still strong,  
In late summer sun.

The snow and rain may soon be here,  
As autumn time comes creeping near,  
So make the most of sparkling cheer,  
In the summer sun.



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## A Message from Home Watch

Some of you may be aware that there is a spate of thefts of dogs, this I think is a despicable crime because of all the heartache it causes the owners and, of course, the stress it puts on the animal when away from familiar surroundings. Sometimes a ransom is asked or when a reward is offered the pet is returned. So please be warned, do not leave your pet unattended or you may lose it, as dogs have been stolen from back yards, some of them with puppies. It is also a good idea to have your pet I.D chipped.

It must be my age but I think I am turning into a grumpy old man. The other day I went down to the surgery for a booster injection for Tetanus immunisation, after booking the appointment two days before, only to be told on arrival that these are not done any more and that the jab is only needed if you cut yourself deeply or have a dirty wound (it used to be prevention is better than a cure). There is also a special weekly clinic for injections of this type. Another wasted journey. Does this only happen to me? Its been years since I last had to go to the doctor's, can't keep up with the changes.

In the words of Homer Simpson Do ooh! :-)

**Barry Chater**

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## Dersingham Parish Web-Site

As you may by now be aware, the Dersingham Parish Web-Site ([www.dersingham.gov.uk](http://www.dersingham.gov.uk)) is now fully 'up and running', and the Editor of 'Voice' has been asked to inform all readers that it is your web-site and is open to each and every one of you to submit any item which you feel may be of interest for inclusion. Should you wish to have something included, please address it to the Dersingham Parish Council Clerk at The Police Station in Manor Road.



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## Girl Guide and Scout Fundraising Committee



The Girl Guide and Scout Fundraising Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported, contributed and helped at their recent Annual Fete. The magnificent sum of £1,200.00 was raised on the day. This money will assist in the maintenance of the Scout and Guide HQ in Manor Road. All Guide and Scout groups will therefore benefit from the efforts of the day. The Guide and Scout members, leaders and helpers remain most grateful for the continued support of many members, organisations and groups within the village who continue to support them.



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## Task Force

It was good to see the daffodils that were planted by the group survived the mole invasion. We had a late start this year due to the wet, then suddenly the good weather has brought rapid growth, so we are hard pushed keeping up with the work. If anyone has a couple of hours to spare on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month we would like to see you.

*Sue Eastmure – 543870*

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## Jamie Griffin Memorial Bench

We are asked to inform our readers that the bench in memory of Jamie Griffin was installed at St Nicholas Church on 3 June 2006. Jamie's parents, Marty and Julie, would like to thank all who contributed during the local bucket collection in the village.

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## Life Wood

By Mary Bell of *Cosy Nook*

I guess Life wood is as old as the mound within it. There is no indication of when it first existed, unless a record has been briefly recorded, around the time of the Normans or such when many of our churches were being constructed – and who, in this day and age, will have time to quiz our ancestors?

Life Wood will have many stories attached to the name, one can almost hear folks chatting as they pass by on the A149 – “Wonder what kind of Life there is in those there woods?” – Life dear, it’s living, as the seasons come and go the sap rises, buds, then leaves, appear on trees , so there you go, it’s alive.

Then we have the suspicious who read too many crime books – “Been a murder in there, that’s why the name is Life Wood.” – any more suggestions would be acceptable. Well you could think how nice to just stop and take our dog for a walk, just in case! No! The bird spotters will not speak to us if we disturb any wildlife, that’s life in itself. Actually, woods have an association with the younger folks who once went courting on warm summer nights, before the days of television. Many a romance began that way, and still does, only today woods have schoolchildren of all ages, scooting through, on skate boards and cycles, showing off their skills of mountain biking, so there you are, life again.

As you may guess, I live near Life Wood, and wonder if there is a stigma from it, as, during the Second World War, there had been a nurse found hanging within the deeper part, and someone may have seen a ghost, possibly her, returning to seek her lover. Maybe she has encouraged an older set of teenagers to booze around a campfire, with loud music coming forth annoying the neighbours in bungalows along the back part.

After many complaints the matter was reported to the law and two attractive women officers arrived to inspect some rubbish and damaged trees, the word went round and the booze sessions stopped, and now the younger generation are back to wallow in fun.

All appears peaceful when I take a constitutional through the wood. How about you folks, do you feel that Life Wood is sacred, peaceful and friendly, waiting for a reward? Mine is to view it from my bedroom window, and imagine the teddy bears having a picnic.

If you have memories and stories of Life Wood do consider placing your stories in writing, please.

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## Pictures and News from St. Cecilia's Church



Dersingham residents, Herbert and Catherine Whittaker, outside St. Peter's in Rome on a recent pilgrimage led by Fr. Michael Rear of Fakenham Parish and Fr. James Fyfe of Hunstanton Parish



Fr. James Fyfe with the children who celebrated their First Holy Communion in June



Mrs. Pat Whisker and Mrs. Catherine Whittaker (left) of Dersingham with Hunstanton ladies at the shared lunch



Dersingham and Hunstanton ladies at the Convent enjoying a shared lunch for the women of Hunstanton RC Parish, which includes St. Cecilia's Church

**\* St. Cecilia's flower arrangers will be taking part in the St. Nicholas Church Flower Festival in July. Their theme will be "Easter – He is Risen!"**

**\* The Hunstanton RC Parish, which includes St. Cecilia's, is holding a Grand Summer Fair and Barbeque in the church gardens at 30 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, at 6.45 pm on Saturday 19 August 2006. Everyone is welcome!**

*Pictures submitted*

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## What Goes Round Comes Round

*Received by e-mail*

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death. The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings, an elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life." "No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly. "I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of." And that he did.

Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.



The poster features a central crest of the RAF at the top. Below it, the text reads: "RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Room Summer Open Days!". The dates are listed as: "Dates: Sunday, 11 June; Sunday, 9 July; Sunday, 13 August; Sunday, 27 August; Sunday, 10 September". A diagonal banner says "Free Admission". The time is "Time: 11am until 5pm". The place is "Place: National Construction College Bircham Newton". At the bottom, it says "By kind permission of CFB-ConstructionSkills" and "Come along and discover the fascinating history of this former RAF station and its satellite airfields". The background shows a biplane flying over a landscape.

### In Memory

*Copyright: Hugh Mullarkey -30-05-06*

When a loved one dies  
Does the love live on?

When the Singer stops singing  
Is there still the song?

Is there still the music  
Of a treasured life

Of a son, of a father,  
Of a mother, of a wife.....

With all the variations  
On a lifelong theme

From the raw and the raucous  
To the subtle and serene?

Let's recall the laughter  
That would raise the sky

Let's remember the comfort  
For the childish cry

Let us sing in the memory  
Of love profound

Though the song may have no words  
And the melody no sound.

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## Hidden Gardens Open to the Public



This years "Open Gardens" event on the Sunday and Monday of the Spring Bank Holiday (28th and 29th May) was a successful and enjoyable time. Many of the visitors came from outside the area, with fewer local people involved than we might have expected. Although the weather was cool we escaped the many showers of a wet May. Income from the Open Gardens went to Parish Church funds.

Other attractions happening at the same time were an exhibition of Jo Jones's excellent photographs next door to the Methodist Church where their

much loved annual Flower Festival was taking place. There was also an art exhibition at the Community Centre giving visitors much to enjoy.

There were refreshments at two of the gardens, and cream teas available in the Church Hall. All of the visitors, and the garden owners who had opened up, seemed to have had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Those who had opened for the first time were genuinely excited about the response of the visitors. The various styles of gardens meant that there was something to capture everyone's imagination and inspire new ideas for them to take home.

If you would like to be involved next year and would like to consider opening your garden, however small it might be, please contact Neil Adams on 01485 540857 to talk about this. Thanks go to all who worked hard to make this such a special village event.

### **Car Boot Sales**

**Dersingham Recreation Ground**

**Hunstanton Road**

**Thursdays 4 pm to 6 pm**

**Every second week**

**August 3rd, 17th, 31st, Sept 14th, 28th. October 12th, 26th.**

**Gates open 3 pm Cost £5 per car £7 per van**

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01485 541465

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## Official Presentation of the Bus Shelter in Manor Road in August 1953

Following a comment made at a recent Parish Council Meeting regarding the current state of the



bus shelter in Manor Road, which is currently being refurbished, we thought you may like to see this picture which was taken at its official presentation on 6 August 1953 – it is to be hoped that the people involved were not watching for a bus to come, they are facing the wrong way!!

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## News in Brief

**It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Liam Rand** in a recent accident involving a motor vehicle. Our thoughts go out to his parents, family and friends, who are still trying to overcome the tragedy of a year ago when Liam's sister, Jade, lost a part of her leg in a motor accident in Dersingham which took the life of her friend, Jamie (Griff) Griffin.

**Dersingham is a Heavenly place** – or so it would appear! Obviously impressed with the many activities being undertaken by our Parish Council, one of our local wags is of the opinion that we should be associated at a higher plain and decided to take the initiative by adding the words 'TWINNED WITH PARADISE' to one of the approach signs to the village. This would seem to be one of those occasions where graffiti has been found to be humorous rather than offensive, as even the County Council (who are responsible for these signs) could see the funny side.

**Stephanie Gregory and her mother, Diana, both of Dersingham, have presented £625 to assist with vital research at Addenbrooke's Hospital** – the money was raised in memory of Diana's husband, Ray, who died at the hospital in January after suffering an infection following a kidney transplant. It is the couple's intention to continue fund-raising in the future.

**Pedaller's Way!** – Retired policeman Keith Swanson of West Hall Road, a ranger for sustainable transport charity Sustrans, has completed a 40 mile cycle ride (along with ten other two-wheelers), covering Wisbech, Lynn and Dersingham as part of an international bid to cover 6,000 km of a cross-border trail in a day. The remainder of the North Sea Cycle Route was being covered at the time by cyclists from other parts of Europe.

**One in a thousand – that's Gabriella!** Gabriella Booth was fortunate enough to win a BBC prize which allowed her to attend the Queen's birthday party at Buckingham Palace on Sunday 25 June, along with 999 other children. Gabriella and her mother, Julie, also had the opportunity to ride on the London Eye while they were in London.

**Will Newman of Newman Concepts has been honoured** – he has been made a fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce for his achievements in developing the Broadband system which we reported in our last issue.

**Residents from Hanover Housing Association in Dersingham welcomed Chinese residents from King's Lynn** during sheltered housing week. Amongst other things, the residents were given a Tai Chi demonstration and enjoyed a Chinese/English buffet lunch. The Borough mayor, Ann Clery-Fox was in attendance and judged a competition of paintings done by children from Dersingham Primary School.

**Local celebrity actress Claire Goose has been supporting the Prince's Trust** by attending a charity auction at Congham Hall at which she participated in greeting arriving guests. The fund benefited by over £6,000 on the day.

**Our best wishes go out to Eric and Vera Knighton of Jubilee Drive** who celebrated their diamond wedding recently. Eric, a former RAF pilot who retired with the rank of Wing Commander, has chaired many clubs and associations in Dersingham over the years, including the Dersingham and Sandringham Branch of the Royal British Legion, whilst Vera has interests which include fundraising for Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and Blind, playing bridge and is currently studying the use of computers. Here's to many happy years to come.

## DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS

Day	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Every Mon, Tues, Thur & Fri	9.00 to 11.30 am	Dersingham Playgroup	Playgroup Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Mon & Fri in Term Time	9.30 to 11.00 am	Puddleducks Toddler Group	Toddler Group Meeting	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
1st Monday in the Month	2.15 pm	Royal British Legion Women's Section	Dersingham & Sandringham Branch Meeting	Albert Victor Bowls Club, Manor Road
Monday	6.30 to 8pm	1st Dersingham Cubs	Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
2nd Monday in the Month	7.30 pm	Royal British Legion	Meeting	Orchard Close Community Room
Last Monday in the Month	7.15 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Council Meeting	Infant and Nursery School, Saxton Way
Every Tuesday	6.00 to 7.30 pm	2nd Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7 - 10	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every Tuesday	8 pm	Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes	Sandringham Lodge Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Village Voice 'Live'	Presentations by Guest Speakers/Groups	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church Art Club	Meeting	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Wednesday	10.00 am to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly	Recreation & Leisure Activities and Mid-day Meal	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Wednesday	10.00 to 11.00am	Music+Movement	Pre-school Music, Dance & Drama	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every Wednesday	2.00 to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Carpet Bowls	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Wednesday	6.00 to 7.15 pm	Beavers	Meeting for children aged 6 - 8	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every 2nd Wed of the Month	5.30 to 7.00 pm	Dersingham Junior Flower Club	Meeting of Children aged 8+	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every 2nd Wed of the Month	10.30 am	St Nicholas Men's Group	Men's Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every 2nd Wed of the Month Sept to April	7.30 pm	Albert Victor Bowls Club	Prize Bingo	Albert Victor Bowls Club, Manor Road
Every Thursday	10.30 am to 3.00 pm	North West Norfolk Phobbies Club	Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Thursday	4.15 to 5.30	1st Dersingham Rainbow Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 5-7	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every Other Thursday	4.00 to 7.00 pm	Dersingham parish Council	Car Boot Sale	Dersingham recreation Ground
Every Thursday	6.00 to 7.30 pm	1st Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7 - 10	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.00 pm	1st Sandringham Guide Unit	Unit Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9pm	1st Dersingham Scout Group	Group Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.30 pm	Norfolk Army Cadet Force	Sandringham Detachment Meeting	The Drill Hall, Dodds Hill
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Badminton Club	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thursday Sept to June	2 pm	Park House Hotel	Rubber Bridge	Park House Hotel
1st Thursday of the Month		Dersingham Flower Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall

1st Thursday of the Month	7.15 to 10.00 pm	Dersingham Evening Women's Institute	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
2nd Thursday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Horticultural Society	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
3rd Thursday of the Month	9.30 to 10.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church Jigsaw Club	Meeting	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Friday	6.30 to 8 pm	1st Dersingham Guide Unit	Unit Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every Friday	6.45 to 9.15 pm	Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club	Club Meeting	St George's Middle School
Alternate Fridays	2.15 to 4.30 pm	Dersingham Seniors Club	Entertainment and Outings for the over-60s	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Friday of the month	10.00 am to 12 noon	St Nicholas Church	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas Church Hall

## DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Day	Date	Month	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Wed	26	Jul	All Day	Sandringham Flower Show Committee	Sandringham Flower Show	The Grounds of Sandringham House
Sat	29 Jul-6 Aug	Jul and Aug	See Pages 36 and 37	Dersingham Parish Council	Dersingham Festival	Dersingham Recreation Ground
Mon To Wed	7 - 9	Aug	9.30 am to 12.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Holiday Activities For 4 to 10 year olds	St Nicholas Church Hall
Wed	5	Aug	2.30 to 3.30 pm	Dersingham Library	Holiday Storytime for under 7s	Dersingham Library
Wed	9	Aug	6.30 pm	Dersingham Walking Group	4 mile circular walk from Junction of Green Bank/ Ringstead/Holme Road	Map Ref; L132/708 420
Sun	13	<b>Aug</b>	10.30 am	Dersingham Minors Football Club	Pre-Season Mini Soccer Tournament	Pastures Sports Ground
Sat	19	Aug	6.45 pm	Hunstanton RC Parish Church	Summer Fair & BBQ	30 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton
Sun	20	Aug	8.00 pm	Park House Hotel Sandringham	A Journey Through the Wine Regions of Germany	Park House Hotel Sandringham
Mon	21	Aug	10.30 to 11.30 am	Dersingham Library	Family Spy School (7-11 & Parents)	Dersingham Library
Wed	5	Aug	2.30 to 3.30 pm	Dersingham Library	Holiday Storytime for under 7s	Dersingham Library
Wed	30	Aug	5.00 pm	Dersingham Walking Group	4.5 mile circular walk from lay-by south of Ingoldisthorpe on B1440	Map Ref: L132/683 325
Tue	5	Sept	7.30 pm	Dersingham 'Village Voice Live'	Keith Skipper presents 'Three Parts Light'	St Nicholas Church Hall
Sat	23	Sept	10.00 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Coffee Morning	Dersingham Methodist Church
Sun	24	Sept	10.30 am & 6.30 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Harvest Service	Dersingham Methodist Church
Mon	25	Sept	7.00 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Harvest Supper	Dersingham Methodist Church
Sat	30	Sept	10.00 am to 6.00 pm	St Nicholas Church	Arts and Crafts	St Nicholas Church and Church Hall
Sat	30	Sept	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Concert	St Nicholas Church
Sun	1	Oct	12 noon to 6.00 pm	St Nicholas Church	Arts and Crafts	St Nicholas Church and Church Hall
Wed	11	Oct	10.30 am	English Nature	Evening Guided Walk Dersingham Bog	Wolferton Hill Car Park

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## 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 – 27 September, 25 October and 22 November 2006, when Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forder and Pete Shaw will be in attendance along with P.C. Stan Cobon. Services which 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: 01953 424242

Please also note a new number on which to report crime which does not require the urgency of 999, this being 0845 456 4567

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### Advertising in Village Voice

The Editorial Team would like to thank all of those who so generously support our magazine by placing advertisements in it, for without the income so generated there would be a possibility of the publication ceasing to exist. With this in mind it would be helpful if you were to support those who do advertise, and to then let them know that you used their services because you saw their promotion in our magazine.

For those readers who perhaps provide a local service but who do not currently advertise with us, you may consider a fee of from £10 for an eighth of a page per issue, to be very cost effective.

**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 6 September 2006** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

**Articles for publication in the October edition of Village Voice** must reach the editor at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, before the **deadline date of Wednesday 6 September 2006 for publication on Wednesday 27 September 2006**. (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

Layout Artist, 'In-house' Photographer and Illustrations Editor: - Tony Bubb

Advertising Sales: - Ron Brackstone

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