

Dersingham Village Voice

Issue 43



December 2006



The Village Voice team send Christmas and New Year Greetings to all of their Readers



Parish Council Report

The Parish Council meeting held on 30 October heard from a number of residents concerned about the regular parking of a truck and van at the top of Valley Rise. This, they claimed, caused a significant safety hazard as vehicles exiting Valley Rise were forced onto the wrong side of the road just at the point where they might meet vehicles coming round the corner from Station Road. One particular complaint was from a disabled resident who used an electric scooter, who felt particularly vulnerable. A letter from the police confirmed that the parking meets the requirements of the Highway Code but the Council agreed that there was a problem. Two Councillors agreed to visit the owner of the vehicles to discuss the issue.

The Council also agreed to look further into the possible provision of mirrors at two road junctions where visibility was poor, Dodds Hill/Manor Road and Manor Road/Lynn Road.

The Council held a lengthy discussion about the future of the Dersingham Festival following the first event in August. It had been suggested that this might in future be run by an independent Festival group of volunteers but the Council agreed that, because of child protection issues, the children's activities at least should remain the direct responsibility of the Council. However, anyone wishing to help organise the event would be most welcome.

The Council is to investigate the possibility of putting lights in the trees around the Recreation Ground for Christmas. It was also agreed that the Carol Service would be held on Friday 15 December and not on the date previously fixed.

The Council heard that the Borough Council was proposing to stop collecting garden waste in the green bags (which go to landfill) and would instead only collect using the brown bins for which there is an annual charge. This was due to a legal requirement to substantially cut the amount of waste going to landfill. Councillors expressed concern about the effect this would have on people on low incomes who had only small amounts of garden waste to dispose of. The Borough Council will be asked to consider how this problem might best be dealt with.

It was reported that full planning permission had been given for the new Surgery and that construction was expected to start within a few months.

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



September was our Annual Outing - this time to Lowestoft, the weather was kind to us and judging by the comments, all participating members and their husbands/partners/friends enjoyed it very much.

October was our AGM and Kath Morgan was welcomed on to the committee.

For our November meeting we had a speaker, Mrs Jenny Sparks, telling us of her life on her Farm. We enjoyed her talk so much, it was sad to say goodbye to her, however hers is very much a working farm and animals have to be fed. We finished the afternoon with tea biscuits and a raffle. November was a very busy month for us, we held our Annual Coffee Morning at the Methodist Church on the 9th. Then our Service at the Village War Memorial on the 11th followed by the Service of Remembrance at St Nicholas on the 12th.

Our next meeting will be at the Orchard Close Community Centre at 2.15 pm on the 4th December.

Even though this is very early we all wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

Editor's Notes



It seems that you cannot get enough of the magazine! Our distribution figures have had to be increased to meet the high demand from those who live in the village and the many visitors who pass through (we now normally publish 2,800 copies of each issue, increased to 3,000 during the summer months for the benefit of visitors.) We have also realised that many of you are sending copies to relatives in other parts of the United Kingdom and abroad and we have had former residents of Dersingham writing to us from all over the world (you will see that one of the letters in this issue is from New Zealand!) Some additional interest is also being caused owing to the fact that we are now published, in full, on the Council Website, and the Dersingham Village Voice can therefore be accessed almost anywhere in the world – advertisers should take note of this, as their advertisements are included in the on-line magazine at no extra cost, giving them international status, and for such a small fee!

Regular readers will note that a series which we started to publish in the last issue, ‘Growing up in West Norfolk’ by George Porter, has not been included this time, due to the fact that I have received a few comments stating that some of the detail written in the piece is inaccurate and is causing concern to some members of the families being mentioned. Having no wish to offend any of those people involved, I have, therefore, decided that the series will no longer be continued.

In writing, I would like to thank my friend Steve Cooper for the cover picture of the Norwich Gates at a time when snow lay on the ground and also for the photo below of ‘St Nicholas Church in Christmas Mood,’ I could not resist using them when I first saw them, but they are even more striking when seen as a 12” x 10” (or larger) image in colour. Well done, Steve, for getting out of bed at the disgustingly early hour that you told me you did in order to achieve them!

The other photo on the cover is one which was passed on to me by Bernie Twite and features carol singers from TocH pausing outside one of the properties as they made their way to Sandringham House in December 1954, which is a reminder for me to wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

In order to make it easier for contributors to contact us, and for the transfer of articles and photos (using JPEG format please), the Voice now has its own E-Mail address which is: dersinghamvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk, whilst advertisers continue to use the address: dersingham@wncb.net



St Nicholas Church In Christmas Mood

Photo:
Steve Cooper
March 2005

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Letters To The Editor



Roger Dunger writes from France: Thanks to the Dersingham Village Voice and in particular to the wonderful memory and reminiscences of Dick Melton, my memory of some of the older aspects of Dersingham has been revived. I left Dersingham in 1959 at the tender age of 16 to join the Army as an apprentice mechanic and apart from the occasional

visit to see my family in the area, I have not returned. My journey through life has taken me to many countries and currently I am enjoying early retirement in Northern France with Sue, my Wife. Some months ago, whilst idly browsing the net, I came across an article that Dick Melton had written about some of the old times, characters and trades people in the village. My Brother Joe and his Wife Rose still live in Station Road and in a telephone conversation I mentioned the fact that I had seen the Village Voice on the internet. Joe said he had several back copies and I would be welcome to have them. My Niece, Diane came to visit and left me with a carrier bag full of local news and village history. The village has obviously grown enormously since my childhood and I guess I would know few people there now but the articles about the old days brought memories flooding back. There seems to be a bit of a void, however, when it comes to the years I spent growing up or mention of any of my old school friends. So what happened to the people of my generation? I can recall some names but equally I am sure the years will have erased some from my memory. Those I recall are (in alphabetical order) Robert Adcock, Keith Athow, Brian Bond, Maurice Doy, Robin Doy, Melvyn Green, Tony Hooker, Billy Pitcher, Chesley and Richard Quick, Michael Reynolds, Bruce Sadler, Glyn Smith, Robin Toop and Terry Wyer. I know Chesley Quick also joined the Army, we bumped into each other in Singapore in the early 60's. Michael Reynolds joined the RAF and I have a vague recollection that Billy Pitcher may have emigrated to Australia but I cannot be sure. I would love to hear what happened to those lads, either directly or via the Village Voice. It occurs to me that all those I have listed are male, I guess girls didn't play football or cricket in those days and I am afraid I remember only Anne Edwards, Doreen Finbow, Shirley Flegg, Sandra Pease, Joy Pitcher and Mary Rolfe. It would be nice to hear of them also. Here in France, we have taken on a fairly hefty project converting an attached barn into additional living accommodation and transforming almost an acre of rough pasture into a garden. Although much remains to be done, we have broken the back of it so hopefully I shall have some time to write and perhaps that will include the odd contribution to the Dersingham Village Voice. If anyone would like to get in touch, my Email address is

sulyka@wanadoo.fr

Patrick Linford of Basingstoke, Hampshire writes: I am an old Dersinghamite, who has recently become a regular reader of Village Voice via the internet. I was born in 1934 at "Kingswood", Manor Road. It was the house adjoining the butcher's shop run by my grandfather, Douglas W Terrington, and mother Maisie Linford (nee Terrington). After the war my grandfather retired, and the Linfords moved to "Glebe House" and grocer's shop run by my father, Rowland, known as Linford's Corner Stores. The recent wartime photos of people who did their bit in WW2 have been of particular interest because most of the names and nearly all the faces reminded me of the Dersingham I grew up in and I have some comments about them which may be of interest. 1) CHSS Nurses at the Oaks. I asked Peter Hooks if he knew what CHSS stood for because his mother is in the photo (4th from right back row). He got an answer from Mrs Ruth Simpson that it was "Central Hospital Support Services", and that they were a Red Cross/St John's Ambulance organisation. They were trained to provide nursing support to the regular nurses in hospitals and convalescent homes if needed. I subsequently obtained a booklet from the Red Cross entitled "Caring on the Home Front" which confirmed this. The booklet also stated that the most important jobs done by the CHSS Voluntary Aid Detachments, or VADs, were making bandages for hospitals, and garments for hospital wear. 2) ARP First Aid Team. I discussed this with my aunt Edna Fisher (nee Linford) when visiting Dersingham in July. "That's me!" she said pointing to the

first young lady on the left in the back row. Your correspondent E Fiddick thought it was a Miss Athow. I don't disagree with the other names she supplied. **3)** Dr Telford Martin. I used to meet Dr Martin in the early and mid forties out and about when I lived in Manor Road. He usually reminded me that he was the doctor who brought me into the world in 1934. One day he said that he and Mrs Martin would like to give me a cricket bat and ball that had belonged to his son who had lost his life in the war. I called at his house in Sandringham Road to collect them, and they were well used on the common for a year or two. I don't know when Dr Martin retired exactly, but when he did, my mother became a patient of Dr Ansell, and she used to go to Wood Farm Wolferton to consult. Dr Ansell eventually moved to a house in Sandringham Road, Dersingham. **4)** Dr Jolley. I became a patient of Dr Jolley, who lived at Snettisham. He used to hold surgeries in Dersingham. I remember consulting him once or twice. I think it was in a room at Bank Chambers, Lynn Road, not far from Linford's Corner. I have a faint recollection that my father said that he made the back room of the shop available to Dr Jolley for one afternoon a week when he first started practising in Dersingham. **5)** Dr Coxon. My first dentist was Dr Coxon, and I can still remember quite well being taken to his King Street surgery in Lynn. **6)** ARP and Home Guard. I have noted that my father was an early member of the ARP when it was formed before the war. I did not know that. This was probably because he later transferred to the Home Guard, and all his tales were about Home Guard activities which were much more exciting. His favourite TV programme was "Dad's Army", and I think they must have got some ideas for episodes from Dersingham! Dr Coxon is mentioned as being the H G captain. Perhaps he moved on at some stage because my recollection from father's accounts is that Mr Lloyd Pratt was the captain. **7)** Dew's, Dobb's and George King's in Manor Road. In the late 1930s David Wright and I, when we were small boys, used to call in to Mr Dew's fish and chip shop and were given a bag of batter scraps. Small boys' delight! Eventually in the mid forties the shop became a bicycle shop run by a Mr Dobbs as I recall, although Bernard Twite has remembered the name as Dodd. He also recharged accumulators for 6d, sold radio high voltage batteries, and did radio repairs. The radio side of his business was very popular because many people still used battery sets then. Opposite Dew's was George King the barber. It is now a flower shop. I had my hair cut there many times. My grandfather Terrington used to get shaved most days and I remember Mr King applying the lather, sharpening a cut throat razor on a leather strap, and then shaving off grandfather's beard. Grandfather always greeted Mr King as "your majesty". Remember that King George VI was on the throne then. **8)** The Observer Corps. I wonder if anyone has sent you a photo of the Dersingham Observer Corps. If not I know where to get one. The Corps was formed before the war and the observation tower was in a field off Fern Hill, near Dr Coxon's house. There are many more Dersingham folk in the photo which old D'ites will recognise, Alec Hooks and Charles Wright to name but two.

I have just read the October 06 issue of DVV via the Internet, and have a few comments which may be of interest. **1)** The Fire Alarm. – Reference is made on p 46 to Charlie Athow the Fire Chief sounding a bell to turn out the fire fighters. The fire alarm was in fact a siren during the time I was living well within its range at Linford's Corner Stores from 1946 to 1956. I heard its steady wail many times because it was tested every Saturday at 1 PM precisely for two or three minutes. One Saturday at one, it went on wailing much longer than usual, then went into the wartime air raid warning up and down mode. At that point I realised that a fire call had come in at exactly 1 PM! I hope the fire fighters realised too. **2)** The Commons. - My father, Rowly Linford the grocer, loved the Commons, they were his playgrounds as a boy in the late 1890s and early 1900s. He said there were two gangs then. If you lived close to the common you were a "Whin Jumper" but if you came from the other side of the village you were a "Round Towner". In his later years he was appointed a Common Trustee which was a pleasurable task for him because he went for walks on the common most days when retired. According to Dad the Sandringham Estate rented the shooting rights over the closed common from Dersingham, not because they wanted to shoot there

but in order to prevent anyone else from shooting stray Sandringham reared birds. This was he said a disappointment for a few Dersingham folk! Perhaps it is still. - **3**) Wellswill. - There have been some references to "Wellswell" which later became "Wood Royal". The correct name was "Wellswill". I started school there in 1939 at age 5 and Miss Hough was the Head mistress. Incidentally, my Wellswill school friends included Dick Stanton, and Doctor Jolly's sons Michael and David.

Terry Burrell of Dersingham Institute Bowls Club writes: The Dersingham Silver Jubilee Bowls Cup League is competed for on Sunday mornings. There are normally 5 village bowls organisations who compete for this village trophy, these being The Dersingham Football club, The Dersingham Olde Boyes, The Albert Victor Bowls Club, Coach and Horses and the Institute Bowls Club. The winning club in the past have been presented with trophies to mark the achievement, however, this year, the winning team of The Dersingham football Club decided to forgo their trophies in favour of donating the monies spent on these to their chosen charity, which was The Dersingham First Responders. The grand sum of £50 was donated to this very worthy organisation. A letter of appreciation was received expressing their pleasure in accepting the monies. I would therefore like to thank, through your column, all the members of The Dersingham F.C. Bowls team for such a good idea. Maybe a possibility for next season for future winning teams.

Mrs. M. Clayton of Bank Road writes: Congratulations to Bernie Twite remembering the names of all the Parish Councillors waiting at the bus shelter, Issue 41, nice to think he still keeps in touch with the village. William Clayton built that bus shelter long after he retired, but another gentleman helped him by doing the labouring. Wondered if they were waiting for him to take part in the photograph? Perhaps Bernie might remember his name, or it could be in old Parish Records.

Non and Terry Burrell of King's Croft, Dersingham write: Please find enclosed a photo and write-up about our daughter's participation in the Great North Run. She has never attempted a run on this scale before, an achievement, which we, her Mum and Dad, are very proud of. Her name is Mrs. Sam Anthony of 16 James Jackson Road, Dersingham. She is pictured in her official running shirt and number, holding her completion medal. Sam was running for Cancer Research and also in memory of a dear friend who died from cancer 6 weeks earlier. Sam has raised in excess of £700 through sponsorships towards this very worthy cause. She completed the course in 2 hrs 48 mins, coming in at a very creditable 11,604 position, out of a field of 49,000 registered competitors.



Ivan Green of Oulton Broad Lowestoft writes: Having been born and brought up in Dersingham I recently discovered Dersingham Village Voice and thought some of the enclosed photographs (shown on pp16 and 17) may be of interest to some of your readers and contributors. (Did Dickie Melton or Bernie Twite ever look quite like that??!!) There are the photos taken at the Primary School about 1947 – 1949 and one of the Cub Pack. I think most of the names are correct but would welcome any corrections, after all it was a few years ago. Where are they now? I think the photo of the Cubs shows probably the first pack formed shortly after the Scouts were formed. Some of you may well remember Alex Fisher who formed both the Scouts and the Cubs. He also ran a Fish and Chip business and also Potato Crisps (plain and flavoured) in the name of "West Norfolk Super Crisps" – I do believe these were the first flavoured crisps. Alex Fisher did a lot for the village. He organised the carnival parade round the village and also the pantomime when nearly every child in the village took part. The pantomime was not only performed in the Church Hall but also in many villages round about and included the Pilot Theatre King's Lynn. I could provide you with a photo of two of Snow White's dwarfs but the photo of the whole cast is missing. Someone may have one? Transport of the cast to the villages was by Eric Hiner's two coaches, he kept Heath Garage prior to Charlie Whisker (Rip

Van's Dad). He also provided a lot of the lighting and the spotlights from the back of the halls – these were headlamps with coloured filters powered by several batteries. The other bus driver and lighting assistant was often Bernie Macrow who worked for Alex Fisher in the Fish and Chip business, also with the mobile shops. Well I think I have rambled on for long enough so will close now. I could go on for ages but even I have trouble reading what I have written.

M.Roy of 11 Cross Street, Papatowai RD2, Owaka. S. Otago, New Zealand writes: My mother was Ruth Elizabeth Roy, née Drew before she married James Roy of Glenfarg, Perthshire. He was in the Royal Lifeguards and travelled to Sandringham with the Regiment when the Royal Family were there. Father fell in love and eventually married, had three children, John, Peter and myself. Peter died at Singapore at the hand of the Japanese, Jack married Wyn Roy, died of cancer, and Wyn, who met Jack at a summer school, died last year. I am the only one remaining. As a family we all went to Dersingham for holidays, staying with Uncle Tom, Aunt Annie and Eleanor and Doris in the 'Albert Victor'. We often, when we should have been asleep, watched the customers staggering out of the pub, definitely "under the weather." Uncle Tom was gassed in World War I and had poor health. I well remember Uncle Will, Dick Melton's father, he had a hardware van and a great sense of humour. We often travelled with him in the van. Aunt Kitty, his wife, had poor health. Dersingham was a special place for us three children. I remember Uncle Tom kept pigs and we used to feed them with pig-swill, a sort of mash. I also remember the village shop where we bought our gobstoppers. They lasted all day and changed colour. Yes, Dersingham is a place full of memories, happy ones. When grown up I had holidays with Donald and Eleanor Roy and Doris Drew – we loved walking in Sandringham woods on Sundays and saw the Royal Family leaving church. Now I am old and living in New Zealand, but I will never forget Dersingham.

Email received in Parish Council Office from Paul Malone, paulmalone@nl.rogers.com:

For a time in 1940 before shipping out to North Africa and Italy, my father was a member of the coastal defenses overlooking "The Wash", just up the hill from Wolferton and about 2 miles from Sandringham House. He volunteered and served 5½ years in England, Africa, and Italy before returning home. He was a member of the 57th Heavy Artillery of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. The Queen's Battery Headquarters was located in a manor house in Dersingham. Do you have any history of this time that you can share with me? Photos or newspaper articles?

A Concerned Patient writes: It is with extreme sadness that we have to report that some racist comments have recently been made by some individuals attending the Carole Brown Health Centre. Not only is this totally unacceptable, it represents racial discrimination which is against the law. We are fortunate in having doctors and nurses with a wide range of expertise and experience at our surgery. Remember the days when we were desperate for doctors to join the practice? So please, will those individuals with extreme and biased views please refrain from demonstrating their prejudices when attending the Carole Brown Health Centre.

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Sarah's Page

Hi - As I am writing this it is very cold compared to lately. I think we have been spoilt by it being so warm. The flowers are confused and keep blooming and we cannot clear our gardens ready for winter. This leads me on nicely to green bags. We have been told this week, not officially though, that the green bags are to be phased out. This concerns me as the majority of the people that purchase the bags from our office are retired. They possibly cannot afford a brown bin, or it would be too big or they just do not have room for three bins with the black and green they already have. A lot of them have Gardeners who



will only come if they purchase the green bags. What are these people to do? I have been thinking and wondering if as a Parish Council we could have a big commercial brown bin and have a person for a nominal fee who would go round the village on a set day and collect brown bin waste. What do you think? Where would we put it? Would a bottle bin or can bank be useful too? Let me have your views.

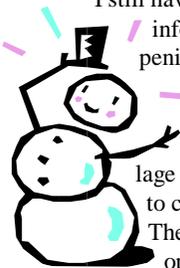
I would like to have your views on the office opening hours are they appropriate for you - if not can you tell me what you would like please? We are doing a review of our opening hours and wish to accommodate everyone if we possibly can.

We have not been able to get a French Christmas Market to come this year. So we have decided to hold a Christmas Carol Concert like last year on the Recreation Ground on Friday 15 December 2006 - posters will go up soon. I hope you will be able to come and have some food and drink with us. It has been agreed that we should try and get some lights up round the Recreation Ground now that we have electricity on site, what would you like to see.

We currently have five vacancies on the council. Would you like to have a say in village issues? If so write to me introducing yourself to the council and telling me why you wish to become a Councillor - we don't bite honest.

The Web Site is up and running, Can we have your comments good and bad and suggestions always wanted.

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. Put an A3 notice on the public notice board. This is currently on the Recreation Ground but we are hoping to move it to a better site shortly.



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.

The office will be closed from 12.30 pm on Thursday 21 December and will reopen on Monday 8 January. We are going to have a sort-out and archive items from the office over the break.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Sarah

**If your lips would keep from slips
Of five things have a care:**

Christmas Music

Park House, Sandringham

Sunday 3 December at 2.30 pm

A Seasonal Concert

by the local award-winning choir 'Fentasia'.

Tickets in advance £7.50 to include a
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PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE



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to
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My, How Times Change

In 1992 I was struggling with the after effects of a heart attack, when our eldest son took a phone call from the Bishop, the Rt Rev Alan Clarke. This confused him as he wasn't used to direct calls from the hierarchy. However the Bishop asked that Joan and I visit him in Poringland. My immediate thought was now what have I done or said! It came as complete surprise that the bishop wanted me to look at the prospect of assisting the then parish priest, Fr Bernard Nesden, and taking responsibility for the church of St Cecilia's in Dersingham.

The first question which ran through my mind was 'Where is Dersingham? Having established the situation I then realised that it was part of the same parish which we had joined in the early 1960s whilst in the RAF, based at West Raynham although living at Bircham Newton; Our first born was baptised at Hunstanton Church. So we came and took a look and liked what we saw.

The church of St Cecilia's was relatively new and had gone through a series of 'pastors' with varying degrees of success. At first I thought that with only a small congregation of about 25 people things wouldn't last too long. However things got better, - the relationship with the other denominations within the village were good. The major memory I have is that at the first ecumenical service we held at St Cecilia's the congregation was up in the 80s (did some come out of curiosity - who knows!). Could I ever achieve that sort of congregation as being a norm at St Cecilia's? One could but try!

I have enjoyed a wonderful fourteen years at St Cecilia's, but that now has come to a close and so I move on to a new life of sharing most of my time with my wife. After a year of trauma, with the cloud of breast cancer over our lives, we have now come to the stage of a new home, still on Mountbatten Road, and a new way of life. I would like to thank everybody in the community, not just those who attended the Catholic church, for their support over the years and trust that we can remain within the friends, companions, acquaintances for the joy of living in such a wonderful environment.

It has been a pleasure to support the village as a Parish Councillor for eight years as well as being a governor for the Nursery and Primary School (has that been forever!). I hope to enjoy many more years amongst the friends we have made, not just in the village of Dersingham, but around the surrounding villages of the area and King's Lynn.

Thank you all for everything and to believers and non-believers alike - God Bless.

Len Matthews



A tribute to Len Matthews on his retirement – A number of people wished to express their thanks for the help and caring that he has shown to the people of Dersingham and surrounding villages. Over the last 14 years he has shown remarkable dedication to the sick, housebound and bereaved. We all wish him a happy retirement. He will be greatly missed.

Bernie's Bytes

The first of a series of reminiscences and notes from Bernie Twite in Cyprus



Dersingham Football Team 1922/3
Previously printed, with names, on p44 of Issue 38

Over the years most Dersingham football teams have been successful. In the 1920s/30s as we can see from old photos at the end of the seasons, cups won would be on display. Dr Coxen who has been mentioned in village voice, being on a lot of the photos as president, had a keen interest in sport and followed closely how teams fared. The teams had a mixture of skills some players being tricky and skilful, others you did not want to meet and if you did tangle with them you would finish up black and blue. There were some hard men about. My father who played in goal was known to his workmates and friends as 'Bruiser' but I never did discover how he got the name I can only guess. One story he did tell me was

that when the team played away they travelled by horse and wagonette and had been to Burnham Market. When they came home the horse would not pull the wagon, the team would take the horse out of the wagon, pull the wagon and lead the horse, but every time he was put back in the shafts he put his head down and wouldn't budge this went on all the way home. After the war Dersingham had a very good team for a while as all the men who had served in the war were home and playing again. In the fifties after they retired there were a few years when the club struggled, but since the sixties it has gone forward steadily to the success it is today. After the war several village men took up refereeing, my father being one, others were Alec Hooks and Will Fitt. Alec and dad were next-door neighbours and Will was a railway signalman. They used to cycle to where the game was and usually had to change under a hedge taking whatever the weather threw at them. I think Alec had an Austin Seven but can't remember if he had it in his refereeing days, I am sure Peter will put me right on this. Most villages had a charity cup which was played for at the end of the season usually between three other selected local teams, these games usually got a large crowd watching, the money raised going to local charities. Hunstanton had the Beloe and Mallet Cups, Heacham the Fermoy Cup, Snettisham the Sheringham Cup and Dersingham its own Charity Cup, most of these have now disappeared mainly through lack of support. In the sixties the club added a third team to the first and reserve sides this mainly consisted of older players coming to the end of their playing time but still enjoying a game and young players then starting of, this was a happy team and they were also successful in winning their league and various cups. In those days nobody worried about conditions you just turned out and played. If there was snow on the ground the lines were brushed clear and the game went on. Games were played on Boxing and New Years Day, some players weren't a pretty sight after over indulging and either didn't turn up or only managed the first half, if anybody recognises themselves reading this no names mentioned. The club were lucky after the war in having a good committee which kept together for a long while and put it on a good footing. Alec Nurse did a lot of work on the ground and ran the line usually in a pair of wellies. One of the biggest benefactors to the club was Reg Houchen who was chairman for many years. On match days he would take a collecting box round the line during the game - what he got didn't take much counting! He also provided the transport for the team always taking the first team himself. Several of the players, myself included, drove part-time for him, so if any of us were playing in the reserves or third team we would drive the bus. The third team could be a problem very often being short of players due to call offs from the other teams, and would very often spend time riding round the village knocking on doors to make up a team, resulting in late kick offs. Reg was famous for always having a fag in his mouth and getting in and out of muddles. On more than one occasion the bus ran out of petrol on the way back, the standard answer being "...it shouldn't have done that, I checked it

last week!" Once when he brought fuel out he was pouring into the tank from a can and had his head over the funnel with the usual fag in mouth, I said should you be doing that, the answer was "...they don't make petrol as strong as they used to!" On one occasion we were playing at Weasenham the ground is down a lane and it had been raining for two days, we lost heavily and were fed up. To get back onto the road we had to reverse back up the lane, but it was so wet and muddy the wheels spun, the only way out was forward through the gate and round the pitch, halfway round the penalty area we got stuck again and in the finish a tractor towed the bus out, the pitch didn't look too good after that. We got back to Dersingham about 6.30 - Reg's brother Tom was in the yard and said you're late back I said we had a late kick off and ran. Weasenham did get in touch with the club but at the next meeting very little was said, thank goodness. We have to accept progress, but now players can move between clubs as they please but in the times I have written about you had to play for your village, and the characters who were playing and supporting aren't there any more, nor the atmosphere. Local Derbies were blood and thunder affairs, but at the end of the game you were friends again. I hope any of the players from my time reading this would agree with me. We still enjoy meeting our old opponents socially and remember old times.

War Workers. Picture A. Back Row 2nd left G Twite, 3rd left - Edna Walden, wife of Willie Walden, Undertaker. Middle Row Centre - Mrs Stanton. Front Row Centre - Miss Sitwell. 3rd Right - Florrie Bunn. On Right - Elsie Waller, lived in the end of row in Manor Road at junction with Heath Road.

War Workers. Picture 'B' Dersingham Savings Collectors.

Back Row. Mesdames Linford, Whyatt, MacGarigle, Miss A. C. Brown, Mrs. F. Wells, Mrs. Rutherford, Miss E. Stanton and Mrs. W. Walden (secretaries), Mesdames, L. Boughen, Read, H. Nurse, and Shipton. - Middle Row. Mesdames Hodges, Warren and Linford, Miss Garner, Mesdames Short, Drayton, Keeley, and Allen - Front Row. Mrs. S. Nurse, Miss Emmerson, Mrs. Rayner, Miss Wardale, Miss Butcher, Mrs. Stoveld, Mrs. Hammill.

Pavilion Picture: Back Left - Rev Glass. 2nd Left - Alan Brown worked for Mr Lloyd Pratt and lived in the cottage where the Pottery is now. Behind Duke Maj Middleton from back John Cable, Bernard Twite, Bob Riches, Alec Nurse, Bob Reed, Jim Brown, Reg Houchen, Bill Playford and Wallace Twite.

Jim Brown was the head forester on the estate and lived in the house down the drive at the top of Sandringham Hill. After the war he played in goal for Dersingham. Dad was the deputy forester or working foreman. As employer and employee something was being said between the Duke and dad (p47 Issue 42) and I would like to invite people to suggest what it was. My suggestion would be "Shouldn't you be at work, am I paying you to be here?" The committee was a large hard working one and some are not shown. I hope that the Editor can find space to show a photograph including them all at some time.

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The Fifth of the Winter Ale

by Frank Nichols, Steve Nowell & Ian Stockwell

One Thursday evening, Oliver had been to a meeting of his Institute in King's Lynn and, after chatting a while, had left the premises at 8.12 pm. Larry had been to the QEH to visit a friend and after persuading the Ward Sister with a charm of which only he was capable, he stayed on 20 mins after visiting time and left at 8.20 pm. Miley thought he was making a supreme sacrifice by missing the last 5 minutes of 'The Bill' at the point where the police were about to reveal the identity of a serial killer. So he left home at 8.26 pm. The result was that all three turned into the car park of The Feathers at 8.30 pm precisely. After lots of courteous flashings of lights and gestures representing 'Oh no; after *you* Claude' they parked and got out of their cars simultaneously.

"Isn't that a coincidence?" said Larry.

"Yes indeed" replied Miley.

"Rubbish! Of course it's not!" exclaimed Oliver. (He was always the awkward one). "We planned to meet at 8.30 and that's what we did. Coincidences are not planned events".

"So what are..."

COINCIDENCES

enquired Miley.

"According to my Wizard Pocket-Sized Gem version of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary." pronounced Larry, who always kept this work of reference about his person so that he could check the spellings on notices, menus etc, "...a coincidence is 'a remarkable instance of apparently fortuitous concurrence' You asked for that!"

"Like when I was flying to Australia a few years ago and I found myself sitting next to my sister's brother-in-law's dentist's sister's chiropractor" chirped up Miley who was getting highly enthused about the whole subject.

"No" replied Oliver, firmly. "That is just a series of links. The longer the series of links, the less coincidental it is. Lots of people are linked to lots of others in some sort of way if only you could trace the links. Heavens above, Miley; I might even be linked to you. Ugh! But if, say, you and your sister were both on that same flight and there was no traceable reason or link involved for that to happen, then that *would* be a coincidence".

"Clear as ditch water" mumbled Miley, and he slouched off to get in another half-pint apiece.

Larry had been thinking. He spoke to Oliver. "You know I always arrive at church at 10 o'clock precisely on Sundays?"

"Yes; that's because you want a chance to chat up the lady choristers".

"And you always come in at 28 minutes past 10".

"I do". Larry went on. "Well, would it be a coincidence if we both arrived at 14 minutes past 10?"

"It would. Because it would mean that on that day you had been worrying for fourteen minutes because you had found a grey hair in that immaculately groomed black thatch of yours. And I was 14 minutes early because I had woken up prematurely wanting to go to the loo". Oliver was amazed by his own wit and even allowed himself to smile which was a rare event.

During the above conversation, Miley had slipped out of the bar. He returned some 10 minutes later. "I've just had a telephone chat with Miles Junior at home. He looked something up on the Internet for me. Did you know that one of the most amazing coincidences of life is something they call the 'Birthday Coincidence'? You see, a year has 365 days - excluding leap years that is. So you might think that, on average, you would have to have 366 people together for two of them to have the same birthday; yes? But it doesn't work like that. If we three are together, then Oliver's birthday is on such-and-such a date. I.e. there are 365 choices for his birthday. That means, for Larry to have a *different* birthday there are only 364 days left. And for me to have a different birthday from you two there would only be 363 days available. It can be shown by the Laws of

Probability that, and I quote; ‘for the chances to be better than even (i.e.50-50 or better) of two people in a group to have the same birthday, the group has only got to have 23 people in it. It’s all proved be proved by mathematics which I learned at KES. But I won’t bore you two peasants with the proof now!’ Oliver’s stare drilled through Miley’s skull. “In other words, if you take a sample of 23 people, it’s a better than evens chance that two of those people will share the same birthday”.

“So it’s not a coincidence at all?” queried Oliver.

“Well - no. S’pose not”.

“So why take all the trouble?”

“Because *I* thought it was interesting and *you’re a miserable old p.....k!!*”

“How about this, though, for a coincidence which really happened”. Larry recalled one of his South African adventures. “I went to stay with my brother-in-law in Jo’burg in ‘55. They hadn’t had rain for 7 years or more and conditions were terrible.”

“That obviously didn’t do much for your stunted growth!” quipped Miley.

“Shut up! Anyway, brother-in-law took me to see the palace of ‘The Rain Queen’ with a friend of his. The friend didn’t pull any punches in his contempt for the idea of a Queen who could make it rain. Rather unwisely, he said it to her face. That night there were hurricanes, storms and the like and the roof was blown off the hotel where we were staying. We were flooded out for 7 days and South Africa has had an excessive yearly rainfall ever since.

“So that explains your vertical disadvantage” persisted Miley “You’ve rotted away below knee level!”

“Do you think it is a coincidence that Miley is always last to get the half-pints in?” asked Larry. “After all, it’s turn and turn about for you and I to buy the first ones, but Miley...”.

“That’s no coincidence; it’s deliberate” said Oliver. But it *is* a case of Miley waiting for a coincidence to happen. He thinks that if he waits till last, there’s a greater chance of the landlord running out of our expensive ale. Then he would have to buy the cheaper stuff and couldn’t be criticised! But on a more serious matter, have you noticed that we’ve said that things and situations that happen ‘on average’ are not coincidences? What does ‘average’ really mean? If you agree, gentlemen, we will look at that subject for our next publication in Village Voice.”

“Then there’s the question of why, since the mid-fifties, have the clergy in the Church of England become increasingly bald? Is that a coincidence?” Miley was wide-eyed and alert as he said it.

“He’s flipped again!” said Oliver. Now run along and research it; there’s a good lad, Miley, and we’ll discuss it in the future”. Oliver raised one questioning eyebrow towards Larry and they all departed.



Do you remember when we all used to have friends and neighbours to pop in for a cuppa, bring a loaf of bread back from the shop etc?... Sadly it happens much less these days while unfortunately the elderly population increases. The Red Cross Home from Hospital service is increasingly being called upon to support patients at home during the early days following discharge from hospital. Could you spare an hour or two during their first 3 or 4 weeks at home to visit and check how they are, maybe get shopping etc? We are looking for reliable adults of all ages to support our work in the community, all expenses are paid and you don't even need to be able to drive!

If you think you may be able to help then please ring Sandy or Alison at the hospital for more information on 015536 13613 ext 2721.

See Ivan Green's Letter to the Editor p7



Dickie Melton - Bernie Twite - John Melton - Ian Hudson - David Carey
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 Tony Borley - Bernard Riches - Berris Davidson
 Pam Oakes - Stella Crisp - Betty Emerson - Margaret Senter - Ann Brown



R toop - A Bell - A Dilks - P Riches - P Cross
 A Langley - A Lincoln - Sam Drwer - Sheila Drew - A Beveridge - M Brown
 R Back - M Green - T Wyer - M Collison - N Simmons-, C Biggs

“Tales from the Fire Station”

We received some great feedback from our last article in the Village Voice so we have been asked to contribute on a regular basis, hopefully we will continue to inform and entertain.

As predicted the fires from July burnt themselves out and August though September have been much quieter. Fire-fighters Jamie Everett and Chris Humphries have been able to knuckle down and study hard. As the newest fire-fighters they are undergoing a two-year training programme to prove their abilities as fire-fighters. During September they attended a two-week course which qualifies them to wear Breathing Apparatus.

The “BA” is essential when dealing with fires; smoke can kill in seconds so we need protection to allow us to breathe when we enter building fires. Using “BA” can be very dangerous, we often enter into temperatures of over 400C and our training is essential so we can extinguish the fires and rescue people safely – luckily that does not happen too often! Fitting smoke alarms is the simplest way of preventing anyone of us being trapped in a fire in our homes. Simple to fit and relatively cheap all homes should have them. The fire-fighters from Sandringham can even help fit one for you, if you need some assistance then please give us a ring on 0800 9178137.

Crew Manager John Reed, on behalf of all fire-fighters nationally, would like to express a big thank you for all those that supported our National Benevolent Car Wash. A joint effort with fire-fighters from Massingham and Sandringham we set up a car-washing factory within Budgens of Dersingham car park. During the day, and despite a fire call to Snettisham, we raised £241 Budgens were once again very supportive, we would also like to thank P&A Autos at Ingoldisthorpe who kindly donated the equipment for washing the cars.

We always fear the call to a car crash and on the morning of 29th September our dread was realised. Tragically the accident that claimed the life of Charlotte Osborne. Of course we dealt with the incident with the professionalism that is expected of us but we returned in a sombre mood our thoughts, of course, are with Charlotte’s family and friends.

Regrettably there are too many people dying or becoming seriously injured on our roads, with this in mind I would like to take this moment to reiterate the Norfolk Accident Reduction Partnership’s message of driving safely. Accidents do happen but we can and should all review our driving styles to help reduce the risk of these happening to us.

Finally I am including a photograph (see facing page) of a very proud moment for the Sandringham Fire Crews. In April Her Majesty the Queen sat for a photograph with the station personnel at Sandringham House.

The fire station at ‘Dodds Hill’ originated from the Royal Fire Service who were based at Sandringham House. A formal hand-over to the Norfolk Fire Service took place in 1968. Although situated in the village of Dersingham it still retains the “Sandringham Fire Station” name. Many of the fire-fighters work for the Queen on her Estate.

Please feel free to contact us at the Sandringham Fire Station.

We drill on a Tuesday night from 7 pm

Ff Tim Edwards

Double think means holding two contradictory beliefs in one’s mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them.



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than one correct entry they will be
placed in a hat and a draw will be
made to determine the final winner

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10-11 am
- Friday** St Mary's Church Hall, Heacham
1-2 pm
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What's the point of Christmas?

Copyright: Hugh Mullarkey - 05-11-06

Will we ever attain that
State of Good Health
Where time is more precious
Than plastic-card wealth

Where people are tolerant, where people can share
Their knowledge, their hopes
And the value of care

Where life can be wholesome
And trusty and clean
More thoughts of what will be
Than what might have been

A place where true wisdom
And true common sense
Can both state their cases
And cause no offence

Where in respecting a promise
You promise respect
And are always aware
Of the price of neglect

Where a strong sense of duty
Can strengthen our lives
So that all obligations
Can be recognized

Now if this sounds demanding and a little bit trite
Then what was the purpose
Of the first Christmas night?

Just picture the scene with a Star and a Crib
And a promise of love
That need never sound glib.



Dick Melton's Column

Well now, in the October issue of Village Voice it looks as though the mystery of Dr Telford Martin has been solved at last. It was also very interesting to read the stories by George Porter, I knew his mother and father quite well as they lived only six doors away from me along the Lynn Road, and his grandfather, Mr Mickleburgh, kept his bees on a plot of land that was at the bottom of our garden, and I would stand near the hedge and watch him collect the honey.

A lady said to me the other day, "What do you know about the old flax factory at West Newton?" so I said, "Not much, but if I put a bit in the Village Voice we should get a good response as there were a lot of people from Dersingham who worked there." The factory at West Newton started up in 1934 and it operated all through the Second World War, a lot of the flax being grown on local farms. To start with it was pulled up by hand when it was fit, then, after a few years, it was harvested by a flax-pulling machine called a "Boby". Just after the war a lot of people were sent to work there from the labour office on what was called the 'Control of Engagement Order.' The factory closed down in 1958 but a lot of the buildings remained there for many years, and I think there are still one or two left.



The story about Sam Burlingham, who I have known since he worked at Sandringham, brought back a few memories. My grandfather worked and lived not far from Bridgham, his name was George Cook and he was a warrener from 1900 to 1942. He lived in a little hamlet, (two houses), called Smoker's Hole, which was about three miles north of West Wretham near Thetford. He had a wife and five children and lived in a semi-detached two-up two-down cottage with some outbuildings and a large garden. He received no wages but the cottage was rent-free. All his money came from the sale of his rabbit skins, the meat would go to feeding his family, his dogs and his beloved ferrets. He never owned a gun, he caught the rabbits with ferrets, nets, traps and snares. He would hang the skins out to dry on wooden frames in the garden. He worked every day except Friday, as that was a very special day when he would gather up all the dried skins, thread them on along pole, put the pole across his shoulders and walk all the way to Lingwood's Fur Factory at Brandon to sell them – a return trip of some 30 miles! On the way back to Smoker's Hole he would stop off at Thetford to buy his pipe tobacco, groceries for the week, and any replacement

nets, snares, string or rope that he needed. In the early thirties he bought himself a trade bike but he very seldom rode it, as it was always loaded up, so he pushed it everywhere. He never did own a motor car. In 1942 the Ministry of Defence (MOD) took over the land where George worked for army training (Stamford Battle Area), he was re-housed in a small terrace cottage in New Road, Thetford, and was employed by the MOD on the battle area cleaning out the ditches and mending the fences until he retired in 1948.

Just lately in Village Voice I have noticed that when people have mentioned the fields and the buildings opposite the Feathers Hotel they have called it the Emlands. This is not so, the proper name is Emblems or emblems, the definition of these words is 'land cultivated by a tenant farmer or smallholder' and that is what these fields and buildings were, a smallholding.

When I was a boy the Emblems field, especially in the winter-time when the pond froze over, was the most popular place to play.

I had a chat on the phone the other day with an old mate of mine from Dersingham, Fred Easton. Now most of the people in Dersingham know Fred Easton, and I have known him for sixty

years and have always found him to be a very interesting person, so here is a bit about him, which I have his permission to publish. Fred Easton was born in 1923, that's 83 years ago. His place of birth was Field Barn, Dersingham – you might say 'Where on earth is that?' or 'Where was it?' Well, you went up Dodds Hill Road, over the crossroads, up the Ling House Road, over the hill, you then came to a drove (Green Lane) that went to your left and right. You took the left-hand turn towards Shernbourne and half-a-mile along you came to two cottages, some sheep-pens and a cattle yard. Fred's father, also called Fred, was a shepherd for Mr Stanton from Manor Farm. When Fred started school at four years old he had to walk the two-and-a-half miles to Dersingham School at the bottom of Dodds Hill. It would have been nearer to go to Shernbourne School but he could not, as he lived in the Parish of Dersingham. Fred's mother died when he was quite young, so then Fred, his father, and the rest of his family, moved down into Dersingham to live in Beech Cottage, on the corner of Brooke Road and Manor Road. When Fred left school he worked on the farm, but he was always a 'wheeler-dealer' so it was no surprise that after the Second World War he set himself up as a used car dealer. Fred liked to move about a bit so he lived in a lot of different locations in and around the village, Malthouse Cottages in Chapel Road where he sold cars at the bottom of the garden, the big house next to Senters Row in Manor Road and Heath Road where he set up a permanent used car showroom and site. He then lived in more houses in Manor Road, Beach Drift, Sandringham Hill, the bungalow behind the flower shop and the Shrubberies. When he bought the Shrubberies and was clearing the garden of brambles and small trees he came across an Anderson Shelter which had been erected during the war. At one time Fred lived in a bungalow up Hunstanton Road and had also lived in Hunstanton, Snettisham and Heacham, but he always came back to Dersingham and now lives in Post Office Road. Fred also diversified from his car yard and at one time owned the Snettisham Concrete Works down Common Road, had a caravan club on Snettisham Beach, and everyone in the village thought that he was going to turn to farming when he bought some land down the marsh, but nothing came of that. Fred is a real old country boy and he always liked his shooting and fishing, for many years he put nets out on Snettisham Beach to catch the herring. Fred is also a family man with a son, Richard, who is a film producer and lives in London, and a daughter, Penny, who lives in Scotland. Well, that's just a bit about Fred Easton, Dersingham born and bred, and a real old country character.

Dersingham Walking Group

Our walks continue to be popular and enjoyed by those taking part. However, no new LEADERS have volunteered their services. As the next meeting of leaders (to plan the programme for the summer) will take place early in the new year, I should be grateful if anyone who would be prepared to lead a walk during this period would let me know before the end of 2006.

The programme for the first three months of 2007 is:

Wednesday 10 January start 1.30 pm from Dersingham Village Sign (on the Common) (map ref.L132/686 295). A 4 miles circular walk around Dersingham led by Michael and Valerie Smith (540728)

Wednesday 21 February start 2.00 pm from lay-by on A148 opposite junction with road from Sandringham (B1440) (map ref.L132/711 253). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Hillington and Congham led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940)

Sunday 4 March start 2.00 pm from Sedgford Church (map ref .132/707 365).A 5 miles circular walk led by Michael and Valerie Smith (540728)

Wednesday 14 March start 2.00 pm from drive opposite West Lodge, Houghton (on Bircham Road.) (map ref.L132/777 289). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Houghton and Peddars Way led by Keith Starks (542268)

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Keith Starks (542268)

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Saturday 2nd December
10am – 12noon



• Homemade Cakes & Sweets • Tombola • Raffle •

• Christmas Gifts & Games •

Proceeds for Guide Groups

MAYOR'S CIVIC AWARDS FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2006



Each year nominations are invited for the Mayor's Civic Awards for Voluntary Service and if you are aware of suitable candidates please ask the Civics Office for a nomination form. The awards are a form of recognition, for people from the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk who give of their time and efforts without reward for the good of others or to enable money to be raised for charity. Nominations can be made at any time between now and the middle of January 2007. The awards are presented at a ceremony in March and anyone who has ever attended one comes away quite humbled by all that heard about what people do.



There are so many people who do enormous amounts of voluntary work and this is an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution they make and simply to say "thank you".

Penny Harrison, Civics Officer, Town Hall, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 5EU

Tel: 01553 762124 – e-mail: civics.officer@west-norfolk.gov.uk

“SAM – Son of a Norfolk Warrener”

Part Two of a Series of Six



Formerly created in the form of a book written in 1998 to 1999 by Steve Nowell in conjunction with Sam Burlingham and now presented with their permission as a six part series in ‘Dersingham Village Voice’

Editor's note: This article is presented in its original format with little or no alteration to its content. Some of the expressions used in the account may not be as politically correct today as some may wish, but my opinion is that updating it to meet current standards would actually detract from what is a fascinating tale of this Dersingham man's life. Sam is now aged 86 years and still lives in the village.

Chapter 3 (1) - Early Days

Gordon Samuel Burlingham was born on November 5th, 1920. The 'Gordon' and '—uel' soon fell into disuse and from very early childhood he was simply called 'Sam', the name by which he has been known ever since. He says that 'Gordon S. Burlingham' is his 'official' title. For example it is how he is addressed by Her Majesty the Queen! (That is perfectly true; but more of that later.)

Sam was the second of seven children, all of whom were born in the cottage at Roudham. In decreasing order of age the children's names were: Cyril, Sam, Violet, Roy, Ruby, Bernard, Peggy. There was approximately one year between each successive child except for Peggy who was born some long time after the others. Unfortunately Peggy died before her first birthday but it was believed that she would have had Downs Syndrome had she survived, which Sam attributes to the fact that she was born during his mother's change of life.

Like all his brothers and sisters, Sam was born in his parent's bed. As soon as his mother (Jessie) went into labour, his father had to bike four and a half miles to East Harling to get the Midwife; then they both cycled back to Roudham. In the meantime, his grandmother used to come to the cottage to get the hot water ready and stand by in case the Midwife didn't quite get there on time! The family never owned a cot, so for about three years after a birth, the child used to sleep in its parents' bed after which it was transferred to a full-sized bed. There was a time when three boys were sharing a bed and this situation was only relieved when the eldest lad left home.

Sam sets great store by the fact that he and his brothers and sisters were all breast-fed. He attributes his robust, healthy life to having received natural anti-bodies from his mother's milk as a baby. But he is far from complimentary about many of today's mothers. "In my opinion, what's wrong with the modern day child is that the mother worries more about how her body will look rather than the welfare of the child. "Don't know why women have breasts today. They're not used for what they were intended."

The nearest school was at Bridgham and it was a 5-mile walk each day for Roudham children to go to school and back. School started at the age of 5 and ended at 14. The road between Roudham and Bridgham was little more than a track and the choice of footwear, for the boys anyway, was the much loved hobnail boot. Parents who clad their sons in this way were not so concerned about the walking to and from school; it was the harsh treatment which normal shoes would have suffered, like kicking flint stones for two miles, which worried them! When Sam and his brothers and sisters were at school, the school dinner had not been introduced so all pupils carried bags with sandwiches and a drink for lunch. In the summer the drink was sherbet lemonade, but in wintertime it was a mixture of cocoa, sugar and milk. At half past eleven the

teachers would put a big kettle on the fire of each of the two schoolrooms and at lunchtime the hot water would be ready to mix with the cocoa to make a very welcome hot drink.

At 11 years old, the boys went to woodwork classes once a week but that was at East Harling. So, wet or fine, they walked the two miles from Bridgham to East Harling every Wednesday dinner time for their afternoon class. Then it was a four-and-a-half mile walk back home, leaving East Harling at quarter to four.

Sam defines his abilities at school as "sort of average". He was no historian but liked arithmetic and geography. His forte was drawing however and with a smile of pride he explained, "In my class, it was only me what ever got asked to draw on the blackboard to explain things to the other kids". Despite being countryside born and bred, the children were often taken on nature rambles. This seemed strange to them because they thought they knew as much about the plants and creatures of the countryside as anyone else, but in retrospect, Sam is sure that these walks created a far better understanding and knowledge of how the various elements of the countryside interacted with one another to form the whole.

Sundays meant even more walking. The nearest church was at Bridgham. The children all went to Sunday School in the afternoon, then Sam went back again in the evening to sing in the choir for the Evening Service. (Even today one of his favourite TV programmes is 'Songs of Praise' but he complains that they play the tunes too fast for him to sing along with them). Ten miles walking in the day, but occasionally there was a break for him because on some Sunday afternoons in nice weather he and one or two of his brothers and sisters would be taken on his parents' bicycles to visit his grandparents in Snetterton. This village became the site of an aerodrome in the Second World War, after which it became a well-known racing circuit. There was hardly any traffic to contend with and Sam remembers that everything was so quiet that the only sound to be heard was the 'singing' of the wind in the telephone wires. The children used this sound as a backing for their own songs and tunes as they made their way to Snetterton. The grandparents were the parents of Sam's mother whose maiden name was Tooke. Mr Tooke was a shepherd and Sam recalls that he mostly wore breeches and leather buskins for work, but on Sundays used to exchange the leather buskins for soft material ones which he did up with a buttonhook. Mrs Tooke "definitely dressed Victorian" as Sam says, with long black, or dark coloured dresses. But the item of clothing which he particularly remembers was the long black lace-up boots which she wore. Mr Tooke owned a tub cart and the Sunday afternoon treat for the Burlingham children was to be taken for a ride round the village behind a pony. Occasionally, Sam's mother and father would take them for a longer ride on a Sunday afternoon - eight miles to Skelton to visit an uncle who was a Duck Plucker by trade.

Sam's other grandmother lost her husband before Sam was born. He remembers that the Victorian style of dress described above, with the long black boots was a sort of 'standard' dress for ladies of his grandmother's era. She had one of Sam's uncles living with her and brought up his children. The uncle had lost both of his wives and brought up his children. Every week she would walk two and a half miles to Bridgham to collect her pension; and every morning of the year, Sam or one of his brothers and a sister would walk a mile in both directions to fetch the milk for their own family and their grandmother. That may sound like a thankless task, especially on cold, dark, wet winter mornings but Grandma Burlingham always had a kitchen table full of home-made goodies ready at 7.30 a.m. when the children arrived with the milk and this was ample reward. To the best of the family's knowledge, this homely old lady never used a cookery book in her life; always used pure lard; and was never heard to complain about anything. Her philosophy was that everything in life had a positive aspect to it and there was a good side, even to the bad things of life. It was a sad loss to Sam's family when she died at the age of 84.

Despite the austerity of life for the family, they were happy. Toys, as such, were few and far between and to a very large extent Sam and his brothers and sisters, like other children of the area, made up their own amusements using whatever came easily to hand. To break up the monotony of

the daily walks to school and back, the children played games which are long forgotten by many people today. They formed teams of 'horses' for example, with a different driver each day and it was noticeable that the teams going to school in the morning were somewhat slower, and needed more rests than the teams going home in the evening which ran almost all of the way!

One favourite activity for the boys, but not so popular with the farmers, was sliding out of haystacks. Haystacks at that time were thatched to keep out as much rain as possible. If there was a ladder nearby, the young lads used to climb up to the top of the roof of the stack then slide down, with a final fall from the roof-edge. But Sam remembers one particular day when it all went wrong for one of his mates. The roof was secured by pegs driven into the stack, with string in between the pegs. The lad in question came sliding down the roof but got his foot caught in the string, which pulled his foot back under him and broke his leg. The thing that impressed Sam however was the display of spontaneous first aid by a couple of workers who saw the accident. Realising they could not carry the boy without causing a lot of discomfort, they disappeared for a few minutes and returned with a sheep hurdle which made the ideal stretcher.



Sometimes the boys would do a bit of fishing - mainly eel fishing - in the River Thet (from which Thetford gets its name) which ran near the school. The usual procedure was to collect some big fat worms on the way to school; thread a worm on a hook tied on the end of a length of line and attach a stone to the line to make it sink. The lines would then be cast at various points along the riverbank and staked down on the bank side. As soon as dinner break came round, and at the end of school in the afternoon as well, the boys would eagerly check their lines. Any big eels were taken home for the family. The skinning process was to drive a fork through the head into a piece of wood, then, with a sharp knife, cut right round the eel just behind the ears. The skin could then be peeled a little way backwards down the eel. With a deft hand and a damp cloth, the skin could be removed in one piece. The head was then cut off and the remainder cut into short lengths. These pieces when fried were almost treated as a delicacy.

Spinning tops was a popular pastime, especially with the girls. But it was difficult. The road, such as it was, was nothing much more than flint stones beaten down into the compacted surface of soil. Sam grudgingly admits that spinning tops on the road was something at which the girls could beat the boys! Similarly, "Them little ol' gals could do some right clever things bouncing rubber balls off walls and the like". But something which showed male supremacy was hoop racing. For this, an old bicycle wheel would have all its spokes removed and would be propelled by laying a stick of wood in the rim and squeezing it forward with a downward and forward pressure on the stick, directing it at the same time.

Bows and arrows were another favourite with the lads. A nut stick was cut from the hedge and strung with parcel string. Making the arrows was a bit more technical. There was a 50-acre field of swamp near the village where reeds grew in abundance. Reeds were used for the arrows but it took an expert young eye to tell when a reed was 'just right'. The sharp end of the arrow was given extra weight and width by sliding it over a short section of elder wood. The natural progression from toy weapons was, as one might guess, 'deadly' weapons. Every boy for miles around was an expert at making and using catapults. Again it took a youngster's professional judgement to determine which particular crotch stick had the right springiness, shape, and thickness. Targets for the catapults frequently found their way to the dining table in some form or another.

When designed and made by the Robin Hoods of Roudham, even the humble popgun became an almost lethal weapon. It would take a chapter on its own to go into all the details required to make this item but suffice it so say that there was a gentleman's agreement amongst all users that they must never be pointed at another person.

Calcium carbide was plentiful in the late 1920s as a fuel for lighting, especially vehicle

lighting. Carbide has the property that it generates gas when wet. So, what better use for this chemical than in 'carbide bombs'? Get a treacle tin, pop a piece of carbide into it; spit on it; put the lid back securely; wait a few seconds and then the big bang. The longer the wait - the louder the bang; in most cases anyway. But if none of the usual games or pastimes (ranging from harmless fun to deliberate deadlines) appealed to the children it was quite normal to make up their own amusements using nothing more than odd bits and pieces which could be found in the hedgerows. The annual school outing was always a trip to Great Yarmouth. The children would be picked up in a decorated horse and cart and taken to Harling Road Station where they would board the train for Norwich. At Norwich Station the coaches were uncoupled and re-coupled to another engine for the journey to Great Yarmouth. Most of the day would be spent on the beach, then the train would bring them back to Harling Road Station where the horse and cart would pick them up to take them home.

Chapter 3 (2) - Early Days (cont'd)

Friday night in the Burlingham household was bath night. The copper was in the corner of the living room and it was heated by sticks from the hedgerows. The bath was a tin bath placed in front of the open fire. Mrs Burlingham had a strict routine for Friday nights. It began with tea, then for each child in turn, starting with the youngest it would be bath; dose of syrup of figs "just to make sure that things kept working properly" says Sam; then bed. In wintertime, after tea, Mrs Burlingham would put a brick in the oven for each child. Then as each one went to bed, he or she would get a brick from the oven; get it wrapped in brown paper or an old sock, and that would be the equivalent of a hot water bottle. It was just as effective as the more modern hot water bottle too, apparently. There was no such thing as mains water anywhere near Roudham in Sam's young days so the drinking water was taken from the well in the garden, and water for washing (both personal and clothes) was obtained from the water butts place at the comers of the house to catch the rain water from the roof.

The standard mode of dress for the boys, until they left school at 14, included short trousers, and long socks turned over just below the knee. Always the same, summer and winter. "It got a bit chilly round the knees in winter" says Sam "but we never thought nothing of it. We didn't keep still long enough to get cold. We worked hard and played hard. That was our life, even as kids. Mother always told us 'a belly full of good grub; cleanliness and a warm bed; and you won't go far wrong.' Reckon she was right 'n' all."

On summer evenings the children would occupy themselves with outdoor activities but many of the long winter evenings would be spent indoors as a complete family. The greater part of life at that time (late twenties - early thirties) in remote rural spots such as Roudham was dedicated to self-sufficiency and making what one could out of readily available materials. Consequently, winter evenings were often occupied by parents and children making such things as peg rugs (strips of material woven on to a sack backing); knitting (boys included!); French knitting; making snares for rabbiting; or repairing rabbit trap nets. A lot of the light summer evenings were spent outside until it grew dark or until it was time to come home. But Sam remembers two particular sights they used to see as the evenings got dark. All the children were fascinated by the eerie lights of the glow-worms, which seemed to be everywhere. The children tried to pick them up but were seldom successful. They were told that the glow was from the female glow-worm trying to attract its mate during the mating season. The other sight, which sticks in his memory, was from the Norwich to London railway line, which ran across the bottom of the meadow near Sam's house. At that particular spot the track started to go into an uphill incline and the fireman on the train had to stoke up the boiler to get up sufficient steam to tackle the gradient. "On a jet black night you couldn't see the train itself at all. All you could see would be the silhouettes of the driver and the fireman against the brilliant orange glow, which lit up the footplate. It was an impressive, powerful sight."

Although the Burlinghams were a large family and with a very limited income, Jessie made sure that they were always well fed on wholesome food - sometimes at the expense of her own

welfare. If food was short, it was always Jessie who went without before anybody else. She also lived by certain rules and of life and health, which had been handed down through the generations. The saying that Sam remembers well, and still uses himself today is "Feed a cold - starve a fever". It invariably worked. Wild rabbits frequently appeared on the dinner table, in a variety of dishes, and these were supplemented with plenty of Norfolk dumplings, rice, steamed puddings, and above all a plentiful supply of fresh vegetables. It was a rule of Sam (Senior) that everybody had to sit up to the table for every meal. The youngest member of the family would sit in a high chair, until old enough to graduate to a proper place at table, which he/she retained for the whole period of living in the house. No one was allowed to speak during a meal and everyone had to remain seated until the last person had finished his meal. There were exceptions, but they were rare. Sam recalls that one had to have a really good reason to be excused from the table before the end of the meal. His father had a stick close by his chair to ensure that table manners and a discipline were enforced. "And he wouldn't think twice about using it" said Sam.



In common with all other children throughout the Christian world, the Burlingham children looked forward to and enjoyed Christmas. Mr and Mrs Burlingham made sure that it was a happy time for their children despite the fact that money was scarce. Jessie Burlingham saw to it that there was plenty of good food for all. The children all wore knee length socks as youngsters, so before going to be on Christmas Eve, they each hung up a sock on the mantelpiece. When they came down in the morning each sock would be filled with an orange, an apple, nuts, sweets and colouring books with coloured pencils. Easter also was a time the children welcomed because it meant a new frock for each of the girls and a new pair of knickerbockers for each boy. This new attire was worn for the first time on Easter Sunday.

DERSINGHAM EVENING WI

September 2006

The September meeting is the "Welcome Back" after the summer break meeting. President Dianne greeted three visitors and us and then we were plunged into the business of the evening. It had been a busy summer - during which we had taken part in the village Flower Festival, a "Walk to" Tea Party at Pam's, which had raised £20.00 for our funds, and the Macmillan Coffee morning. On a lighter side Dorothy acting as quiz-master encouraged us to rack our brains with questions on "Old Money" i.e.: £. s. d. Time to give the grey cells a rest as Shirley casting herself as a harassed "Marriage Guidance Counsellor" in the reign of Henry VIII with the Monarch himself supposedly at the other end of the telephone with his marital problems. This sketch was very funny, performed in Shirley's inimitable style. What is becoming quite a regular feature produced and enjoyed by members are the home-made snacks - on the menu Savoury Starters - no need to have had a meal before coming to the meeting, a visit around the large variety of food would have more than sufficed. To close, an auction with May as auctioneer conducted very light-heartedly for a very good cause, with such items as a beautiful silk scarf to the more mundane but necessary a pedal bin, the sum raised added to the monies from the Macmillan Coffee morning amounted to over £300.00 and growing, hopefully not too many members went home clutching objects that were later to prove of no practical use - but would later make good presents for unsuspecting recipients!!!

It takes two to speak the truth,-one to speak, and the other to hear.

Henri David Thoreau 1817-1862, A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers, Wednesday.

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Hunstanton & District Rotary Club

There are over 30,000 Rotary clubs in the worldwide Rotary movement which recently celebrated its centenary, having been founded in Chicago in 1905. Since then it has spread to literally every continent on earth, with the obvious exception of Antarctica! The principal aim of Rotary is to enhance the quality of life in the community. This extends from the immediate local community to national and international ones. The Rotarians motto is 'Service Before Self' and this accurately describes their motivation in helping communities. It's all a matter of putting something back into society.

Hunstanton Rotary club's three high profile annual events are the Hunstanton Carnival and a weekend at Norton Hill Light Railway, both held in July; and the Kite Festival and Classic Car Rally, held in August. Of these, the Kite Festival is Rotary's own main fundraiser of the year. The main focus for the Carnival is to provide a platform for local charities and other organisations to raise their own funds.

All proceeds generated for Rotary go into a charitable trust fund to be used as needed throughout the year. The club makes donations to many local causes. In addition to such direct payments, the club also organises community based projects, many aimed at the local youth. Citizen Awards are made annually to local schools. Each school is invited to nominate a boy and girl who have demonstrated 'service above self'. They each receive a certificate and an award of £25. In addition, a special Centenary Award - consisting of a £250 bursary - is made each year to a student of Smithdon High School who has successfully devised and organised a project for the benefit of others. The winner is selected by Hunstanton Rotarians and Smithdon Governors. Next year Hunstanton Rotary will be instituting a Community Award. This will be presented annually to a person who has consistently made a contribution to the community which can be described as 'beyond the normal call of duty'. Nominations are currently being sought.

As well as making donations from this fund to benefit our local community, the Hunstanton club also supports international causes. As an example, in 2005 the club donated money to an orphanage in Sri Lanka following the tsunami. To ensure that all of this money found its way to the orphanage, the money was initially transferred to a local Sri Lankan Rotary club which then oversaw the actual spending process. Hunstanton club also negotiated additional funding from Rotary International. The then president of Hunstanton Rotary, Philip Mayer, together with members of his family, visited the orphanage in January of this year and was happy to report back on the effective use of the money.

Membership for the Hunstanton & District club comes from an area roughly within 10 miles of Hunstanton. There are 33 members, compared with the European average of 44 per club. Regular meetings are held every Wednesday lunchtime throughout the year, together with a liberal smattering of special meetings and evening events. Contrary to common myth, women as well as men can join Rotary. If you would like more details please contact the secretary, John Hunt on 01485 533424, or visit hunstantonrotary.org.uk.

Looking back: This report was in Village Voice in December 2005



At a ceremony which took place at the Dersingham Recreation Ground on Saturday 15 October 2005, Alderman George Pratt, a former Mayor of the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and, until June of 2004, Chairman of Dersingham Parish Council, was honoured by the unveiling of a plaque bearing his name which was to be installed on the roundabout on the King's Lynn approach to the village. The presentation was made by the Mayor of King's Lynn, Trevor Manley.



News from Dersingham Schools

Both schools are starting to prepare for Christmas so that it will be very special for our pupils and parents. The two schools are working together with the church to produce a Christingle service. This will be at 6.00 pm, on 14 December, at St Nicholas Church. This is a family occasion and the children will be able to hold and take home a Christingle candle, which will be lit, with parents' supervision, during the service. The Christingle candles will be available from the back of the church from 5.30 pm onwards for a £1 donation towards the work of the Children's Society. The service will also feature the joint schools' choir, who can also be heard singing at both of the schools' Christmas Fairs in December. Everyone in Dersingham is invited to join us for the Christingle Service.

School Christmas Fairs

Dersingham Infant & Nursery

Friday 8 December at 5.30 pm

St George's (CE) Junior

1 December 3.15 pm

Please come along and support your local schools in their fund raising efforts

Christmas Plays

"Old Uncle Sam"

12 - 15 December in school time

"Christmas"

6 & 7 December at 6.30 pm

Carol Singing

The joint Dersingham Schools' Choir will be out and about singing in the community this Christmas. We hope to sing at the coffee shop and at The Gables nursing home this year

Last day of term Tuesday 19 December
Schools reopen for pupils on Thursday 4 January 2007

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from
Dersingham Schools

Jackie Austin

Ann Pope



It is one thing to show a man that he is in error, and another to put him in possession of the truth.

John Locke 1632-1704, 'Essay on the Human Understanding'

Dersingham Horticultural Society

Despite the far from ideal growing conditions of the past unpredictable growing season our 18th Annual Show was, yet again, very successful.

A minor disappointment was that the number of entries was down on previous years but this deficiency would have been much greater had it not been for the Herculean efforts of our show secretaries, Derek and Maureen Asker, for on the Monday before the show they had received only 100 entries, but several telephone calls, allied to their persuasive talents, secured a significant increase by show day, which caused a large amount of last minute effort on their part.

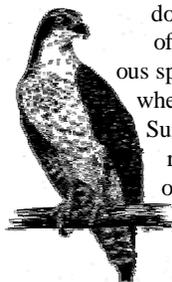
However, it was to the credit of all the exhibitors that, although the quantity may have been less, the quality of the entries was of the usual high standard. In fact, a judge who had been to several local shows this year commented that the produce on display was the best that he had seen.

It is regrettable that there are not more competitors in the children's and junior classes, but those that do enter do so with sometimes surprising imagination and creativity and receive their awards with pride, enthusiasm and excitement.

Incidentally, while talking of awards, a non-member and first time exhibitor was extremely pleased to carry off the cup for the "Best Dahlia" in show. Our thanks to all who supported us and contributed to the show's success.

September Meeting This was a truly professional and interesting presentation on the work of the Hawk and Owl Trust by its education officer, Leanne Thomas. Leanne began by showing a DVD – by means of top-flight equipment – demonstrating the work of the trust nationally.

This comprised conservation work with peregrine falcons, barn owls, harriers and ospreys. In so



doing, among many other interesting facts, great emphasis was placed on the value of the essential work which is necessary to provide the right materials for the various species (e.g. for barn owls, nest boxes and the management of motorway verges where they may hunt and suffer many casualties).

Surveys are carried out by the trust and it was of some interest to learn that one such revealed that most casualties among racing pigeons occur by them flying into overhead lines and cables. Peregrines, which take the pigeons at random, account for 3.7% of casualties, and sparrowhawks, which tend to swoop as the pigeons are released from their lofts, account for a further 3.7%.

The second half of Leanne's talk was concerned with the trust's work at its local reserve at Sculthorpe Moor in the valley of the River Wensum. With its original 62 acres now grown to 200, the extensive conservation work has produced great dividends with massive increases in aquatic and other invertebrates. With the trapping of mink, the water vole population has increased and a dog otter now patrols the reserve's river boundary – aholt has been built to entice it and, hopefully, a mate to take up residence.

Another area has been cleared of nettles and hemlock and is now home to three highland cows, and their efficient grazing is already producing a resurgence of long lost wild flower species.

Ospreys are regularly seen on passage migration and an osprey nesting site (a platform on a tall pole) has been erected in the hope of encouraging them to stay.

Leanne's talk made all present to eager to visit the reserve and a visit has been planned for members in spring 2007. The reserve is open all year (free) except Mondays and Christmas Day.

Thanks to the efforts of our Events Organiser, Ruth Mountain, our October meeting starred our most prestigious speaker to date, namely, Bob Flowerdew.

Nominally a talk on "Companion Planting" it ranged far and wide and demonstrated not only his deep and vast knowledge of the plant kingdom and organic gardening but also that of the wider natural world.

Packed with essential facts, interspersed with humorous anecdotes and interesting digressions, one of which was a quote from 'Punch' magazine in 1846 bemoaning the use of sprays and chemicals on crops, which was exactly 100 years ago, before the formation of the Soil Association.

In general terms Bob told us that companion planting is beneficial and a mixture of plants is usually more successful than plants of the same species planted in groups.

However, this is not always the case and some plants give off the harmful gas ethylene which inhibits the growth and can even kill their neighbours.

A pine needle mulch will improve the flavour of strawberries, aromatic plants inhibit the growth of seeds, carrot flies can detect our crop from seven miles away, and most insects prefer single to double flowers – just a few of the facts that Bob disclosed. But best of all was that digging was unnecessary provided that the soil is properly cared for (correct feeding, mulching, etc.) during the year. In some instances it may even have a negative effect.

I feel sure that all those present, both members and non-members, were delighted by Bob's easy manner and the serious content of his talk together with the expert style of his presentation. All in all a memorable evening.

David Clark (543182)

School Run by *Sheila Bryant*



He's gone at last, this husband of mine,
Flying away to loftier climes,
With bags tight packed and tickets bought,
Vegan meals booked and a window seat sought.
Money exchanged (but not too much to spend), at least one postcard home he'll send!



He's off to Nepal, some mountains to climb, the monsoons are over, hope the sun will shine.
We're building a new school in Kathmandu you see,
For the children with nothing, not like you and me.
No GameBoy, no I-Pods, no computer to play with, just living each day, no future to cherish.
With tombolas and car boots, quiz nights and bingo,
Card sales and lemon curd and generous donations,
We've raised enough money to make it happen, a school has been built and is ready for action.
He's taken out crayons and pencils and paper,
For the children to practise the skills they'll be learning,
The smiles will be broad and very heart-warming.
He's away for a month, so I'm on my own, to wash the car and mow the lawn.
Our friends are so nice they've even intoned, if I need a man "Just pick up the phone!!"
Now that's an offer too good to be missed! We'd like to say thank you to all who support us,
With purchase, donation, for now and tomorrow,
And the children who'll learn in the school that you've funded,
Will know that their futures are brighter and are certain.
But please keep on giving whenever you see us, at car boot, tombola or card selling session,
It just needs a little to help them to live, and we have such a lot, we have so much to give.

Merely corroborative detail, intended to give artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative.

Sir William Schwenck Gilbert 1836-1911, 'The Mikado'

Dersingham Fen Update by Steve Donoclift

Hello all,

Just a quick up date on the year's work in the Fen. Well from a bit of a wobbly start at the beginning of the year, when things did not go to plan with the felling work, I am sure that you will agree that Nature is a wonderful thing and what was a bit of a mess has recovered very well indeed.

I am sure you will agree with me that the vista now created will and does enhance the view. I still need to finish a little bit, so as to widen the splay a little more; so please folks bear with me.

The Heather on the Fen is very healthy indeed, with lots of new growth from areas we cleared two years ago. There will be no heather cutting this year. However I expect to have some more of the mature heather cut next year.

The up and coming winter work will be as follows:

1. To open the splay out slightly
2. To ensure that we keep on top of the Birch, Pine and Oak re-growth on the Fen - this will mean pulling them up during the next few weeks.
3. To ensure that the ditch on the western side of the fen is clear of Birch and to have the ditch partly cleared during the winter month's.
4. To maintain the paths so people may enjoy the Fen.

Work on the Common:

This year I decided to have the bracken sprayed, and although not an instant effect, this method will produce an effective long term solution to the bracken problem. The bracken will need to be sprayed again next year and thereafter I am hopeful that very little will be left. The problem is the Gorse, there is no effective herbicide so I am fast coming to the conclusion that we will have to cut it. I am hoping to have two information boards made, one to be sited on the Common and one on the Fen, It will be a decision by the Parish as to where they are sited I am yet to get some ideas together for the boards, I will keep you informed.

Lastly I am sure you will be pleased to know that Dersingham Fen has won a CPRE Norfolk Award. So despite all the ups and downs and all the hard but enjoyable work that sites like these present we are doing something right! So many, many, thanks to Ash Mu rray of Natural England, all the local contractors who have helped me on the Fen and a big thanks to the Parish and Trustees for their support.

What's on at Dersingham Library in December



Pre-school storytime from 10-30 -11 am on Thursday December 7th. This will continue every two weeks into next year. Pick up a list of 2007 dates when you visit the library.

Family History drop-in will also be on the 7th from 5.30-7 pm. We will be changing this slightly from December when we hope regular attendees will be able to run a self help group. Staff will be on hand to help with internet searching.

The Reading group meets on Monday December 18th at 6 pm. New members are always welcome.

We have our Christmas storytime on Wednesday 20th December at 2.30 pm. Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult.

Merry Christmas to all from the library staff!



Tuesday January 2nd

The Strolling Players
offer
**A YULETIDE
ENTERTAINMENT**

Wine, women (and men), song, wit, verse and savouries.

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday February 6th

David Grimes

Will be showing part
Of his legendary collection of

Old Postcards

with the Focus on
Sandringham

&

King's Lynn

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

Norfolk's Natural Areas

5. East Anglian Plain

The East Anglian Plain is the largest 'natural area' in England. It curves down through the heart of East Anglia from Fakenham in the north to Chelmsford in the south. At first sight, the area doesn't appear to have much to offer the naturalist with its dreary looking farmland and equally uninspiring towns and villages. However, rich wildlife habitats can be found scattered throughout the plain – surviving fragments of an ancient landscape that once covered the whole area. There are river valleys with their species rich grazing marshes. Fens, where the sedges and reeds are grazed by an old breed of Polish ponies, which look like those painted on the walls of their caves by artists from the Stone Age. There are old hedgerows that surround fields full of skylarks and other ground nesting birds. Hay meadows where the nodding blooms of fritillaries can be found flowering in their thousands in early spring. But most of all there are the woodlands.

The East Anglian Plain has many ancient woodlands. These are special places - remnants of a very old way of life. Their trees were coppiced (cut low to the ground to produce straight stakes from the 'coppice stool'), pollarded (cut higher so the new growth was clear of grazing animals) or left as standards. They produced timber for fencing, building, fuel (often by turning wood into charcoal), furniture, utensils and tool handles. They were also grazed by livestock, especially pigs (pannage), and were a source of herbs for cooking and medicine. The holly and mistletoe we bring into our homes at this time of year is a link to pagan belief systems forged in these ancient woodlands. Traditional woodland activities proved highly beneficial to a wide range of wildlife including many species of flowers that thrived in the open woodlands and birds such as nightingales that bred in the areas of new growth. The soil of the East Anglian Plain is mostly heavy clay that was difficult to plough and drain with the implements available to medieval farmers. This is why the area has such a rich woodland heritage. The most attractive of these woodlands are on the calcareous clays that support brighter spring flowers.

England is not a very well wooded country compared with our European neighbours in terms of the area covered by trees. But we are much richer in ancient woodlands and old trees. It has been said that trees grow for three hundred years, rest for three hundred years and then spend three hundred years gracefully dying. Today, ancient woodlands are faced with a triple whammy. Firstly, the traditional uses of woodland have been in decline for centuries. Without these activities, woodlands become overgrown and less rich in wildlife. Secondly, the burgeoning population of both native and introduced deer are having a very negative effect on woodland ground flora and tree saplings. Finally, introduced diseases are devastating many woodland trees.



The conservation of ancient woodlands is fundamentally different from the conservation of other wildlife habitats. It is possible to restore and even recreate wildlife rich habitats on areas of degraded land. Heathlands and wetlands are beginning to appear throughout the region and some of these are on landscape scales. Even the much-maligned farmland can spring back to life with care and dedication as can be seen locally at Abbey Farm, Fritcham and Courtyard Farm, Ringstead. Ancient woodlands are different; they are partly about wildlife and partly about history and heritage. They link us to the medieval rural economy and further back to the wildwood that once covered the entire country. They can't be created by planting trees or destroyed by cutting them down.

Things to see on the East Anglian Plain

Hatfield Forest – NT Herts. This is a unique example of a medieval hunting forest with wood pasture, ancient woodland, wetland and some superb pollarded hornbeams - all within earshot of the runways at Stansted. Read Oliver Rackham's 'The Last Forest' before your visit if you want to

see the wood for the trees. **Bradfield Wood** – SWT (near Bury St Edmunds). This is one of Britain’s finest ancient woodlands with written records of continuous use from 1252. Bradfield Wood is a good place to search for the almost mythical black poplar. **Wayland Wood** – NWT (near Watton and technically in Breckland). This is a superb ancient woodland with added interest because it is *the* ‘Babes in the Wood’ wood. **Foxley Wood** - NWT. This is probably the most accessible ancient woodland from Dersingham - signposted off the Fakenham to Norwich road (badger’s head on brown tourist sign). It has massive coppice stools and a fine display of bluebells. **Fox Fritillary Meadow** – SWT. Up to 300, 000 fritillaries can be seen growing in this old meadow in the spring. Contact Suffolk Wildlife Trust for details of their open days that are arranged to coincide with the blooms and are usually sometime in April. **Redgrave and Lopham Fen** – SWT. This rich wetland is on the Norfolk/Suffolk border. A herd of konik ponies graze the fen and help maintain some superb wildlife habitats. The great raft spider is a major draw for visitors to the reserve (not recommended for those suffering from arachnophobia!).

Remembrance Tree



As usual, Tropics Hot Food Take-away at 21 Hunstanton Road, Dersingham will be putting up a tree in our front yard and would like you to join us in forming a Remembrance Tree this Christmas. We would like you to come to the shop and just put your loved one’s name onto a tag, which will then be

LIGHT UP A LIFE WITH TAPPING HOUSE HOSPICE

Christmas is a time of celebration, a time of sharing, a time to reflect and reminisce with friends and relatives. Each year over the Christmas period Tapping House Hospice holds a number of Light Up a Life services to celebrate the lives of friends or family members who are no longer with us. This year we are producing a special keepsake Remembrance Booklet, in which everyone who is remembered will be included. If you would like to dedicate a light to someone special and receive a copy of the booklet, please call the Fundraising Department at the Hospice on 01485 542891 and ask for a form to fill in to tell us who you wish to remember.

If you would like to take the opportunity to make a donation to the hospice at the same time we would be most grateful. Any gift, large or small, will be appreciated. To give you some examples, the cost of delivering our services, which are free to all our patients, includes: £25 to provide a one-to-one counselling session; £50 to pay for a palliative care nurse to carry out a home visit; £100 to provide specialist equipment to aid mobility and independence, and £150 to provide therapeutic day care for one patient including complementary therapy, creative activities and lunch.

Our Light Up a Life services this year will take place at:

Sandringham Visitor Centre, Monday 11 December at 4 pm
Downham Market Town Hall, Monday 18 December at 6 pm
Hunstanton Town Hall, Wednesday 20th December at 6 pm.

There are also other ways of supporting the hospice throughout the year; we are currently looking for local volunteer drivers to bring our patients to and from the hospice in Snettisham. If you have a car, a clean licence and a few hours a week to spare for this vital and rewarding task, please contact the Voluntary Services Manager on 01485 543163.

Tapping House Hospice

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Looking back: This report was in Village Voice in December 2005



Approximately five years ago youths of the village requested that thought be given for a skateboard park on the Recreation Ground. This was put before the Full Council who delegated it to the Recreation and Environment sub-Committee. . The facility was officially opened by Borough Mayor, Trevor Manley on Saturday 15 October 2005



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History Restored

by Kathy Jordan © 23 October 2006

On the eighteenth of October – two thousand and six,
With sun shining brightly on mortar and brick,
Eight centuries of history came into view,
As Greyfriar’s schoolchildren carried lanterns through –
That awesome arch standing – no longer alone –
With aged Friary foundations outlined in new stone.
Revamped restful gardens – still a haven to pause –
And remember those lost in past or present wars.
One hundred felt tiles made in yellow and green,
By youngsters who laid them where clay ones had been –
They ushered Mace-Bearers and the Mayor into place –
She opened the proceedings with humour and grace –
Whilst those living grey statues stood silently still –
Or sat for so long with such iron steel will –
Swiftly springing to life – through past ages to play,
As the school choir sang songs composed for the day.
A ‘Franciscan Friar’ and his ‘servant’ emerged,
As the slow toll of a bell was hauntingly heard.
A white rose for each guest was so grandly given,
Then some ambled along – or were chauffeur driven –
To the chequered Town Hall – to devour or debate –
With regret I left early – my bus to await,
On board I reflected how lucky I’d been –
To have witnessed that day’s historical scene –
Restored to its glory – rescued from caving in –
The Greyfriar’s unique – leaning tower of Lynn!!

Dersingham Methodist Church.

Dersingham Methodist Church warmly invites you to join in our Christmas Celebrations.

Saturday 9th December 10.00 a.m. Christmas coffee morning, come buy gifts, cakes, see the decorated church and enjoy the coffee. Proceeds for the Refurbishment Fund.

Join us for our services on;

Sunday 17 December - 10.30 am - Family Carol Service led by Elizabeth Macleod.

Sunday 17 December - 6.30 pm - Carols by Candlelight led by Philip and Elizabeth Batstone

Sunday 24 December - 10.30 am - led by Brian Ogden

Christmas Day Service - 10.00 a.m. - led by Sheila Johnson

Calendar dates as above plus

Saturday 20 Jan. - 10.00 am. - Coffee morning

Saturday 17 Feb. - 10.00 am - Coffee morning





GET YOUR SKATES ON AT SANDRINGHAM

Come and enjoy an hour's skating on our real ice rink in the beautiful surroundings of the Sandringham Country Park. Available daily* from 4 December to 7 January starting at 11 am with the final session at 8 pm

Adults £7.50

Children (Aged 14 and under) £5.00

Includes 1 hour skating and free skate hire

Contact our Skating Hotline on
01553 612909 for further details

* with the exception of Christmas Day

**New
for 2006**

St. Nicholas Church Dersingham



Flower Festival - The theme for this year's Festival was "Through all the Changing Scenes of Life" the flower arrangers' choice of music, songs and hymns were depicted in floral displays of a rich tapestry of colour to complement the Church. Months of planning and hard work by the organisers, flower club, and all the flower arrangers and helpers went into producing a very successful Flower Festival. On the Friday Evening there was a concert by the



Cantabile Youth Choir. On the Sunday Evening Songs of Praise was led by the Bishop of Lynn, together with an augmented choir and the Snettisham Salvation Army Band, a wonderful finish to our Festival.

Arts & Craft Festival - The Church provided a superb setting for many fine paintings created by local artists. In addition Hunstanton Camera Club exhibited many extraordinary examples of their work. The praise for overall quality was frequent from the many who visited. Of particular interest were those who actually demonstrated their craftsmanship. It all created an inquisitive interest perhaps inspiring some to do the same.



Serving as a backdrop to both paintings and photographs, Dersingham Flower Club created exquisite examples of "flower art" displayed on the church pillars complemented by floral arrangements around the church. In the adjacent Church Hall were Craft stalls, selling a variety of hand-made articles, again some demonstrating their craft. Refreshments were available during the day. Overall a very successful Festival that finished with a well-attended Evensong Service.



Christmas Tree Festival - We will be holding our 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Festival to celebrate the Feast of our Patron Saint Nicholas on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 1, 2 and 3 December. The Church will have 20 plus 6 ft Christmas trees decorated by the local Clubs, Schools and Societies in the village. The church will be open 10 am to 4 pm Friday and Saturday and from 12 noon to 4pm on Sunday.

Christmas Fayre - On Saturday 2 December in the Church Hall there will be the St Nicholas Christmas Fayre 10 am to 4 pm with lots of stalls with Christmas Gifts & Decorations, Cards, Tombola and a Raffle. There will be refreshments all day of scones, sausage rolls, soup and a roll and a traditional pudding, warm mince pies with tea and coffee. Please come along and join the fun!

Sunday normal service 10.30 am and 6.30 pm there will be a Festival Evening Service.

Our normal Coffee Morning will be held on Friday 8 December.

Sunday 10 December 3 pm. The West Norfolk Singers will be holding a Concert of Christmas Music, Songs & Carols in the Church. Tickets £5 including refreshments

Thursday 14 December 6 pm Children's Christingle Service

Sunday 17 December 6.30 pm Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 20 December 2.30 pm. Mothers' Union Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve 24 December - 11.30 pm - Midnight Communion Service

You are all invited to the above events/services in December

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 5

All was going very well; when suddenly on the 6th June there was considerable aerial activity, planes with strange markings were flying over, one of our sergeants told me the "2nd front" had begun at last; it had been announced over the radio. The invasion of Normandy had started.

When Hitler abandoned his idea of invading England early in the war he had turned his military might on Russia and a long and bloody battle had raged ever since; millions of young men had been killed and wounded. During this time there had been an ever increasing opinion among the British people urging the government to start a "2nd front" in order to take some of the German army away from the onslaught on Russia.



We very soon moved into the New Forest where facilities had been installed so that we had no need to unload our vehicles, cookhouses, canteens, showers and equipment for us to workout and keep fit were all there, I was allocated a place for the medical equipment in our instrument repair wagon, this was a vehicle similar to a mobile home, built on a high chassis, I landed on the beach in this vehicle.

We remained in the New Forest until "D + 8" (8 days after D day) when we boarded a Tank Landing Craft (L C T), I learned later that we had been due to cross the channel on "D + 6" but the sea had been much too rough for crossings by the craft we were in, after a very rough passage we landed on the beach at Asnelles near Arromanches on "D + 9", by which time fighting on the beaches had ceased, we quickly made our way up the beach, over the dunes and stripped our vehicles of the waterproofing which had been applied earlier, after which we drove inland to a farmyard location not far from Bayeux.

I found space in a barn for the medical equipment and as there was a liberal amount of straw around I laid my blankets in a suitable spot, the workshops spread themselves around the farm, where possible under trees and hedgerows to camouflage our whereabouts as much as possible. We were now in a large bridgehead and the front line forces were fighting desperately to hold on and enlarge the area and also to gain foothold in some towns and docks.

Compo rations were now our main source of food; Boxes containing sufficient food for seven men for one day or conversely for one man for seven days, the food in these boxes was pretty good.

We remained in this situation for several weeks and during that time we made a large tent, about 12ft square for the R A M C to be used as a hospital tent. At this point I feel I should point out that among the machinery we packed in Northern Ireland at the end of 1942 was an industrial sewing machine and I used this throughout the Italian campaign, now it was with us in Normandy, very useful! "Q: What did you do in the war daddy? A; I used a sewing machine to help win the war, Son!!"

After a few days letters arrived and amongst the first to arrive was one from my mother telling me my father had died, this did not surprise me; he was a very sick man when I last saw him. I applied for compassionate leave; not surprisingly I was told this was impossible under existing circumstances, I wrote home to mother.

During our time in the bridgehead I and one or two mates took a walk into Bayeux I spotted a number of soldiers of the Royal Norfolk Regiment amongst them was a man I had lived near to in South Lynn we had been at infants school together but after that we had gone different ways and lost touch, we met again after the war at a regimental gathering.

At about the time that we completed the hospital tent allied forces broke through the German defences and headed towards northern France through a narrow gap at Falaise, this was known as the " Falaise gap". The Germans were on both sides of a long column of our forces moving northwards and made repeated attempts at cutting into and stopping the column, they occasionally scored a hit and disabled a vehicle, our unit lost one vehicle through this type of enemy action.

A command was issued that no attempt be made to recover any disabled vehicle; anything causing an obstruction was to be pushed off the road in order to keep the column moving. As we progressed slowly on our journey we witnessed the destruction that had been wreaked on the French towns and villages by the thousands of allied bombers we had seen flying over during the time we had spent in the Normandy bridgehead, some were completely flattened and our engineers had bulldozed a passage through the debris.

Hundreds of dead German soldiers bodies lay decomposing in heaps by the roadside causing a strong nauseating smell; no doubt they were given a decent burial when circumstances permitted.

Animals were suffering, cows needing to be milked, as they had been accustomed to; were in distress, one of our men was quite capable of doing this but to do so would have given only temporary relief; whenever we moved on the suffering would start again, if left alone the milk supply would dry up and the animals would recover, having tuberculosis in mind it would not have been advisable to drink the milk.

We came to a halt at the end of a day and very quickly our cooks produced a hot meal and gallons of hot tea. The scenes we had witnessed were extremely disturbing and live in the memory to this day.

Our next move was made under cover of darkness; a difficult task for drivers, no lights were allowed; the exception being a light installed beneath the rear of each vehicle and beamed to the banjo casing of the rear axle; the casings were painted white with each units own number, usually 2 or 3 digits, painted in black. Drivers had to concentrate on the number on the axle of the vehicle in front. To lose sight of this meant losing the convoy, the journey was slow and arduous; however, we made our destination intact.

Our cooks once again produced a meal and tea. Drivers checked their vehicles for oil, water and tyre pressures etc ready for the road in a few hours time, it seems the cooks and drivers were the only people doing a job of work, the rest of us were simply eating and finding a place to lay down and sleep; in lorries, under lorries under hedgerows etc.

It was during one of these halts that I came across a hand operated milk separator; a machine used to separate cream from the milk, having used one of these when spending school holidays on a farm with an aunt and uncle I could not resist giving the thing a "crank".

Once in motion these machines give off a continual extremely high pitched sound which in this instance sent a message to a number of cats, unfortunately there was no milk to be had but they gathered around the machine waiting hopefully; poor creatures, I wondered how long it had been since they'd had a drink of milk, and how long it would be before the next one?

Throughout these movements my fellow textile-refitter and I travelled in a lorry with the two carpenters as we did during the whole of the campaign in Europe. There had been no news from home for several days and some of the men were beginning to get a bit homesick, anyway, slowly we made our way northwards. In Arras we were greeted by thousands of people in the streets, cheering, waving climbing on to vehicles with flowers and big hugs and kisses but there was no stopping, on we went.

By this time the French people were beginning to take revenge on those among them who had

collaborated with the Germans during the occupation; I witnessed beatings in the streets, several men and women beating one man, on two occasions women who had had their heads shaved were being dragged through the streets and spat at; tempers were flaring.

A short time after this I was feeling unwell but was reluctant to report sick, one of our drivers came to me who was looking decidedly ill, he had a temperature of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit and I was initially puzzled, his pulse was racing; a medical officers services was required urgently; I was directed to a Canadian medical unit not far away and a truck and driver were placed at my disposal.

I was certain by now this was a malaria case, but how and why? I expressed my thoughts to the medical officer and he dismissed the idea altogether insinuating the man was a malingerer and no treatment was prescribed. I knew this man well, we first met in Ireland, in no way could he be taken for a "Dodger".

On arrival at our unit location I went to the Adjutant's truck hoping to find the location of another M O; without success, after a few minutes talking with the Adjutant it was decided I should return to the M O and endeavour to explain to him the situation more fully, the M O listened to what I had to say and filled out the necessary form for me to take the patient to a field hospital for further examination.

In mitigation and in fairness to the Canadian M O I must point out that he and his fellow soldiers had arrived in Belgium with no experience of war zone life, the patients' temperature had been 100 degrees when I first examined him but such is the nature of the suspected disease that when the M O examined him it may well have dropped to normal, during the M O's training he had been taught to be on the lookout for malingerers.

At the hospital a simple blood smear examined under a microscope followed by external, hands on examination of the pancreas, which swells and becomes painful during attacks of malaria proved positive; the man was admitted. I requested a similar test, which was granted; owing to a misunderstanding I was sent back to the unit, a message for me to return to the hospital and be admitted arrived the next day. I was admitted to an army hospital set in a nunnery.

We were suffering a benign type of malaria, rest and doses of pills was the treatment. Our efforts to ward off the malaria-carrying mosquito when on service in Sicily had been thwarted. Only one other case became manifest; 3 cases amongst 90 men not bad I suppose! Relapses; each becoming weaker, would occur during the next few years from time to time. I suffered one relapse before discharge from the army and 3 more over a period of about 4 years after discharge from the army.

The day after my admittance to the hospital an artillery battery situated nearby began a duel with their German counterparts and we lay wondering when one of their "whiz-bangs" might land off target; thankfully it didn't happen, what the outcome of the duel was I would never know. As I lay there I thought of the family and how they were faring; I had received no news since the breakout from the Normandy beachhead.

After about 10 days I was sent to a rehabilitation centre and was reunited with the man from my unit who had also recovered from his bout of malaria, our Company Sergeant Major came along and returned us to the unit in the north of France, letters from home had arrived with the news that all was well and I replied right away.

We moved on into Belgium at a slower pace than hitherto, setting up workshops wherever possible to carry out maintenance and repair work. Enemy resistance was becoming stronger as we moved northwards, there were also pockets of enemy forces remaining in France, which had to be dealt with to prevent any interference with our very long communication and supply lines

Arriving at Ypres our workshops were able to catch up on a backlog of work, we stayed there for a few days longer than we had done in recent locations and were billeted with Belgian people in their homes, we were made most welcome and comfortable by these people. All too soon we

were ordered to leave yet another very pleasant situation and move on.

We moved to a position near Antwerp for a week or two and then on to Nijmegen in Holland, battles were being fought to keep a hold on river bridges while preparing for the big push to cross the Rhine into Germany, during this time we were on the receiving end of enemy artillery fire when one of our lorries was hit and burned out, luckily none of our men were injured.

We were amazed, one day, to see planes flying overhead each towing two or more gliders, there appeared to be thousands of them; we learned later this was the ill-fated drop on Arnhem.

By November 1944 the Allies had liberated France and Belgium and the port of Antwerp was opened. At about this time the 50th infantry division was withdrawn from the front, we withdrew to a village in Belgium and were given the task to service about 50 Buffalo tanks; amphibian tanks, in readiness for the Rhine crossing, my task was to kit each tank out to specification with ropes, anchors and barge poles.

Here we were billeted in the homes of the local population and once again I was called to attend to the medical needs of the locals, which I was able to do without neglecting my part in refurbishing the tanks. Having completed this task we moved to a village near Antwerp docks where we serviced and prepared Canadian vehicles that had arrived at the docks, for the road.

The Germans were now using a new type of weapon to wreak havoc on London, it was an unmanned flying-bomb known as the "V 1"; launched from specially constructed ramps in the coastal areas of France and Belgium, radio controlled and timed so that the engine cut out over London and its approaches, it then dived and landed indiscriminately; exploding on impact.

The Londoners dubbed it the "Buzz Bomb"; it could be heard as it was approaching but when the engine "cut" it was impossible to judge where it might land and explode. Some of these over flew our positions on the continent and occasionally cut, dived and exploded prematurely. The RAF did have a modicum of success in shooting these down, and I did hear a report saying our pilots had on occasion used their wingtips to send the bombs off course and into the sea.

The RAF went into action and demolished the launching sites, which brought an end this threat. The next terrifying and destructive weapon thrown at London was known as the "V 2", a rocket propelled bomb, which unlike the "V 1" was inaudible as it approached, it would land without warning and explode on impact, causing destruction, death and injury over a wide area.

The launching sites for these had been very cleverly concealed and our air and ground forces experienced considerable difficulty searching them out and destroying them, the only way to stop their use.

The end of the war in Europe was announced on the 8th of May 1945 and to celebrate; one half of our men were granted a day pass and the other half a pass the following day, the majority threw discipline to the wind and celebrated both days, a well stocked café in the village opened it's doors to all and sundry and a good time was enjoyed by civilians and military for 48 hrs. We carried on with the work for a while. Equipment was required for the occupation forces in Germany.

Looking back: This report was in Village Voice in December 2005

A Quarter Peal of Doubles was rung before morning service to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of Admiral Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar.

The ringing consisted of 480

St. Martin's, 360 St. Simon's, 480 Plain Bob and 120 Grandsire. Treble; Elizabeth Wheeler. 2; David Emerson. 3; Tony Owen . 4; Alan Bell. 5; Gordon Wilkinson. Tenor; Alan Polaine.

Conducted by Tony Owen.

Five of the six bells in Dersingham church tower would have been ringing at the time of Trafalgar.

The Tenor bell, cast by Thomas Newman, was exactly 100 years old at the time and the number four cast by John Draper, our oldest bell, was 175 years old in 1805.

Looking back: This report was in Village Voice in December 2005

The newly erected skateboard park on the Recreation Ground has been vandalised by fire and by a deliberate attempt to smash through the ramp with a scaffold pole between 1.30 am and 5.30 am on Thursday 24 September. The result has been the closure of the area until repairs had been carried out. The Parish Council's insurers will meet the cost of repair to the £10,000 of equipment. (See a separate report regarding the official opening of the feature in another part of this issue).

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A day in the Life of a Community Librarian

I've been working for Norfolk Libraries for 17 years (phew!) and I've seen a lot of changes over that time, but I have to confess I love my job more than ever. Since July I've had a new role as Community Librarian covering Swaffham, Hunstanton and Dersingham Libraries and, as the name suggests, I'm spending more time in the community, visiting schools, talking to local groups and promoting the library service.



I thought I'd give you an insight into a typical day in the life of a librarian - as no two days are the same - and then perhaps you'll understand why I love my libraries.

So it's a Tuesday and I leave my home in Lynn, and my first stop is Hunstanton Library where I haven't been for a few days, to check my desk and catch up on the latest news about our mini refurbishment. We are going to be closed for 3 days next week while we have a new counter, new DVD stands and a bit of a move around.

Can't stay long as I'm due at Redgate School to talk to each class about a special event we're having on Saturday for family learning week. It's a language storytime where we have readers who'll tell stories in Polish, Greek, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Russian. Lots of laughs asking the children what words they know in languages other than English, particularly the boy who recites one to ten in Russian by adding a '-ski' to the English words, and the boy who knew how to say 'I am a chicken' in Bulgarian I think it was.

Back to Dersingham to arrange the chairs before a school visit - this time from a class from St George's for a special Black History Month poetry performance from American rapper Ainsley Burrows. He wows the children (and I) not least because he can rap poetry so fast!

A quick lunch then I'm off to Snettisham School to talk with one of the teachers about setting up a lunchtime reading group for boys. We talk a lot, and end up arranging an open evening for parents to talk about how important it is to read to your children, and the best books you can share (while at the same time promoting my 3 libraries!). Things spiral and we decide to extend the invite to local schools and see what happens. Too late - by the time you read this it will have happened!

Back to HUN for a late internet taster for adults. Tonight there are four adult beginners and it's wonderful to see how much they understand after an hour and a half and how their confidence grows. That's half the battle - simply overcoming fears that the internet is too difficult for anyone over 16 to master! But I like a challenge. We regularly run one-off sessions at all Norfolk libraries so if you fancy a taster, just ask when you next visit.

Well that's me done. I'm off to read - currently gripped by a book for teenagers called Man V Beast by Robert Muchamore. Clever stuff...

*Happy library visiting, Alison
Alison Thorne, Community Librarian, Norfolk County Council*



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Dersingham First Responders *Help Save A Life!*

Dersingham First Responders

Paula, Tim, Keiron, Yvonne and Jason are still working hard responding to medical emergency from West Newton to Snettisham. I have heard people ask questions about what a first responder is and how to join so I would like to answer a few questions:

What is a first responder?

We are all volunteers who, having been alerted by the East Anglian Ambulance, respond to calls to give life saving first aid assistance. We all have varying degrees of first aid training from a fully qualified "Nurse Practitioner" to "First Aid at Work". All first responders complete a "First Person on Scene" course which qualifies us to undertake first responding duties.

Why do you need first responder when you have the ambulance service?

It is a proven fact that the quicker someone receives defibrillation (special electric shock) following a cardiac arrest the better their chances of survival. Unfortunately we do not all have a defibrillator in our homes or an ambulance at the end of our street but we do now have a first responder available to attend in our local area.

Are the responders available 24/7?

As we live and (some) work in your local area the special equipment and our skills are available to you almost all of the time but unfortunately as we give our time voluntary and only have five current responders we are unable to give 24/7 cover but with more volunteers we would be able to increase the amount of cover we give.

Why have we asked for donations?

The ambulance service provides the defibrillators and oxygen. It is then the responsibility of each first responding group to fund raise for extra items of equipment and for training aids. Local residents and community groups have been very kind donating money to us for these resources.

What is it like to attend a call?

Every call is different and as we usually arrive before an ambulance the pressure is on us to help. Our adrenaline is flowing and we need to call upon all our skills and knowledge when the patient is really poorly. Sometimes when we arrive the patient's life is not at immediate risk - if this is the case then we still need to calm the situation and ask some questions – maybe administering oxygen to help the patient. It is always nice to hand over to the paramedics knowing that we were able to help before they arrived.

How do I find out more?

You can call Tim Edwards on 07919 492225 to discuss anything about us including ways in which you could help in fundraising or to volunteer as a first responder.

A tenant's letter to the landlord

"The toilet is blocked, and we cannot bathe the children until it is cleared."

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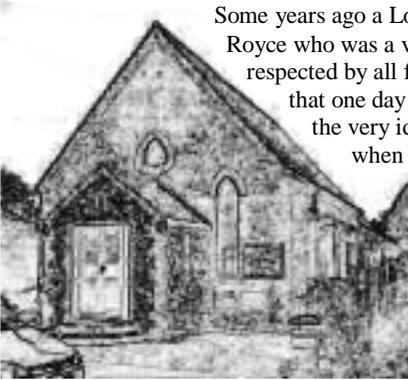
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Dersingham Fellowship is part of today's Lynn Christian Fellowship

Greetings From The Manse



Some years ago a Local Preacher Called Jack told me about a man at Rolls Royce who was a very skilled tradesman, he was called Len. He was respected by all for his engineering ability. Jack once made the prediction that one day men would get to the moon, but Len promptly ridiculed the very idea. Previously he had also displayed the same scepticism when Jack expressed his Christian beliefs to him. “Bah, humbug,” was what he usually said.

Unfortunately Len died some five years before men eventually landed on the moon. Jack had often thought that if he had lived to know that men had reached the moon he might have realised that being wrong in one thing he might well have been wrong about Jesus Christ too. Jack often wondered why some people are sceptical about anything they cannot understand?

Which brings me round to a topical December subject, Santa Claus. Jack, who was a wise old bird, was no great lover of Santa, Santa Claus, Father Christmas, or whatever you wish to call him. Now isn't that deplorable! How can anyone not like the benign, bewhiskered benevolent old man whose sole aim is to fill children's stockings for Christmas Day, or with high-tech designer stuff nowadays?

Jack had thought about this a lot and was very able to explain his position, to really enter into the Santa Claus story. He said, we have to convince very young people he exists and to a young child gazing with wide innocent eyes at a bargain store this is not difficult. He does exist, for he is there before his or her very eyes. Of course, as we grow older we come to recognize that Father Christmas is a pure mythological, or should we say commercial figure, but if we really face up to it, hasn't anyone who has assured young children of the reality of Santa Claus been guilty of innocent deception?

Psychologists tell us that childhood impressions can have an influence on our entire lives. I wonder what turned Len, Jack's former workmate all those years ago, into the sceptic he became? Did he class Santa Claus and God and Jesus together as mythological figures and so sweep them out his mind? This set Jack pondering the wisdom of continuing the Santa Claus business. Couldn't we just say to our Children, “We celebrate Jesus Christ's birthday at Christmas, and He told us to love one another and that is why we give each other presents, to display that love.” This is dangerous ground, for every Christmas we have at least one story in the press about a clergy person who bans or poo poos Father Christmas. And I don't want that to be me this year!

But Jack didn't expect to see ‘Santa Claus’ declared redundant in the near future either, but he wanted to bring things into their proper perspective when he remembered that no one has ever died proclaiming Santa Claus as an historical figure, but many have died claiming Jesus as just that, and millions have lived and died declaring and believing that he is the Saviour and light of the world born among us.

P.S. I do like Christmas really, honest! Every Christmas blessing to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Kim Nally.

A tenant's letter to the landlord

"Will you please send someone to mend our broken path. Yesterday my wife tripped on it and is now pregnant."

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Almost better than a cup of coffee to start your morning...If you need a laugh, read through these Children's Science Exam Answers. These are real answers given by children.

Q: ???Name the four seasons.**A: ???Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.**

Q: ??Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A: ???Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists .

Q: ??How is dew formed?

A: ???The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: ??How can you delay milk turning sour? A: ???Keep it in the cow.

Q: ??What causes the tides in the oceans?

A: ???The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

Q: ??What are steroids? A: ???Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

Q: ??What happens to your body as you age?

A: ??? When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q: ??What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A: ???He says good-bye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery

Q: ??Name a major disease associated with cigarettes. A: ???Premature death.

Q: ??How are the main parts of the body categorized? (e.g. abdomen.)

A: ???The body is consisted into three parts---the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels, A, E, I, O, and U.

Q: ??What is the fibula? A: ???A small lie.

Q: ??What does "varicose" mean? A: ???Nearby.

Q: ??Give the meaning of the term "Caesarean Section"

A: ???The Caesarean Section is a district in Rome .

Q: ??What does the word "benign" mean?'

A: ???Benign is what you will be after you be eight.



St Cecilia's Church
 Catholic parishioners from Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Hunstanton and St Cecilia's in Dersingham were joined by Anglicans from St Edmund's in Hunstanton for a most enjoyable pilgrimage to Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday, 21 October. After Evensong, Fr. James Fyfe posed with the group in front of the pulpitum in

this magnificent cathedral. In the morning he had said Mass in the Angel Choir and the group was given a guided tour of the cathedral, which included props in the Chapter House from the "daVinci Code", which was filmed there recently, starring Tom Hanks.



Walkers from Hunstanton RC Parish, which includes St Cecilia's in Dersingham, gather before St Edmund's

arch in Hunstanton on 17 September 2006.



Walkers gather at the Presbytery at Our Lady's in Hunstanton before setting off on the sponsored walk on 17 September 2006, which raised £1372.90.

Catholic Church Services at

Christmas & New Year 2007 - Parish Priest: Fr James Fyfe St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham

9 pm Christmas Eve: First Mass of Christmas

9 am Christmas Day: Mass of the Dawn

9 am 31 December (Sun) Feast of the Holy Family

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and St Edmund

30 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, PE36 5DR

11 pm Christmas Eve: Carol Singing and Midnight Mass at 11.30 pm

11 am Christmas Day Mass

My Patch

By Gardenwatcher



Sun. Aahh, that's nice, well perhaps I will turn around just once more. Good, a thick patch of geraniums to sleep in. They haven't come back for a second flowering this year even though my master cut them back after the first lot of blooms. They have, however, got a lot of mildew on them, as have a lot of other plants this year. Must have been that lovely hot sun that I was sleeping in this summer.

From this spot I can keep an eye on the Rowan tree. It still has a lot of berries on, the Pyracanthas have as well. Not nearly as many blackbirds around this year to eat them though and don't blame me! I have only had two or three this season.

My master is getting the mower out, I hate the mower but not

as much as I hate the vacuum cleaner. Whizz, roar roar, how can I get to sleep now. The grass has been growing at a rate of knots since the rains returned but the whirling blades are making short work of the green carpet, not to mention the daddy-long-legs that are being chopped into bite sized chunks as a sort of bonus. Less of them means that I won't be disturbed after dark by my mistress shrieking that there is one in the kitchen and that my master must destroy it immediately, unless of course she spots a spider....

Wed. Had an exhausting day guarding a pile of grass cuttings by sleeping on them. Must have done a good job as they were still there when I was woken up by him deadheading the Dahlias. He never digs them up and they seem to last well from year to year. This dead-heading lark seems like a full time job, he's at it all the time.

Fri. They still seem to be picking the runner beans. There have been loads this year after a slow start. Sometimes she puts a few surplus bits in my bowl. Yuk! I must take steps to remind them that I am a carnivore, perhaps a few dead mice around the place will do the trick.

Mon. Yesterday afternoon's savage rain and squalls ruined a few of my favourite nesting places. He has been out today cutting back the damage and stuffing it in the new brown bin. He seems to be pleased with this addition to the garden, as am I, it is just right as a jumping off point to get over the fence.

Thur. He has decided to clear out the natural pond today. A foolish decision on his part to plant some Parrot Feather last year resulted in the whole pond being filled with the wretched stuff. Still it's all gone now giving me a better view of the Golden Minnows that dwell within. Trouble is that they are so small that it is not really worth the wet paw I get pulling them out, so I will leave them in case the good times don't last.

Wed. The end of October and all this warm weather is making it difficult to justify not going out for my beauty sleep, as they keep urging me to do, for this is the start of my sleep in front of the fire season. Everything is still green and in flower. The species Fuschia has just started flowering and the Abutilon is smothered in blooms. The grass is still growing as are the hedges so he will be making a mechanical racket again no doubt. Still the bats seem to have gone away for the winter, I wonder what they taste like?

Tue. Windy today so have stayed in. Some of the big pots outside have been blown over but his plants in them seem OK. The runner beans have been cut down but the old skinflint has left the roots in. Apparently they form tubers and will grow next year if the frost doesn't get them. We seldom get any frost in my garden as it is surrounded by trees so my paws stay warmer when they have me get out of the house. This makes the digging easier but as he leaves his bulbs in all year I usually find something already buried in the holes I create. It's Halloween tonight so I might leave a few treats in the drive. A nice fat rat or pigeon corpse should do the trick.

Yeeeeow.



Introducing Our Village Pharmacist – Piotr (Peter) Merks



I was born in Poland on 21 February 1979 in Ostroleka, a small city of 65,000 inhabitants near to the capital Warsaw. My family had to settle down there because of the German occupation. All of my family still live there. Mum was an exchange student in Oxford, so she always instilled in me the idea of studying different languages. She was pregnant with me during her stay in England. So I have been here as a foetus before. English was always in the first place, then German and Russian, later a bit of Finnish, and Spanish. Currently I understand Russian and speak a bit of German. I do not have a

chance to practise so I have forgotten a lot. Anyway I do not really want to practise them as I consider them as being useless. I am happy to be here and using only English. My Zodiac sign is Pisces and I am single. My mum runs a private business as a dentist, my father is, like me, a community pharmacist and also runs his own business in Poland. My mum got married again and my step-father is one of the most famous Polish professors being well known in my country and abroad. He is a leading researcher (main topics: drug delivery systems and bio-availability) for many world famous pharmaceutical companies which are resident in Poland at the moment.

About myself: I completed my M.R.Pharm.S. thesis subject “Bio-catalysis and Bio-transformation in Drug Synthesis” at the University of Lodz in 2004 at the faculty of Pharmacy. Part of my degree was done at the faculty of Pharmacy, University of Kuopio, Finland. My thesis was written in English there as an exchange student. I underwent my pre-registration training at Community pharmacy “Cefarm” for three months, then I left for the rest of it to Finland, at one of the best European hospitals, famous because of cardiovascular surgery at Pirkanmaa Hospital District in Tampere, which belongs to the University Hospital, Department of Pharmacy. While undergoing my pre-registration there I managed to organize my clinical placement in Australia. I have a keen interest in clinical pharmacy and I love to gain new experience. I love my job. If I had a chance to study again it would be pharmacy!

I then moved to the Westmead Children's Hospital in Sydney Australia, for some time before starting practising in community pharmacy in Norfolk, Kings Lynn for Alliance Pharmacy UK.

Had a short time there before becoming a locum for Lloyds, Boots and Co-op pharmacies.

I will explain shortly why Australia. And why I decided to go there. I have a keen interest in clinical pharmacy. Although Australians all the time complain about lack of funds they have very good clinical pharmacy and advanced training systems there. As with almost all Poles we are very competitive and always want to be the best. It was a hard job that I had to face, nobody can even imagine, but it is said “Fortune favours the bold.” Well, what can I say, Sydney, Sun, and Sky...

About The Children's Hospital at Westmead - The Children's Hospital is at Westmead, about 28 km from Sydney city, next to Westmead Hospital but not part of it. It is a stand-alone service dedicated to paediatrics located at the corner of Hawkesbury Road and Hainsworth Street, Westmead. I was advised of the details here. I was offered shared hospital accommodation at around \$70 (Australian) per week. This was quite reasonable as prices in Sydney are around double this for poorer quality hotels. I started working with our pharmacists under supervision. At present there are not enough staff to fully complete all the clinical work that I would like to see, but, hopefully, in the future they will be successful in justifying more pharmacists. They managed

to provide a much better level of staff supervision and training by the time I arrived. At the time there were two pharmacy graduates from Sydney University so I was put through the type of program they were undergoing. This involved helping in the pharmacy but also accompanying ward rounds and observing a number of clinical scenarios, case studies, etc. which were then presented to the staff. I attended all their continuing education sessions and staff meetings. I was so enthusiastic - this was the kind of experience I was interested in.

My job in Sydney: I was involved in visits to ward areas and accompanying pharmacists on their ward rounds and meetings, observing and helping with in and out-patients, dispensing as well as working within the IV Admixture service. Pharmacy have a complex of clean rooms and when fully staffed we will be providing all parenteral cytotoxic drug doses, all parenteral nutrition requirements, all antibiotics etc. At the moment they still outsource preparation of some of these products at great cost. The problem is that there are the physical facilities to copy – not just the personnel in them. Observing clinic visits and treatment episodes in various specialties.

More: During my stay I managed to get in touch with one of recruiting agencies from the UK. I was really homesick so travelling 24 hours didn't suit me much. I wanted to be closer to my home, Poland. I was looking for new challenges as well. I was offered an interview for a pharmacist position in branch 698, London Road, King's Lynn and I got the job. I managed to stay there 6 months. It was a difficult task for me, but a great experience.

So far so good: I have been a registered pharmacist in this country for more than a year after coming here on the Polish/UK reciprocity scheme.

After six months I was transferred to branch 844 Dersingham, where I am the full time resident pharmacist. I am really happy to be here. People are very friendly and my staff members are fantastic! I am happy to give my advice and use my broad experience to offer professional advice under the wings of Alliance Pharmacy, which, in my opinion, is one of the best companies I've ever worked for. I am devoted to all my patients and I am expecting them to pay me back with a nice smile! All customers are welcome to book an appointment with me for a free medicine check-up.

My main interests in pharmacy are; - Chronic prostatitis and pharmacology -New technologies - Social Pharmacy -Drug Utilization and Pharmacoepidemiology -Health Care Systems. I have experience in working in international organizations: The Chairman of the Supervising Board AEGEE - Lodz, Poland, an organization founded by a former president of France. (Associacion des Etats Generaux des Etudiants de l' Europe.)

I am still writing and publishing articles for the Polish pharmaceutical press in Poland. I am well known in all scientific environments in Poland. The name of the journal is: "Poradnik Aptekarski" (My own article every month, and I am a member of the board.) I was also publishing also for "Gazeta Aptekarska", another polish journal, but I stopped this as the contract was not good enough.

Tourism: I have visited many countries: Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, Croatia, Slovenia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Czech-Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Spain, Italy, France, Finland, Malaysia, Australia, UK - and I am planning more...

Future: Hopefully get into the pharmaceutical industry or involved in clinical trials, or teaching at the university. Get a nice girlfriend, travel a lot, enjoy my life before I decide to have babies!!!

A tenant's letter to the landlord

"In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope."

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Christmas Teaser

Between 10 and 40 changes have been made to the lower picture. How many can you find?



Send your answers to the editor and the nearest calculation of how many changes have been made will win a prize. In the event of a tie we will make use of the editor's balaclava!

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CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP

The Carole Brown Health Centre PPG concluded at its AGM in September that it could not, unfortunately, justify the expenditure incurred in producing its own periodic Newsletter. However, the Editor of this publication kindly agreed to guarantee some space in each edition for a PPG input on health related matters. I hope to include information that details the PPG's efforts and that informs on health related matters.

At its AGM the Chairman, Mrs Vanessa Blythe, thanked staff at the Carole Brown Health Centre for all their hard work during the year noting that they had processed over 55,000 appointments during the year. The PPG had brought influence to bear on major funding decisions by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) as well as on operational issues affecting the practice. The Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Dee Morris, reported that the financial position of the group was healthy although, during the year, expenditure had exceeded by a considerable amount the income derived through fundraising and from donations. All the PPG officers agreed to continue in their posts and Mrs. Jackie Sisson kindly agreed to serve on the committee. Following the AGM, Sister Carolyn Rix (pictured left)



briefed the group on the use that was being made of the equipment purchased by the PPG for use in the health centre. She stated that PPG's contribution was a major factor in helping to improve the health care that they were able to provide for their patients.

THE NEW HEALTH CENTRE. Within the village, rumours regarding the new health centre abound! The PPG officers have been advised that by 6 November, the lease for the building would be signed, that construction would commence early in the New Year and completion estimated for March April 2008. Incidentally, the practice is unaware of any plans to charge for parking, so please kill off that rumour! The developers aim to make a press release in November so by the time this edition of Village Voice 'hits the streets', there may be some further elaboration on the situation. The final plans for the layout and content of the new health centre are now available and can be viewed by contacting Tom Morris on 01485 541450.

PRIMARY CARE TRUST. The West Norfolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) no longer exists and has now been amalgamated with all the other former PCTs in Norfolk to form the **Norfolk PCT**. The current contact details are below but there are plans to relocate to Dereham in summer 2007:

Registered address: St Andrew's House, St Andrew's Business Park, Northside, Norwich, NR7 0HT. Tel: 0800 587 4132.

CHRISTMAS DRAW. The PPG is extremely grateful to the following businesses who have so generously contributed prizes for the Christmas Draw due to take place on 15th December:



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Having heard many remarks made by newcomers and visitors to the village regarding one of the most outstanding features of the area, the Editor makes no excuses for reproducing this article which has appeared in a previous issue of the magazine

Goose News

by David Bingham



This article was published in Village Voice Issue 25 December 2003

I'm often asked why the geese we see over Dersingham in the winter fly in V formations. Whether or not the ones in front are the leaders seems to be of particular interest - presumably because the formations are reminiscent of squadrons of fighter aircraft or company organisational charts with the goose equivalents of squadron leaders and departmental heads. The answer is that the geese are using the upwash generated at the wingtip of the bird in front to gain extra lift and the lead bird changes from time to time.

All wings generate what are called wingtip vortices, the strength of which is related to the wingspan. Jumbo jets produce such powerful vortices that a safety gap is needed before a following plane can take off. It is possible to calculate the position a pink-footed goose would have to maintain in order to maximise the benefits from the vortex generated by the wingtip of the bird in front of them. This is known as the optimum wingtip spacing (WTS_{opt}) calculated from the equation $WTS_{opt} = 0.5b(1 - 0.89)$, where b is the wingspan. Pink-footed geese have been photographed in flight from below and they do indeed attempt to maintain this wing spacing. This leads naturally to the familiar V formations. The theoretical energy saving from flying in formation could be as high as 70%. However, this depends on the geese keeping in line and flapping their wings in unison. Pink feet are small light geese and, as you will see if you watch the formations, they have trouble keeping in line and in step. The average benefit each goose gets from formation flying is therefore much less than the theoretical maximum and has been calculated at around 2.5%. This may well be very significant on their long migrations to and from their breeding grounds in Iceland.

Pink-footed geese mate for life and they migrate in family groups with the parents leading this year's offspring. The skeins we see over the village are a gathering together of these family groups. Some say it is possible to distinguish individual families within the formations. I'm not convinced of this but you might like to try.

Co-ordinated dawn pink-footed goose roost counts 17th November 2003. Snettisham (10,768) Scolt (42,400) Wells (47,750) Total 100,818. This is a new record count for the area.

The world population of pink-footed geese is c250,000.

In a later article Edward Cross, a farmer from Fritcham, quoted:

'We love having the geese on our farm and they are one of the great sights in the long, cold, wet winter months'.

A tenant's letter to the landlord

"The toilet seat is cracked. Where do I stand?"



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News in Brief

Congratulations go out to Leah Searle on achieving a skydive to raise money towards the fund in memory of her well-known and popular brother Jamie Griffin, who died in a car accident. Leah, a member of the staff at the Feathers Hotel, hopes that she will have raised around £420 by her effort.

Two more members of the Sandringham Detachment of Army Cadets are set to be members of the armed services Corporal Gareth Everington is to join the Coldstream Guards and Sergeant Frans Navarro is preparing to become a Royal Marine. We wish them both well in their chosen careers.

The gang of ram-raiders who attacked Thaxters Spar Supermarket and Dersingham News in the village have been found guilty of these and many more offences – involving a reported £500,000 in stolen property and the same amount in damage caused by their activities.

Dersingham Sports Ground looks set to have a major problem resolved when the £13,000 which they have raised towards essential drainage works to the Pastures is supplemented by a grant of £15,000 from the Borough Council. The pitches on the sports ground have been so badly affected by water-logging that a number of matches have had to be called off during the past season.

The Flying Geese Patchwork and Quilting Group who meet fortnightly at Snettisham Methodist Hall held a coffee morning on the 28th September for MacMillan Nurses and raised the wonderful amount of £170.58 through a sales table, plant sale and cakes stall. We have been asked to thank all who made this possible.

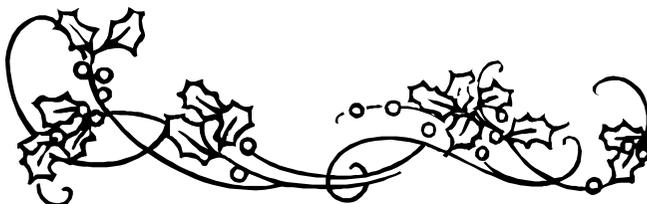
Dersingham United Charities have made their annual charity distributions for 2006 and have awarded £ 1100 to local organisations and individuals. Applications should be received by the clerk of DUC by 15 November in any year.

Once again Yvonne and her group of line dancers have ‘come up with the goods’ having presented the sum of £500 to the ‘Save a Life’ breast care fund at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the cash was raised from raffles and part of the entrance fees.

Mrs Mary Gosnell has presented £3,000 to the Neurological Unit at Cambridge’s Addenbrooke’s Hospital, the funds were raised in memory of her daughter Carly, who was killed, along with her boyfriend Martin Heywood, in a car crash last July. The money was raised by a collection at the funeral and by means of a raffle and business donations.

Amanda Eley of Dersingham, chosen as the most outstanding candidate of those in West Norfolk who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh’s Gold Award, was presented with a shield and a cheque for £100 at Smithdon High School, where she was a former Head Girl, on Thursday 2 November. Many congratulations to Amanda from the Village Voice.

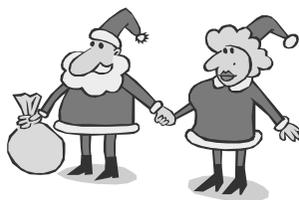
The use of solar panels is being promoted by a community project in the village. The scheme is intended to reduce the cost of installing solar heating systems by effectively ‘bulk purchase.’ The organisers say that the cost would be between £2,000 to £2,500 (a saving of approximately 60%) if enough people sign up for the scheme. *Enquiries should be made to Bruce Pittingale at CEED, 48 Broadway, Peterborough PE1 1SB – Tel: 01733 311644/*



DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Day	Date	Month	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Fri to Sun	1 to 3	Dec	10.00 am to 4.00 pm Sun 12-4	St Nicholas Church	Christmas Tree Festival	St Nicholas Church
Fri	1	Dec	3.15 pm	St George's (CE) School	Christmas Fair	St George's (CE) School
Sat	2	Dec	10 am to 12 noon	Scouts and Guides	Christmas Coffee Morning	Scout and Guide HQ Manor Road
Sat	2	Dec	7.00 am to 9.00 pm	St Nicholas Church	Christmas Christmas Bring & Share Party	St Nicholas Church
Sat	2	Dec	7.30 pm	Guide Groups	Grand Christmas Quiz	Scout and Guide HQ Manor Road
Sun	3	Dec	10.30 am and 6.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Normal Services	St Nicholas Church
Sun	3	Dec	8 pm	Park House Hotel	A Concert Featuring "Fentasia"	Park House Hotel
Mon	4	Dec	11 am	Sandringham Visitor Centre	Opening of Ice Skating Rink	Sandringham Visitor Centre
	6 and 7	Dec	6.30 pm	St George's (CE) School	Christmas Play 'Christmas'	St George's (CE) School
Thu	7	Dec	10.30 to 11.00 am	Dersingham Library	Pre-school Storytime	Dersingham Library
Thu	7	Dec	5.30 to 7.00 pm	Dersingham Library	Family History Drop-in	Dersingham Library
Fri	8	Dec	5.30 pm	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School	Christmas Fair	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School
Sun	10	Dec	3.00 pm	St Nicholas Church	Christmas Music – West Norfolk Singers	St Nicholas Church
Mon	11	Dec	4.00 pm	Tapping House Hospice	'Light up a life' Service	Sandringham Visitor Centre
	12 to 15	Dec	In school time	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School	Christmas Play 'Old Uncle Sam'	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School
Wed	13	Dec	7.30 to 9.00 pm	Dersingham Fellowship	Christmas Carols and Songs	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Thu	14	Dec	6.00 pm	Dersingham Schools and St Nicholas Church	Christingle Service	St Nicholas Church
Fri	15	Dec	7.30 pm	Park House Hotel	"Celebration of Christmas"	Park House Hotel
Sun	17	Dec	10.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Family Carol Service	Dersingham Methodist Church
Sun	17	Dec	6.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Carols by Candlelight	Dersingham Methodist Church

Sun	17	Dec	6.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Christmas Carol Service	St Nicholas Church
Mon	18	Dec	6.00 pm	Dersingham Library	Reading Group	Dersingham Library
Tue	19	Dec		Dersingham Schools	Last day of term	Dersingham Schools
Wed	20	Dec	2.30 pm	Dersingham Library	Christmas Storytime	Dersingham Library
Wed	20	Dec	2.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Mothers' Union Christmas Carol Service	St Nicholas Church
Sun	24	Dec	9.00 pm	St Cecilia's Church	First Mass of Christmas	St Cecilia's Church
Sun	24	Dec	10.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Service led by Brian Ogden	Dersingham Methodist Church
Sun	24	Dec	11.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Midnight Communion Service	St Nicholas Church
Mon	25	Dec	9.00 am	St Cecilia's Church	Mass of the Dawn	St Cecilia's Church
Mon	25	Dec	10.00 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Christmas Day Service	Dersingham Methodist Church
Sun	31	Dec	9.00 am	St Cecilia's Church	Feast of the Holy Family	St Cecilia's Church
Thu	4	Jan		Dersingham Schools	First day of new term	Dersingham Schools
Wed	10	Jan	1.30 pm	Dersingham Walking Group	4 mile circular walk of Dersingham	Village Sign on the Common
Wed	21	Feb	2.00 pm	Dersingham Walking Group	4.5 mile circular walk of Hillington & Congham	A148 opp. Junction to rd. from Sandringham
Sun	4	Mar	2.00 pm	Dersingham Walking Group	5 mile circular walk of Sedgford	Sedgford Church
Wed	14	Mar	2.00 pm	Dersingham Walking Group	4.5 mile circular walk of Houghton/Peddars Way	Opp. West Lodge, Houghton (Bircham Rd)
Sat	20	Jan	10.00 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Coffee Morning	Dersingham Methodist Church
Sat	17	Feb	10.00 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Coffee Morning	Dersingham Methodist Church



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; Wednesday – 20 December, 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

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 10 January 2007. Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

Articles for publication in the February 2007 edition of Village Voice must reach the editor at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, email: dersinghamvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk before the deadline date of Wednesday 10 January 2007 for publication on Thursday 1 February 2007. (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

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