

Dersingham Village Voice

Issue 45

April 2007

DON'T WASTE YOUR VOTE!



**WHO WILL BE OUR
REPRESENTATIVES ON THE
PARISH COUNCIL AFTER
THE MAY ELECTIONS? THE
CHOICE IS YOURS!**



Some present Members of the Parish Council

Val Brundle Dick Murrell Jean Riches Keith Manship
Andrew Seal Paul Burall
Tony Bubb (Chairman)
Colin Smith Ron Brackstone
Gill Sergeant George Pratt

Members not in photo: Sue Payne (Vice-Chairman)
John Houston, Ray Powell



Parish Council Report

At the Parish Council meeting held on 26 February the following matters were covered:

Crime Statistics. During the period 30 January to 25 February 2007 reported crimes included one burglary, one theft from motor vehicle, 2 other thefts, 8 reports of criminal damage, one case of criminal harassment and one assault causing actual bodily harm.

Festival 2007. It was decided that the festival should be organised by a committee of volunteers and an article in Village Voice would ask for volunteers for this purpose. Police checks would be needed for the volunteers who would also need to be covered by Council's insurance. A meeting for volunteers would be convened in April. The Clerk advised that the one-week's children's activities were self-financing, a trainer had been booked and the sports pavilion would be available for wet days.

Christmas 2007. The provision of Christmas lights on the recreation ground would be investigated by a Council member.

Address by Inspector Chilvers. He addressed the meeting on several matters. His was the largest geographic area with the smallest number of officers. His philosophy was to deal with small incidents to prevent the occurrence of more serious crimes and it was his practice to contact parents of troublesome youths and this proved effective. He confirmed that his force is not reduced for Royal visits as the force was increased by at least 2 extra officers when these visits occurred. He detailed Safer Neighbourhood Teams and confirmed that Dersingham would be served by the Dersingham/Gayton Team of 5 Community Support Officer, one Police constable and one Sergeant and the team would deal with minor offences, ie nuisance. Beat areas would be replaced on 1 April when the Safer Neighbour Teams became operational. The Community Support Officers would not replace Police Constables - no regular officers would be lost and he was hopeful that he would eventually have 11 PCSOs. The team would operate from Hunstanton Police Station and he was hopeful that eventually one may operate from Dersingham Police Station. In answer to a question the Inspector confirmed there were 3 traffic wardens in West Norfolk. To report crime he advised that the public should telephone 0845 456 4567 and these crimes were regularly checked and logged at Wymondham. A question was asked about the increasing practice of parking cars on footpaths, specifically Post Office Road, and the Inspector advised that the area was being monitored.

Office Premises. It was decided that siting the Parish Office in the Community Centre be discussed at the next meeting. Currently Mrs L Reeve was running the Centre single-handedly.

War Memorial. After inspection by a tree surgeon no action was to be taken regarding the lime tree. A meeting would be held at the war memorial on 3 March at 10 am to discuss cleaning of the memorial.

Streetlight Survey. It was proposed that the parish be divided into areas for a streetlight audit to be carried out.

New Developments in Station Road. County Cllr J Eells advised that she had investigated the lack of road markings and she had learnt that the development was not yet finished. When the development is completed NCC will carry out appropriate road markings.

Borough Councillors' Report. It was reported that a tidy up order had been made on Caxton Cottage at the junction of Fern Hill and Chapel Road. Under the empty homes legislation the management can be taken over and this threat often caused action to be taken. With regard to the landscaping in Sandringham View it was possible that the Borough Council may take this over. It was confirmed that Dersingham was at the top of the list for consideration of part of the village being designated as a conservation area. Questions were asked about the service supply boxes on the Old Hall. No consent had been granted for these boxes and it was considered these should be removed completely from the listed building. It was confirmed that the untidy scrap business on Beach Road was on the list for enforcement.

Litter. It was suggested that Chris Bamfield at the Borough Council be contacted to organise a litter pick as litter was becoming a problem in some areas.

Editor's Notes



Because of a decision taken at the Dersingham Parish Council meeting held on Monday 26 February it has fallen on me to remind you all that there are elections coming up in the near future.

You may not consider yourself to be a politically minded person, but the choice of Members of the Parish Council is an issue which is not based on party politics, it is purely about ordinary people who have put themselves forward with the intention of improving life in the village. 'These willing horses', once in post, are likely to become the 'whipping boys' of all and sundry if they take what are considered to be unwelcome decisions, and all this for no form of payment, other than the satisfaction of knowing that they sometimes get it right!

With this in mind, both you and they at least deserve the effort of a visit to the polling station in order to place a number of crosses in the appropriate places. As the advertisement says '...you know it makes sense...' Polling Day is 3 May 2007, when you can not only select your Parish Councillors, but also those who represent you at the Borough Council.

A matter which has been raised at Council is that of the Village Festival, which Members decided would be better if organised by a committee formed from volunteers. If you feel that you have the time and ability to perform in such a role, in the time leading up to the Festival and during the actual event, then Sarah would appreciate a call on 01485 541465 when she can explain what would be involved and how you can help.

Bob Tipling



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MEMORIAL HALL

Letters To The Editor

Roger Dunger writes from France; I thought I would drop you a quick line to let you know that the Dersingham Village Voice has recently been instrumental in an act of international reconciliation. Sounds a bit grand I know but following your publication of my letter in the December edition of the Village Voice, I had an email message from Helen Buckenham. Helen is the younger Sister of Michael Reynolds, one of the names I recalled from the 1950s. Helen passed on my email address to Michael, now living in California, and we have been in regular contact via email since then. Life is full of quirky little coincidences and here is another one. As you may recall, I live in Northern France and it turns out that Eve, Michael's Wife is French and they have a house in France as well as California. Their house is nowhere near us but it is closer than the USA and we plan to get together at some stage for a bit of a reunion. When we do, I will let you know.

Bob Lambert of Dersingham writes by e-mail: This is by way of a warning to anyone visiting Life Wood assuming it's all snowdrops and squirrels - dangers lurk within! We have only been in the village just over year so we are still finding new places to take a nice country walk. Having walked the 'Heath' and 'Drift', the prospect of a walk in Life Wood as described in the latest Village Voice sounded ideal (Village Voice, Issue 44, February 2007, Page 59). We entered the wood by the gate in Hunstanton Road, stopping to read the notice requesting volunteers to cut back the brambles, "Maybe...", we said to each other. The main path seemed to swing right so we took a less defined path hoping to connect with the footpath that starts near the old station. After another five minutes the path started to be less obvious so I thought it would be a good idea to follow a ditch that ran roughly north-south in the hope that it would lead us in the right direction. We knew we would not go far wrong if we could still see houses to our left. Still no footpath but we pressed on, not as if we were on Dartmoor was it. We paused briefly to chuckle at a plastic table and chairs in a clearing, "Pixies I expect", I joked. Only a matter of minutes after that everything turned very unpleasant. Two very large dogs appeared in the distance, barking and running backwards and forwards along a fence line - so I thought. It was only when my wife shouted a warning to me that I realised the dogs were loose and intent on chasing us. Within seconds the dogs, a German shepherd and a large dark one were next to us, barking and growling. We retreated very very slowly into the bushes hoping to find a safe route out and that the dogs would not follow. We were lucky. The dogs lost interest after what seemed like an age but we were both quite shaken up and totally disorientated. Many brambles later, we found the footpath we were hoping for and eventually reached home for a well earned cup of tea. Is Life Wood actually open to walkers or is this situation likely to happen again? I was planning to take my little nephew on this walk when he visits this Easter - I daren't risk it now. Would anyone care to comment?

(Editor's Note: Enquiries reveal the following – "At the moment there are no registered footpaths through Life Wood. However, Norfolk County Council is seeking to establish formal rights of way, having received evidence that people have been regularly using routes through the wood for well over 20 years. The next stage in this legal process is expected to be a public inquiry".)

D. Wright of Solihull writes: I will be interested to read more about the Mann family (page 37, issue 44). I have a book inscribed "W.H. Mann – Xmas 1899 from Fredk. A.J. Hervey" The book is a memoir by Earl Grey about Hubert Hervey who was killed in 1896 in the Matabele War (in what became Rhodesia and now Zimbabwe). I believe that Frederick (who gave the book to Mrs. Mann) was the reverend Canon Hervey, Rector of Sandringham at the time, and, I believe, the brother of Hubert Hervey.

Norfolk Communi- ty Foun-





Boot – I – Full!

by Dick Melton

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There never was a good war, or a bad peace
Benjamin Franklin (letter to Quincy 1783)

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Sarah's Piece

Hi - It is nice to see the sun again. Hopefully it will stay a bit longer than last year and we will get a good August. This leads me to another top topic of green bags and garden rubbish. We are still selling green bags and have not heard officially from the Borough Council regarding when we will no longer be able to sell them and parishioners to use them. A suggestion has come in from Councillor Sergeant who lives in a street that share all their bins so if someone has not filled their black bin but someone has more than their black bin will take they put theirs in one that has space. They also do the same with brown bins. It concerns me that elderly people will not be able to accommodate or pay for a brown bin. Could several neighbours get together a buy one bin for you all to share? Another suggestion is if a local professional gardener would be prepared to do a collection service for a small fee. Let me know your views.

Councillor Seal is looking for people to organise the Festival this year. The Council feel that they are not in a position to undertake the Festival for the future. If you are able to help Councillor Seal in anyway I am sure he will be most grateful. Get your teams training for the sports; beat The Heavy Weights to the Title. The Council will be holding a week of sports for the children starting on 30 July to 3 August on the Sports Field by the Feathers. Forms will be sent out to schools shortly.

I would just like to thank you for all the lovely posters etc that are being put up on the public noticeboard. It is so nice to see it being used and to hear people's comments. Have you found the suggestion box in the Library yet! I would love to see this being used also.

Do not forget to vote in the Elections in May. I hope that several of you have decided to stand and we have an election and make a difference to this village.

The Web Site (www.dersingham.gov.uk) is up and running. Can we have your comments - good and bad suggestions are 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.

Well I think that is all from me. If there is something happening in the village that you wish to know more about, or not happy about, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office, and I will do my best to help.

Sarah



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Just phone Home-Start on 01553 762706 or e.mail office@home-startklwn.co.uk



The Mead, AKA – The Gables

The property at the corner of Post Office Road which is now known as The Gables Residential Home was formerly a private house as shown in the photograph above, taken at some time in the early 1900s, when it was known as The Mead. The picture was loaned to us by Ted Randall of South Wootton who is attempting to obtain some first-hand information about life in the house from a person who was a member of the family who actually lived there at the time, and who is now in her nineties.



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I know that comparisons are (considered to be) odious, but ...

If you compare the picture of St Nicholas Church (left), taken recently by Paul Burall on his up-to-date photographic equipment, with the one below, taken in 1905, would you, as the advert for margarine says

“... know the difference ...?” and in saying this I do not denigrate Paul’s talent for producing truly memorable images, but refer to the church itself! (The lower photo is reproduced with the permission of Mrs Sybil Pugh)

Although the quality of the pictures has improved (mainly because of the impact of ‘digitalisation’) over the years, I, personally, find it very hard to see any major changes in the actual building other than those which may be pointed out by someone who can see such things as PA speakers. How about you?





The Seventh of the Winter Ale

by Frank Nichols, Steve Nowell & Ian Stockwell

Oliver and Larry were sitting in the Sandringham Bar of the Feathers at 8.45 pm one Thursday evening, just after choir practice, wondering why the third of the Three Not-So-Wise Men hadn't turned up yet. Suddenly, Miley burst into the room.

"We're doomed; we're doomed!!" he shouted, loud enough for everyone to hear.

"Why?" asked Oliver, quite casually, maintaining his usual 'cool' mode.

Miley was agitated to the point of stuttering. "It..it's Nos...Nostradamus" he spat out. "He's forecast th.. that the end of the world is..is..is n..nigh!"

"He was a French nutter who thought he knew something about astrology" Larry whispered behind his hand to Oliver. "Miley, my old friend, he lived through the first half of the sixteenth century and spent a large part of that time predicting the end of the world. So far he's got it all wrong so don't get your knickers in a twist; there's a good lad."

"But he didn't get the eruption of Krakatoa in 1883 wrong - I've seen the proof. And now he says that the world is going to come to a violent end on the twenty something of March - or is it April, or maybe November, I can't quite remember - 2000 and some odd."

"A wee bit indefinite?" queried Oliver.

"It's good enough for me, and what's more I know how it's going to happen. It's all on the In..Int...Internet you know!!"

Larry suggested that Miley should trade in his Personal Computer for something less mind-blowing; like a string of worry beads. They would all get more peace that way.

“So what *is* going to happen - and how?” said Oliver.

“It’s all down to...

MATTER AND ANTIMATTER replied Miley.

At this stage, the other occupants of the bar had had enough. They had seen a gibbering wreck of a man come in and shout in a force 10 voice about the end of the world and some stupid subject which they had never heard of. The bar emptied; except for Tony and Maxine, (the landlord and his wife), who felt obliged to stay for the explanation. They supposed that some innocent, thirsty regular might even yet come in and stay long enough to sup a pint without being driven away by the ramblings of that idiot in the corner.

Miley was more relaxed now and started upon his longest monologue in the history of the Three Not-So-Wise Men. “ ‘Stuff’, or ‘matter’ as we talk about it is made up of atoms. Atoms are all made up of three types of particle known as ‘electrons’, ‘neutrons’ and ‘protons’. So all matter consists of masses and masses of electrons, neutrons and protons. Now between 10 and 15 billion years ago there was nothing in space except energy. No universe; no worlds; no matter - just energy. Then there was a humendous explosion and”

“ ‘Humendous?’ ” This was Larry. “I can’t find that in my Wizard Pocket-Sized Gem version of the Shorter Oxford Dictionary”.

“No, you won’t. I’ve just invented it. (Huge) + (Tremendous)= (Humendous). In other words a bit big!” Miley continued “Anyway there was this hugantic explosion and the universe was formed, but not like it is today. For example, our earth was formed from other bits in our solar system about 8 million years ago”

“That’s the ‘Big Bang Theory’” said Oliver for the benefit of Larry who was now trying to track down ‘hugantic’ in his mini-dictionary.

“That’s right” continued Miley. “But scientists have proved that if enough energy is present - as there was immediately before The Big Bang - then particles are formed which combine to produce matter. BUT, and it’s a big ‘but’; when energy turns into matter, an equal amount of ‘antimatter’ is produced which, for the sake of simplicity, can be considered to be ‘negative matter’. Now when a bit of ‘matter’ collides with a bit of ‘antimatter’ they annihilate each other and a lot of energy is released.”

“But if the same amounts of ‘matter’ and ‘antimatter’ were produced in The Big Bang; and if our universe is made up only of ‘matter’; what happened to all the ‘antimatter’?” asked Oliver.

“What utter, diabolical balderdash!” muttered Tony “You’ll be talking about ale and anti-ale next” and so saying he trundled away to the peaceful seclusion of his cellar. Maxine, however, had a little more patience than her husband and decided to listen further.

“Go on, Miley” she said quietly. “I think I might be interested.”

Miley got back into top gear. “Well, what happened to the anti-matter is a matter of opinion, if you will forgive the pun. The vast majority of scientists believe that just after The Big Bang, ‘particles’ paired up with ‘anti-particles’ and they annihilated each other. But there was a surplus of ‘particles’ available, from which our universe was formed. They don’t know what happened to all the ‘antiparticles’ which should have paired off with the surplus of ‘particles’. Anyway, all the billions of billions of billions ‘annihilations’ amounted to a massive release of ‘energy’ from which cosmic rays were produced.

“So what do the other scientists believe?” came in Larry who had put his dictionary away and was now only mildly bored.

“They, like me, think it is more reasonable to suppose that there was the same amount of ‘particles’ as ‘anti-particles’ produced; and that all the ‘particles’ shot off in one direction to make our universe while all the ‘anti-particles’ went the other way, as it were, to make an ‘anti-

universe”.

“So somewhere out there, beyond our universe, is an ‘anti-universe?!’ Larry’s eyes suddenly opened wide. “What are the implications?”

“That’s what worries me. You see somewhere there is an ‘anti-earth’ which has an ‘anti-St.-Nicholas church’; ‘anti-people’; ‘anti-houses’, and even ‘anti-ale’. And if bits of that ‘anti-earth’ fly off and come towards us they would annihilate the equivalent bits of our earth.”

“So I could be sitting here quietly supping my half-pint when suddenly an ‘anti-half pint’



whistles in through the window and annihilates it?” Oliver was beginning to look at things a little more seriously.

“That’s about the size of it. And there would be a tremendous release of energy, possibly in the form of heat, which wouldn’t do you much good either!”

“Then when we went home past the church we could find that that had been annihilated as well” Larry pondered. “But

worst of all, we might see an ‘anti-Oliver’ walking through the door - the real one is enough to put up with! But not to worry, they would annihilate each other which would be a relief!”

“Then there would be a chain reaction”. Miley had furrows in his brow now. “Bit by bit our earth would be turned into energy then re-formed into other types of ‘matter’

“So Oliver could wind up as a Korean Pot-Bellied Pig?” said Larry with some enthusiasm.

“Maybe, but much more of this and you’ll find out how an ‘Oliver’ can annihilate a ‘Larry’ with minimal energy and no anti-matter being left.!!” retorted Oliver. They all laughed.

“Why the big flap when you walked in?” Oliver asked Miley. “After all, if anything from an ‘anti-universe’ came into our ‘real’ universe it would combine with something as soon as it entered, without ever reaching earth”.

“Yes, I suppose so. Hadn’t thought of that. But I do think that Humphrey the Vicar’s baldness could have something to do with ‘antimatter’

“You *what!*” Let’s discuss that next week, please. In the meantime we’ll enjoy our halves of

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Locals Keeping It Beautiful

Green thinking wins funding. 2006 has been a great year on the Norfolk Coast for new projects that care for our special area. Thirteen projects have received Sustainable Development Fund grants, and there is money available in 2007 for new ideas.

Maree Limpus, who administers the fund in the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty says 'it is really heartening to be working with people and organisations that are so enthusiastic about the communities and environment of the Norfolk Coast and want to do something to help maintain and develop this.'

Kelling water meadow, a special haven for birds on the Norfolk Coast is special for people too, as it is one of the few places where there is open access to view some rare birds. Kelling Parish Council has received funding to help its dedicated team of volunteers in looking after this area. A sluice is being built to maintain the water level and help keep the breeding birds safe from predators; and an information panel is being installed.

Anglia Woodfuel and two local estates have received a grant to install two large wood burning boilers for estate heating. These burn wood so economically that when changing from a oil boiler, a 95% reduction in green house gas emissions can be expected. Installing more wood fuel boilers will help keep trees on the land and create local employment. Keep an eye out for Open Days in 2007 to learn more about this valuable work.

Thanks to the creativity and passion of educators, four exciting educational projects have been funded, involving many of our schools. Children are learning about local foods and organic farming, having free visits to the coast, are developing their own environmentally friendly projects in their schools, and teacher are receiving free training. Wells Field Study Centre is developing a water conservation programme including creating a water efficient garden, installing water efficient taps, and developing water cycle artwork for their bathrooms. You can take the path past the centre after March to see the gardens and read the information panel to gather ideas for your own garden. Other sustainable development projects within the Area include; parish walk sign boards, interactive education at the new Norfolk Wildlife Trust Cley Visitors Centre, and new equipment for the North Norfolk Reedcutters Association. A waste exchange system for people in the Area is

Carry on with Confi- dence

by Hugh Mullarkey © 24.01.07

'Carry on with Confidence' - A friend of mine would say
When the team was maybe six goals down - Or the sea distinctly grey

His timing was immaculate - His humour very dry
Some were faced with a dilemma – Did they corpse or simply cry

Happily no decision – Was needed or required
For a tidal wave of laughter – Was inevitably inspired

Thus whenever future prospects – Seemed forlorn and rather bleak
This cutting pinch of ~~irony~~ – ~~Helped us paddle~~ down the creek

But sadly even mordant wit – In time begins to dull
It certainly cannot penetrate – A Governmental skull

'Carry on with Confidence' – Now a Ministerial cry
And they are all incapable – of making us see why

No longer does it bring relief – With tongue ensconced in cheek
But those four words sound ominous – In politician-speak

While all around ~~us crumbles~~ – ~~From~~ Hospitals to Schools
Most politicians prattle on – With the confidence of fools

'Carry on with Confidence' – In this very leaky boat
But please be very conscious where – You need to put your vote.

Dersingham now has a new Lynn News Correspondent

David Clarke writes: Just a note to thank you for the kind and appreciative words which you added to my article in the current DVV. I shall very much miss all my friends and fellow committee members in the (Dersingham Horticultural) society and my role as their contributor to 'The Voice' – although I hope to keep in touch. I shall, of course, have some regrets at leaving but am looking forward to being much nearer to my son and his wife and my grandchildren. Once again,

many thanks for your kind words which are much appreciated.



Old Dersinghamite Patrick Linford writes: I took some photos in and around Dersingham in the mid 1950s after I had bought a Paxette 35mm camera. I have attached two of these which I hope will be of interest. The first is of my father's shop, Linford's Corner Stores as it was in 1954. The second shows "Rowly" Linford at work weighing up in the shop. When Rowland left school in 1908 or thereabouts, he went to Lambert's in Snettisham as an apprentice to start learning the grocery trade. He moved on to Williamson's in Surbiton after two or three years, as an improver. The first world war interrupted his career, and he did front line service in Egypt. He survived, and after the war started up his grocery business in Dersingham. He retired in 1958, and the business was bought by the Co-op. One thing to muse on about grocery shopping from The Corner Stores, and now from a supermarket in town, recently some supermarkets have for a fee started a delivery service. If you phoned Linford's and said please send my usual order Rowly, it would be delivered free of charge that afternoon via trade bike when the delivery boy arrived after school. One of his

delivery boys in the 1950s was Roy Hipkin who went on to become a builder of many Dersingham houses..

Martin Boughen of Glastonbury Somerset writes; While conducting a regular search of the internet for family history I discovered the pdf version of the Dersingham Voice magazine. I was pleasantly surprised to read the article in issue 38 by Harry Thorpe regarding his recollection of Dersingham 1923-1929. In the piece he talks about the house of Mr and Mrs Boughen and their son Leslie. I am Leslie's grandson. Sadly he died before I was born but his wife Olive lived into her nineties. Both Leslie and Olive are buried at St Nicholas Church Dersingham. My great grandfather and his wife are both buried at Sandringham Church along with other family members.

Ivan Green of Oulton Broad writes: As promised in my last letter, enclosed is photo of two of Snow White's dwarfs from the pantomime, alias my brother Owen and myself. As a matter of interest, in the top left-hand corner of the picture can be seen (in white) part of Alex Fisher's (Senior) bungalow. The photo was taken from the back of No.7 Post Office Road when we lived at No.3 and grandparents at No.9.



The photo on the facing page speaks for itself. The Dersingham Scout Group. You will note that a lot of the uniforms are lacking hat badges, this was, I recall, due mainly to unavailability.

The group consists of, left to right;

Back Row: Alex Fisher, Tony Ridley, John Playford, Pat Linford, Derek Asker, Malcolm Nurse, George Franklin. Centre Row: John Mitchell, Archie Reid, Owen Green, Joe Jackson, Bob Riches. Front Row: Ivan Green, Bob Dilks, Alan Goff, Peter Hooks, Brian Pike, Trevor Riches, Brian Skipper.

Corrections for Issue 43: Page 16. Top photo; David Cavey, John Wyer – Bottom photo; Ruthven Whisker. Page 17. Incorrect captions to photos: names should be Sam Drew, Shirley Drew and other photo Brian Painter (blame my writing).

I hate to disagree with your correspondent from Snettisham regarding Alex Fisher senior and the Fish and Chip Shop. It



was originally started by the senior and handed down to junior. At that time I used to climb over the fence separating our garden from his and put 1 cwt of potatoes through the peeler and then the chipper. This was after getting home from school – later this was, increased to 2 cwt and part of them went through the crisp cutter – these being for the following day. It was always Alex senior who paid me. Alex junior branched out with mobile fish and chip vans, helped by Bernard Macrow. Initially it was an ex-WD 6 wheeler (a big brute) fitted out with full range. Shortly after, a small caravan type, pulled behind a Jeep-type vehicle (not ex-WD) using a dolly. For the crisp business a brand new Morris Commercial van was purchased, all sign-written, and later, very ancient Trojan which had a large aluminium box body on the back. It may have been ex-Colman's Mustard, certainly the colour was right. As a matter of interest, the van was even older than the Trojan operated by Bob Riches, the other fish merchant in the village who operated from opposite the Coach and Horses, and later moved to Heacham. Where are these vehicles now? The Trojans would certainly be collector's items. I have rambled for long enough. I feel that I ought to get back and have a good old chat about old times in the village with those of us of my age that are left. Thanks for an excellent "magazine."

The Royal British Legion – Women's Section Dersingham and Sandringham Branch

Considering the fact that we do not meet in January, we have managed to enjoy quite a number of events.

On 22 January we were invited by Hillington Branch of the R.B.L. to their annual lunch, this time held at the Lavender Field's Restaurant in Heacham, we all enjoyed this event very much.

On 14 February we attended the annual Valentine Dinner organised by Mr Vic Staples – indeed Vic very kindly donned his chauffeur's hat so some of our members that were without transport could attend – many thanks Vic.

Our next meeting will be our Spring Lunch on 2 April, this will be at the Lodge Hotel in Hunstanton.

We will then meet on 23 April at 2.15 pm in the Orchard Close Community Room.

music — movement

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Children aged 18 mths – 4 yrs

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10-11 am

Friday Lynnsport
11-12 pm

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A Walk in the Park “Sandringham Stroll”

West Norfolk’s Tapping House Hospice will be taking steps to raise some serious cash as we head out for a sponsored walk in Sandringham Country Park on Sunday 15 April.

And we want Norfolk to come along and join in with the fun!

Our sponsored walk will offer the choice of a 2 mile saunter around the Yellow Nature Trail or a slightly more energetic 5 mile walk around a route specially selected for this event. What’s more, there will be sideshows and a nature trail game for the children and RAF Marham will be marshalling the 5 mile route.

Anyone interested should contact Rob Cartwright on 01485 5442891 for a sponsorship pack or to find out more.

Tapping House Hospice (Reg Charity No 1062800)

Tapping House Hospice provides compassionate care and practical support to those people who are affected by cancer and other life-limiting illnesses in Norfolk and the Fens. The hospice provides a range of therapies and services and a vital out-patient service to help patients and their families to live as normal a life as possible.

For media and fundraising details further information and photo opportunities please contact:

Tapping House Hospice, Common Road (West), Snettisham, King’s Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 7PF -
Tel: 01485 5433163

Robert Cartwright - Fundraising Manager - Direct Line: 01485 5442891 - Mobile: 07780 745359
Email: robert.cartwright@tappinghousehospice.com Website: www.tappinghousehospice.com

Coming Soon at Dersingham Library



Holiday Activities

Easter Storytime on 4 April from 2.30-3.30 pm. Under 7s must be accompanied by an adult.

Pre-school storytime

Thursday 5 April, 19 April, 3 May, 17 May from 10.30-11 am.

Events for Adults

Tuesday 10 April from 10-12 or 1-3 pm. Part 2 of the project with the Museum service to create memory panels for a display at Lynn Museum later in the year. For more information contact Alison at the library on 540181.

Monday 16 April at 6 pm - The Dersingham Reading Group meets and new members are always welcome.

Friday 27 April 10-11.30 am - Beginners’ Internet Taster

Tuesday 1 May 2-3.30 pm - Beginners’ Internet Taster

Adult Learners’ week beginning 19 May, and we’ll have:

Monday 21 May - Dersingham Reading Group at 6 pm - new members welcome

Tuesday 22 May - Jute bag decorating for adults from 1-3 pm. There will be a £1 charge for the bag and free refreshments. Please bring along your own items to decorate the bags. Come along to the library to see Linda Beer’s decorated bag - and see if you can do better!

Friday 25 May 10-11.30 am. Learn how to use Ancestry Library to find your ancestors. Limited to 4 people, so please book early.

Friday 25 May from 2-3 pm. Know your garden birds - a talk by Stuart Hall from Lynn Museum/RSPB.

Please contact the library to book your ticket for the events on Tuesday and Friday.

Dick Melton's Column

First, an apology – In the February edition of the Dersingham Village Voice, Issue Number 44, I wrote a small article about the late Mr. Reg Houchen. This article has upset his daughter, Mrs. G.M. Griffin, and her family and friends. I would like very much through the Dersingham Village Voice to apologise for this, as I can assure them all that it was certainly far from my intention to upset anyone. I knew Reg Houchen and his wife Dora all my life, they were both very active people in the welfare of the village of Dersingham and they both did a lot of charity work in the area. I would like to apologise once again to Mrs. Griffin, her family and friends, and anyone else I upset by writing this article.



Well now, the Dersingham Village Voice certainly brings the old boys out of hiding. I often wondered what happened to Barry Griggs, and now we all know. Barry, as he said in his letter, lived up Dodds Hill, now Dodds Hill has always been like a little community on its own. Nowadays there are fifty to sixty houses and bungalows up there but way back in the fifties, when I went to St George's, there were less than thirty houses and only two bungalows.

As you turned right past the Primary School (Community Centre) the first building you came to on the left was the Drill Hall which was attached to the Norfolk Regiment (5th Battalion) of the Territorial Army. Carry on up the hill and on your left were the allotments, just as they are today; on the right was a grass meadow which sloped down to the Emblems; a narrow footpath ran along here right down to the five-barred gate opposite the Feathers Hotel in Manor Road.

The first cottages up Dodds Hill were on the right and these were always known as the 'Square'. Barry lived in one of these, as did the Adcock, Fryett and Valentine families. You turned right past the 'Square' down the track and there were four more cottages, in two pairs. In one of these lived Mrs Meech and her son, Randle (sic). Mrs Meech had a large parrot in a cage just inside the door, and, as you went in, it would try to peck you through the bars of the cage. As you went back towards the road you came to the small village green, and, up from the green and to your right, was a row of three cottages where Mr and Mrs Biggs. Peter Loose and George Stokoe (sic) with their families. In the big house right next to the road lived Mr and Mrs Green. Back on the road and going up the hill on your right were two semi-detached bungalows, Mrs Peeling lived in one and Miss Gull lived in the other one. On the opposite side of the road were three pairs of cottages, and in these lived the Rolfes', Gelder's, Riches', Goff's, Steward's and the Lines' families. There were then no other house on the left or the right 'til you got to the crossroads where, on the left, were a pair of gamekeepers' cottages where Maurice Melton lived with his wife and his daughter, Diana and son, John. I am not sure who lived next door but I think it could have been Doug Goodship. If you turned right down Admirals Drive, past St Georges School and past Docking Drove and the wood-yard on your right, you came to another gamekeeper's house where Mr Jenkins lived. Back up the road to the crossroads, just on the left up the Ling House Road, were two more pairs of cottages and a lot of farm buildings that were known as 'the premises' – in these cottages lived the Smiths, Carters and the Lingwoods. Carry on up the Ling House Road right to at the top of the hill was a track on your left that would take you down to Shernbourne – half-way down this track were some farm buildings and two cottages, where the Pease and Easton families lived. Back up on the Ling House Road if you went on 'til you got to the junction with the Shernbourne/Anmer road, turn right and then left up the track and you came to Ling House, two pairs of cottages and a farm house. Even though Ling House was a mile from Dodds Hill it was still in the Parish of Dersingham. In Ling House cottages lived the Dawson, Broadwater and the Carpenter families. The two gamekeepers and one or two other people who lived up Dodds Hill at that time worked for the Sandringham Estate, while most of the others worked for Mr Stanton of

Manor Farm. Apart from the addition of about thirty house and bungalows, Dodds Hill is much the same as it was then, fifty years ago.

I was just having a look through a Kelly's Directory for the year 1929 when I came up with some interesting facts about Dersingham. This was the year, 1929, when the Drill Hall up Dodds Hill was built, at a cost of £5,000. And the Foresters' Hall - that was built in 1892 and was opened on December the 11th 1893 by the Prince of Wales - was being used once a month as a courthouse. The Common extended to 75 acres and there was a charity £21 per year for the poor arising from 9 acres of land left to the village by Mrs Pell. And another £5 a year came from land at Snettisham left to the village in 1732 by a Mr Bummer. Alfred Firth was the clerk to the charity trustees, he was also a schoolteacher, and lived in the 'Shrubbery' down Manor Road opposite Beech Drift.

In 1929 the Feathers Hotel belonged to the People's Refreshment House Association Ltd. The smallholding opposite the Feathers and next to the Emblems was farmed by James Emmerson. There were nine other farms and smallholdings in the village at the time, one of the farmers, Mr Dick Stanton, also had a blacksmith's and wheelwrights somewhere along Chapel Road. There were three butchers, three bakers, three boot-menders, a dealer in fried fish, and a pig dealer in Dersingham. The district nurse was Miss Stanton, who lived in 'Greenways', Mr Frederic Jeune Willans, L.R.C.P.Lond. M.V.O., M.R.C.S. Eng., Physician and Surgeon (later Sir Frederic) had a branch surgery up Sandringham Hill.

Carriers to King's Lynn were John Edward Wyer and Albert Ding; they ran every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, returning the same day. The Eastern Motor Omnibus Service ran through the village to King' Lynn and Hunstanton, and Eric Hyner was the proprietor of the Sandringham Garage (Heath Garage) in Lynn Road.

In the Lynn News about two weeks back there was a report on a Parish Council meeting and it mentioned how untidy the paths and roadways were in the village of Dersingham. This took me back to the days when every village had 'lengths men', or roadmen, as we knew them, to look after the village roads, dykes and footpaths. I can remember the names of four of them in the fifties and sixties who were Tor Riches, Mr Minns, Mr Sizeland and Mr Batterbee. Each one of these men had his own area and length (hence the name) of road. They all had a yellow-painted wooden handcart that had wooden spoked wheels with iron rims. In the cart they carried the tools of their trade - a shovel, spade, broom, and, of course, a scythe. If I can remember, Tor Riches did the centre of the village, Mr Batterbee went along the main road and down to Wolferton, Mr Sizeland went up Fern Hill and down to Shernbourne, and I think Mr Minns went around Sandringham. These men not only swept the footpaths but also cleaned out the gutters and kept the channels clear that took the water from the road into the dykes, and they mucked out the dykes as well. They would cover each area in about two weeks, and then they would start all over again. These men would push their old heavy wooden cart for miles, and of course they all had a bike with them, which they would lay across the cart - when they finished for the day they would leave the cart and their tools in the nearest gateway, they were never stolen, they were always there when they got to work the next day. There were a lot of dykes around the village those days and these road men would always make sure that they were mucked out and the water was running freely. Some of the dykes, especially the ones that ran from the main road down to the marshes, were looked after by other men, like Bill Howsen, who worked for the Catchment Board (the river authority), and a lot of the dykes that ran through and around the allotments were kept clean by the allotment holders themselves. One dyke that I can never remember being cleaned out was the big red dyke, so called because of the colour of the mud in it, that runs down the northern edge of the fen from the old A149 under the bypass and along to Wolferton.

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A149 – Dersingham-Ingoldisthorpe-Snettisham Bypass



I have been reminded of the history of the above bypass by the loan from Councillor George Pratt of a programme which commemorates the official opening ceremony on 6 November 1990, which was performed by the then Chairman of the County Council, Mr L J Potter.

Those of you who were around at the time will remember that it was a campaign led by George which resulted in the road being built, this being recognised recently by the naming of the roundabout approaching Dersingham as the Alderman George Pratt Roundabout.

To put the construction of the bypass into perspective I will quote from information given in the programme;

“BACKGROUND – The opening of the Dersingham-Ingoldisthorpe-Snettisham Bypass marks the end of a twenty year wait for relief from

traffic congestion in the three villages. Much of this time has been taken up in finding a suitable route for the new road. The area has important wildlife habitats and known archaeological interests, making the problems of finding an acceptable route particularly difficult. To the south of Dersingham a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) stretches westwards from the old A149. At Ingoldisthorpe there is an area of archaeological importance, known to have been used during the Roman occupation of Britain. The extent of these areas is such that they would have been affected by any route taken by the Bypass. However, the County Surveyor’s staff developed the scheme in close consultation with the Nature Conservancy Council and the Norfolk Archaeological Unit to mitigate any adverse effects. However, there was still public feeling about these issues and matters were finally resolved at a Public Enquiry in March 1989. **THE SCHEME** – The new road runs for five and a half kilometres to the west of the old A149. Roundabouts at each end give access to the villages along the old road. Two staggered junctions also give access to Snettisham village and Snettisham beach. The road is a single carriageway 7.3 metres wide, with a one metre hard strip and a 2.5 metre verge on either side. For most of its length the road is constructed on a low embankment, with shallow cuttings at either end. There is a bridge over the River Ingol and a number of culverts where the road crosses land drains. A purpose made picnic area has been created in a tree-lined site to the west of Dersingham... The overall scheme cost is £4.3 million including a 50% contribution from the Department of Transport, through their grant procedures.

ARCHAEOLOGY – At Ingoldisthorpe the Norfolk Archaeological Unit have found evidence of Iron Age and early Roman occupation close to the River Ingol.... A six month archaeological investigation carried out in advance of the main contract revealed the sites of two round houses, two timber-lined wells, a burial site and pits associated with a settlement. One of the wells was the finest example found in Britain. The wood was particularly well preserved and has allowed a lot to be learnt about early woodworking techniques. **ECOLOGY** – The route across the Dersingham Bog SSSI was developed with the advice of the Nature Conservancy Council and special construction details were devised to ensure the remaining areas of the site on either side of the road were undisturbed. Construction was monitored by an independent consultant ecologist and the road contractors complied fully with the requirements to ensure the effect on the site was the absolute minimum. ...”

I can't remember your name, but don't tell me

Alexander Woollcott

“SAM – Son of a Norfolk Warrener”

Part Four 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 6 – On the Farm

As Roudham was in such a rural area, there were few sources of entertainment.

But the youngsters got a lot of pleasure (and a bit of pocket money) from working on the farm in their spare time, especially during the long summer holidays from school at harvest time. During harvest, Sam and his brothers would work until about 8.30 in the evening then the family would go home and sit down to a big, hot meal - usually rabbit which they caught in the corn fields.

Harvesting was done with horse-power; there was very little mechanical power on the farms and it took anything from four to seven weeks to complete the harvest. When the corn was being cut with binders and there were just a few acres left in the middle of the field, all the young lads would spread themselves out round the un-cut corn and catch the rabbits as they ran out from their rapidly diminishing hiding place.

The older boys were allowed to ride on the horses pulling the wagons of sheaves of corn. There was something exciting about being in control of a huge carthorse, shouting "Holdgee!" as they moved from one shock to another so that the chap loading the wagon was warned to sit tight so that he didn't fall off. That particular expression is believed to be a derivation of "Hold Ye"; in other words, "Hang On".

The horses needed a lot of hay. A hard hay known as Sangfine was thought to be the best. It was cut and left for a few days then turned over with a horse-drawn 'toppler'. The hay 'made' (i.e. matured) in shocks, then these were collected between two horses and taken across to the elevator. The elevator was horse-powered also. There was a long bar under the elevator and a horse was tied to the end of the bar. The horse walking in a circle operated the elevator. This was a pretty steady slog for the horse and the only rest it got from the end of unloading one wagon to the start of unloading the next; not very long. With a certain amount of pride, Sam says that hay was made better in those days. The Haymaker was a craftsman. If he misjudged the sap content of the hay, the stack could very easily catch fire. It was stacked according to how much sap was thought to be present. Every night a long iron rod was pushed into the stack and withdrawn in the morning. The temperature at the end of the rod told the Haymaker the temperature within the stack. If a stack did catch fire it was a calamity. Being in a field, the only way to fight the fire was to pull water carts to the site by horse. It could take as long as two weeks for the stack to bum out completely. Sam only remembers this happening once when he and his brother were on their way to school. Apparently it was more like an explosion rather than just catching fire. To prevent a fire, the stack would be turned occasionally at the discretion of the Haymaker. Despite the risk of fire, it was desirable for the hay to generate at least a little heat. This caused the hay to colour up a little which the horses liked better.

Sam left school and started work at the age of 14 following the tradition of most boys leaving school by going to work on the farm. Sam's starting wage was 9/6d a week of which he gave his mother 7/-. Overtime was worth 6d an hour. He worked with horses right from the start and remembers this with pleasure, defining them as "Beautiful, strong and extremely faithful animals."

He says that one of the greatest experiences you could have on a farm was to go into the stables first thing in the morning when you went to work and see those magnificent beasts chomping on their hay, by the light of a hurricane lamp perhaps, while being prepared and groomed for the day's work ahead. The men who looked after the horses were called Team-men. It was their duty to see that the horses were fit and ready for work and they also carried out minor veterinary duties as required. But such was their knowledge and love of the horses that it was generally felt that they knew just as much about the practical side of looking after horses as the vet. Consequently he was seldom called upon. The Team-man would administer a 'potion ball' twice a year. Sam isn't too sure about what this consisted of, but remembers the Team-man putting a large lump of something resembling plasticine on the end of a stick; displacing the horse's tongue to one side and pushing the ball down the horse's throat. The Team-man would never let you take a hot horse to the water trough. This was a sure route to stomach ache. If a horse did suffer in this way, the first thing the Team-man would do would be to put a saddle on it. The natural inclination of a horse with stomach ache is to lay on its back but this could be fatal for the animal. The effect of the saddle was to prevent the horse from laying on its back. A simple way of curing some cases of stomach ache in a horse was to get it to pass water, and this could often be achieved by whistling at it! Another, more dramatic remedy was to under-sling the horse and suspend it between two beams till its feet were just off the ground.

Sam had five uncles living locally and they were all Team-men. But the oldest uncle owned his own stallion. The usual set up was for the man who owned the stallion to employ a Stallion Man also. His job was to take the horse round the farms in the area between January and May, serving the mares. He did this round twice. The purpose of the second visit was to cover the mares again which had not 'held' the first time. It was believed that 'A mare fed on mangles will never get in foal'.

By the time he was seventeen, Sam had been promoted to Ploughman. By the standards of the age this was quite a rapid advancement. His work was still with horses but he had also gained experience as a Shepherd's Page, assisting the Shepherd at lambing time. Sam considered himself lucky, for at least he got home every night, and got a good night's sleep. The Shepherd, though, lived in a small hut in the sheep yard. He ate and slept there but was fortunate if he snatched more than a few hours sleep in any night.

There were no chemical sprays for weed control in the late 1930's when Sam was a Ploughman, so the weeds had to be controlled by hand. This was hard, boring work and of only limited success. The winter wheat crop however, did get mechanical treatment. In the early spring, if there had been a light frost, horse-drawn light harrows were pulled across the field. This had to be a swift operation and could not continue after, say, 11 o'clock when the frost had left the ground. The idea was to break the frosty surface soil, which contained the weed seeds, into light fragments. The sun then dried out the soil and killed the weed seeds at the same time.

Such things as thistle, and dock, were another problem however. There was no other answer but to get rid of them by hand. It was a job for all the younger boys on the farm. They walked through the corn cutting the weeds as they went. The most effective time to deal with these plants was determined from this old adage: 'Cut them in May -- Come next day. Cut them in June - a month too soon. Cut them in July - they're sure to die'. Charlock, the bright yellow weed, was pulled up completely. The boys wore collecting sacks in front of them then dumped the weeds on the headland when they had collected a bag full.

Sam's father had a big garden where he grew vegetables just for the family. He would



sometimes get manure from the Farmer but for the most part, the garden was enriched with the contents of the cottage's gutter hole referred to earlier. Sam (Senior) was unable to grow enough potatoes to keep the family supplied for a year, so the fanner let him have a plot of land in one of his fields. The plot was the site of the mangle heap from last year. All Sam's father had to do was to plough it and keep it clean in return for growing his own potatoes there. The potatoes were kept through the winter by scything the bracken (of which there was plenty in the vicinity) and using it with soil to make a 'clamp'.

The soil in the area was generally poor with a high sand content; typical in fact of the Breckland area. Near the Turnpike there was a 100 acre field which had traditionally been sown with lucerne, but there was a very bad spell in the 1930s when nothing was grown on it. It was subsequently bought by a market gardener who put what good soil there was down to sprouts and the sandy soil down to carrots. Sometimes Sam's mother used to work in a land gang weeding the carrots, then returned later in the year to fork, pull and top them. For this she could expect to get 6d for a mil hundredweight bag?

Chapter 7 - Navy in Wartime

Sam worked on the farm until he was 18. Then he set about fulfilling a lifetime's ambition - to join the Navy. His mother was definitely not keen on this idea and tried her best to dissuade him; such as telling him not to bother applying because he had flat feet! He passed his medical examination on Norwich then went to London for his final tests and interview which he passed without trouble. He joined up on the 12th of December, 1938 at Chatham Dockyard Barracks. Little did he know at that stage that in less than twelve months he would be fighting for his country.

Sam came home for Christmas and by this time his mother had to accept the fact that her son was going to sea. She explained to him that he had been born with a caul (a membrane covering the head). According to folklore, a child bom in this way could never drown. So she gave Sam the caul to keep with him while at sea.

His first drafting was on HMS Exeter, but he was sent too late to join it before it put to sea. Exeter was later sunk. His next drafting was on the battleship HMS Baron but he was too late for



that also .and Baron too was later sunk. He finally joined a 990 ton sloop, HMS Deptford, in the Persian Gulf. While he was on the Deptford war was declared and the ship was recalled to Liverpool. Its first duty in the war was to escort convoys across the Atlantic, mostly to Sidney, Nova Scotia. They were slow convoys, doing no more than 7 knots, and following a zigzag course. The full trip took between 19 and 21 days.

** While getting this information from Sam. I discovered another of his characteristics - he doesn't suffer fools gladly. I couldn't understand what the advantage was of going slow so I asked Sam why they only travelled at 7 knots. The reply I got was put quite forcibly. "Cos they couldn't go any bloody faster! Why d'y think?!" * *

Their voyage across the Atlantic took them through the Sargasso Sea. This was an impressive experience. Masses of weed everywhere. It was easy to imagine how the old time sea-farers met

their doom there. The Sargasso Sea was not shown on the sea charts and that huge expanse of weed was big enough to stop any wind powered ship dead in its tracks. Another regular feature of the trans Atlantic crossings was to see schools of whales on their migratory journeys. On some occasions the Deptford found itself on a direct collision course with a whale. In that case the whale would never alter course, but simply dive beneath the sloop.

HMS Deptford was not built for Atlantic crossings. It was specifically suited for condition in the Persian Gulf. It had a wooden deck, two-thirds of which was covered in. In the Atlantic it was quite common to come up against 40 foot rollers. On one occasion, when 18 days out from Nova Scotia, the sea became too much for the Deptford and a signal had to be sent to the Merchantmen they were escorting to disperse and make their own way. The Deptford had no alternative but to turn into the storm and sit it out. The danger was that in any other position, there was a chance that the sea could roll into the ship and make it bow-heavy. The storm, could then easily push the bows down into the sea with formidable consequences.

Sam had two Christmases in the Atlantic then applied for a gunnery course and was drafted back to Chatham for 6 months. (He says that the best way to get a short respite from the sea was to apply for a shore-based course!) He got married while at Chatham. Having passed the gunnery course and been promoted from Ordinary Seaman to Leading Seaman, Sam was sent up to Tyneside to commission a new ship - a destroyer, HMS Lightning. Their first task was to escort a mine-laying ship, the HMS Manxman. After that they did patrols around Norway and in the Baltic. He remembers this spell as definitely the coldest part of his time at sea. Anyone who had the misfortune to fall in the sea couldn't expect to last for more than a minute or two.

In complete contrast to the weather and submarines in the Atlantic, and the freezing temperatures of the Baltic, HMS Lightning was next sent to Gibraltar on the Malta convoys. One of the first tasks was to rendezvous with HMS King George V in the Atlantic to escort that ship, which had Winston Churchill on board, to America. On the way it called in at Bermuda, then dropped Mr Churchill at Norfolk, Virginia. From there the Lightning went up the coast to Nova Scotia. This was a sharp shock compared with the warmth of the Med. where they had been less than one month earlier. In Nova Scotia it was necessary to keep knocking the ice off the decks and superstructure to prevent the boat from becoming top heavy. Then it was back to the Med. and warmth, and the Malta convoys.

Sam escorted every convoy which went to Malta. It was a depressing job. They would pick up, say, twelve fully laden merchantmen at Gibraltar and escort them to the straits of Messina. At dusk the escort would leave the convoy then stand by anxiously waiting to learn how many had got through. Too many times they would hear that only two or three of the merchant ships had made it to Malta. On one occasion, a tanker called the Ohio was hit but managed to limp into Malta harbour. It sank in the harbour but luckily all the fuel was recovered.

After the Malta convoys came the invasion of Madagascar. HMS Lightning went down the west coast of the island, while two decoy ships went down the east coast to lure the Germans into thinking that the invasion would take place on that side. In the dead of night, the Lightning entered a river which started out as wide as the Thames in London, but got dramatically narrower. Even today, Sam is foil of praise for the Skipper and his superb navigation which got them to the end of the navigable section of the river where the Germans had established a submarine base from which to operate in the Indian Ocean. HMS Lightning arrived at dawn; let loose with some gunfire; put their Marines ashore, and victory was theirs. Sam is still amazed at that encounter. He says "All we really did was to sit there and make a hell of a lot of noise and put a few Marines ashore, and they gave up. And there was the added bonus that we came away with a load of barrels of Vermouth!"

From Madagascar, HMS Lightning went on patrol in the Indian Ocean. It was at this time that Sam was able to dispel the myth which he was told before he joined the Navy; namely that there was no such thing as flying fish. It was very hot in the Indian Ocean and the portholes were

frequently left open. Sam says "I've seen enough fish fly in those portholes and land on the mess deck for us to have a jolly good fry-up. Very tasty they were too". The flying fish has quite large, transparent wings which fold up close to its body when swimming. There were also a lot of Chinese Men of War jelly fish which had a sort of blown up sail on their tops which allowed them



to drift in the wind. The Indian Ocean was an experience for Sam in terms of marine biology. Dolphins and porpoises were plentiful, chasing and playing on either side of the ship regardless of its speed. These animals are reputed to be the sailor's friend because if a man falls overboard, they will circle round him to keep the sharks at bay. Sam has a theory about this however. He believes that it is the sharks which will naturally circle round someone in the water, waiting to make their strike. Now the skins of porpoises and dolphins are covered with lice and other sea pests. They know the sharks will be coming at some time so they circle the body in the water and when the sharks arrive the porpoises and dolphins deliberately brush against them to try to rid themselves of their parasites on the sharks' rough surfaced bodies.

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Dersingham and Sandringham Branch



Over 50 members, including the Women's Section, attended a three-course meal at the United Services club at Hunstanton on the 14th February. This was the Annual St. Valentine's Evening affair. The evening concluded with a raffle which raised over £100 for funds.

Next meeting is at 'The Feathers' on Tuesday evening 13th March at 7.30 pm. New members are always welcome. Contact The Secretary, Mr. Clive Grimwood on phone number 544620 -or just come along!

J.C.R 20.02.07

Dersingham Evening Women's Institute



At their January meeting and from the comfort of their seats, Dersingham W.I. members were taken on a tour of Norfolk coastline when speaker John Dominey showed slides and gave a fascinating talk on the subject of how the coastline has evolved and changed over the years, much of this being due to the ever changing weather patterns and tides.

February's speaker, Mr. Russell Lynn proved equally entertaining. His many anecdotes of his life as a vet covered many aspects, including how he had to lasso a cow whilst perched on the front bonnet of a Land-Rover, castrating a very unhappy camel, and treating a bald hedgehog suffering from ringworm!

Having won the annual County Literary competition for a short story, Phyl Jones read her entry to an appreciative audience.

The dining club, and walking group have several outings planned and there are theatre trips and a mystery tour in the pipeline for members to enjoy.

Sandringham Lodge No 10499

On Tuesday 19 December 2006, Mr Ken Conley, (founder member of the Sandringham Lodge), on behalf of the lodge presented a cheque to the value of £1,000 to Mrs Liz Barrett, representing Lupus UK. Mrs Barrett thanked the members of the Sandringham Lodge for their most generous gift and went on to explain about the effects of the condition and their aims to assist the sufferers in the future.

John Evans, Treasurer

Albert Victor Bowls Club, Manor Road, Dersingham

The Albert Victor Bowls Club opened the bowls green for the coming season on Sunday 22 April. All players past and present are invited to come along for a game, also anybody who wishes to join the club or just have a go (bowls shoes or flat smooth shoes only). The club will again this year be competing in leagues on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Please come along and enjoy a friendly game and relax in the clubhouse after. We also run prize bingo sessions on the second Wednesday of the month through the winter period of September to April – eyes down 7.30 pm – open to anybody, young or old, who enjoys a game. in a friendly environment For further details please contact Barbara Daw 01485 542414 or David Hines 01485 544799 (Evenings)

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Bunnies in Abundance

by Kathy Jordan © 6 March 2007

(This poem was inspired by a recent news report that rabbits had taken up residence on a roundabout in Wisbech!! I wonder if they are still there??)

Drivers drove round in circles down Wisbech way,
Overpowered with horror and dismay –
Where was their fantastic floral display??
Replaced with furry creatures making hay!!

Being unaware of the Green Cross Code,
Nosy novices hopped to the busy road –
Causing lorries to lose their heavy load
On “Bugs Bunny’s” newly burrowed abode.

Could curious cyclists passing by,
Cause pile-ups several metres high?
Then bucks and does through the air would fly,
Landing in someone’s delicious meat pie!!

Octavia Hill and Peckover ‘Hall’,
Are joined by this latest attraction ‘jewel’,
From as far as Italy visitors call –
Or was it a premature April Fool !!!

Maybe the recent ‘moonshining’ eclipse,
Had invented this dizzy tourist hit,
Hardwick Road has one causing road rage kicks,
*Hemel’s magic one has rabbit hat tricks!!!

North-eastwards for Easter in droves they’ve come,
Fuelled by munching carrots until there were none
Will bunnies in abundance face the farmer’s gun?
Disbanding their Rabbit Roundabout fun!!!!

---Happy Easter---

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Hertfordshire has
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Listen to Mother

(with apologies to a BBC radio children's lunchtime programme of many years ago)
by Len Matthews

Over the years whenever I, or even one of my two sisters, asked mum for help in spelling a particular word her response was mostly, "The word is in the dictionary. Go and look it up." We used to mutter that you needed to know how to spell it before you could look it up in the dictionary. Mum always stood her ground and made us use the book. Now that wasn't easy when you start to look up a word such psychology. I was always looking under 'S'. But as I say, mum usually stood her ground and we learnt to cope with the dictionary quite well.

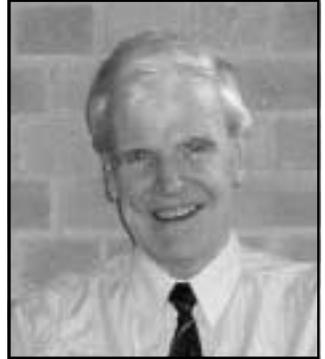
I was recently asked by one of our grandchildren how to spell a word. My immediate reaction was to 'Listen to Mother', but being a soft touch and also feeling that the child was still a bit young, I relented and showed her how to look it up in the dictionary. Whilst going through this process I came across the word 'saunter' and its derivative 'sauntering'. The Oxford English Dictionary defines the base word "Saunter" as: walk in leisurely way or without destination, stroll (*saunter through life*); hence >ing. Leisurely ramble or gait." This got me into that dangerous process, {well it is to me}, called thinking.

I have met a few people in the course of my life who understood the art of walking, who had a genius for *sauntering*. I am led to believe that this word is beautifully derived from "idle people who roved about the country in the Middle ages, and asked for charity under pretence of going *a la Sainte Terre*," to the Holy Land. Children, in all eras, are very astute and those of the Middle Ages would shout out, "There goes a *Sainte-Terrer*," a Saunterer, - a Holy Lander. Those who never got to the Holy Land in their walks, as they pretended, were indeed mere idlers, but those who did get to the Holy Land were saunterers in the true sense.

Another definition of the word is from "*sans terre*", without land or a home base, meaning having no particular home, but equally at home everywhere. This is the secret of successful sauntering. Those of us who sit at home all the time may be the greatest vagrants of all; but the saunterer is no more vagrant than the meandering river, which is continuously seeking the shortest route to the sea.

When we walk, we naturally go to the fields and woods; what would become of us, if we only walked in a garden or a mall? Architects in our modern age find it necessary to import the woods to the shopping malls, since they themselves don't go to the woods or the fields, or the beach. Michael Flanders and Donald Swan summed it up magnificently when they sang of; "A garden full of furniture and a house that's full of plants."

In our locality we have so many lovely walks, which don't necessitate walking from point A to point B and then retracing our steps back again to point A. Many good areas for walking are but a short drive away where we can relish and enjoy nature. It is said that a when a traveller asked Wordsworth's servant to show him her master's study, she answered, "Here is his library, but his study is out of doors." Walking brings the wonder of seeing a farmhouse or a barn which you have passed many times but haven't 'seen'. I find it quite disconcerting that when you come across a church or chapel, where you could spend a few minutes in quiet contemplation, that the building is locked. In the main towns and cities, I can understand this but in a peaceful village setting it is a very sad sight. But we need to keep sauntering toward the Holy Land so that the sun can shine into our hearts and minds and light up our lives with a light as warm, serene and golden as that on a bank-side in autumn.





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Thomas Kerrich Dersingham 18th &19th Century

by Elizabeth Fiddick



Thomas Kerrich by
G S Facius(Norwich
Castle Museum/Record
Office)

Thomas Kerrich was born on 4 February 1748 in the old Tudor Mansion that once stood in the Pastures by the Institute. His parents were Samuel Kerrich, the vicar and his wife Barbara about whom I wrote last time. Barbara had suffered many miscarriages and lost her first baby soon after birth. However her daughter Matilda was born in 1742 and then Thomas six years later. There appears to have been some anxiety about the health of the new baby as he had several minor illnesses. He was inoculated against smallpox in 1749 an essential precaution at this time. His mother took charge of his early education and it was apparent from an early age that he had a talent for drawing. By the age of six he was seldom without a pencil in his hand and his Aunt Elizabeth remarked on his “genius for drawing”. In fact in 1758 a family friend took a roll of his drawings to London and showed them to William Hogarth. Hogarth was by then 61, well established and highly regarded for his prints and portraits. He is said to have thought the drawings, “a very pretty performance”, but dissuaded the family from letting Thomas take up Art as a living. He said the profession was already overcrowded. This love of drawing and painting

remained with Thomas all his life. He was described later as an early Impressionist having completed many landscapes and close studies of the sea, the light and clouds. Some of his work can be viewed by accessing the web site of Tate Britain where he appears in the list of artists. This gallery recently acquired one of his paintings, an £850 gift, described as “Landscape with billowing clouds”. His mother died in 1752 when Thomas was just 14 and his Aunt Elizabeth, sister to Barbara, remained at the Hall and became an even more important part of his life. In 1767 he took up residence in Magdalene College Cambridge. During that same year his sister Matilda married their half cousin John Kerrich, a surgeon, and went to live in Burnham Market. Thomas came home that Christmas to find his father in failing health. He returned to Cambridge but in the New Year his Aunt wrote that Samuel was very weak. A little while later Thomas received what was to be the

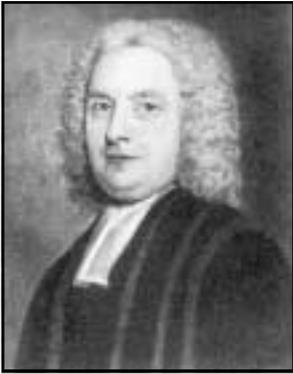


Dersingham Church drawn by
Thomas Kerrich before the spire
was removed in 1798

last letter he would have from his father in which he was asked to check on the tomb of Sarah Newton his father’s first love. His Aunt must have written again for on March 7 Thomas rode through the night from Cambridge to Dersingham in an effort to see his father. He arrived exhausted only to find that his father had died shortly before. Samuel was buried in the chancel of the church alongside his wife Barbara where their memorial tablets can be seen today. After the funeral Elizabeth left Dersingham to live with Matilda in Burnham and Thomas returned to Cambridge. William Reeve was appointed to the living in Dersingham. Thomas graduated from Cambridge in 1771. At this time travel abroad was regarded as a very suitable way for young men of society to gain experience and improve their education. The Cokes of Holkham and the Walpoles at Houghton to name just two of the local gentry undertook the Grand Tour. As a result of this practice important collections of Art and Sculpture were established at Felbrigg, Holkham Houghton, Narford and Wolterton important family seats established in the 18th century. So after graduation, financed by a travelling scholarship, Thomas began his tour through the Low Countries, France and Italy. He travelled with a friend, Daniel Pettiwood of Fairfax House Putney. During his stay in Antwerp he demonstrated his artistic talent by winning the silver medal at the Academy of Painting in that city. He lived in Paris for six months and spent two years in Rome devoting his time to antiquarian

research and assembling a collection of drawings of antiquities. The most celebrated traveller at this time was Thomas Coke, later to be known as Coke of Holkham. Thomas met up with him in Rome and they spent much time together. While in Rome Thomas was received by the Pope Clement XIV. He described the event to Coke in a letter in which he wrote that the Pope was an exceedingly good sort of man and very civil to the English. Apparently he considered that the English were no geese and able to speak up for themselves. Thomas and Coke met up again in Genoa and agreed to visit Milan together. However, as Thomas wrote to his Aunt back in Burnham, Coke was suffering from an ague and was unable to accompany them on all the excursions planned. Later in 1774 they set out from Rome with 7 friends to visit Tivoli under the leadership of an English Antiquary. This trip lasted three days and began Thomas Coke's interest in art and sculpture and his subsequent acquisitions now to be seen at Holkham Hall. While in Rome Thomas had his portrait painted by Pompeo Battoni the most celebrated artist of the time who was considered especially skilful at depicting English Gentlemen on the Grand Tour. This portrait is now in private hands. Thomas eventually bequeathed 26 pictures to the Society of Antiquities. He returned to Cambridge in 1775 and gained an M.A. He was later elected a Fellow of Magdalene. A friend, William Cole, tried to persuade him to become a portrait painter but Thomas entered the Church of England and was ordained a priest at Peterborough on the 20th May 1784. It was in 1784 that Dixon Hoste offered Thomas the living at Dersingham. From this time Thomas had to balance his duties as the vicar of our village with all the other responsibilities he took on. From 1789 to 1796 he served as President of Magdalene College. He was also appointed the principal Librarian of the University and in 1797 was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquities. 1798 was an important year for him as he became Prebendary of Lincoln Cathedral and later in 1812 of Wells. Thomas also published four scholarly papers on Gothic Buildings and one of these is still considered today as the best study of its subject. He must have been absent from the village on many occasions. There would have been some changes to the village he knew as a child and young man. The population was still less than 500. There were still the three working windmills. One stood near where the old Railway Station was built, one at Hill House and the third at the top of Mill Road. We know from a document of 1780 that William Smith and John Stanton occupied the last named two mills. One of the mills was blown down by a fierce storm in 1801. In 1779 just before Thomas returned the village was subject to further acts of enclosure. To enclose land was to put a hedge or fence around a portion of open land and prevent the exercise of common grazing rights over it. This was done in the early centuries mainly to increase the amount of full time pasturage available to the Lord of the Manor. In the period 1750 to 1860 it was done for the sake of agricultural efficiency. In Dersingham the Little Common, Marsh Common and Badger Fen Common were subject to the Act. Badger Fen Common is that area of the common on the left as you enter the village from Lynn. The Directory records that "*160 acres were allotted in lieu of vicarial tithes and 457 acres were enclosed within a ring fence for the use of the Parish, viz. 329 acres of marsh as stinted common and 128 acres of heath for providing whins and turf.*" Arthur Young, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture compiled a report on the effect of the enclosures in Norfolk. For Dersingham rents doubled, twice as much corn was raised, and the number of sheep increased. There were the same number of cattle as before but he maintained that the poor were not affected except by the increase of employment. Nevertheless with rents doubling there must surely have been some losers I would have thought. Thomas became the Chief Trustee of the various charities in the village to help the poor. During his term as vicar the workhouse that had been established in the old Manor House of Westhall was still in operation. It was the 1722 Poor Law Act that stated that instead of dispensing out door relief Parishes could erect workhouses and deny aid to all who would not enter them. The "*idle poor*" were forced to labour. In 1732 Elizabeth Pell a member of the family who had built Dersingham Hall left land to be used here for the benefit of the poor. This land was rented out and the money received was used to buy 16 penny loaves, which were placed each Sunday on John Pell's Tomb when it stood in the South Aisle. They were given away after the service and became known as the "Thomas Loaves". For centuries

the tower of the church had always had a lantern with a lead covered spire rising from it in which hung a little bell. But in 1798 the decision was taken to remove it and William Johnson received £41 .17s. 6d as settlement for his work on the steeple. It may have been at this time that Thomas



Samuel Kerrich by Thomas Bardwell (Corpus Christi College Cambridge)

took his pencil and paper into the grounds of Dersingham Hall and made a quick sketch of the church that he had always known before the steeple was removed. He would have been standing where there are now the woods beside Croft House. In 1787 Matilda's husband John died.

In 1794 Thomas's Aunt Elizabeth (Postlethwaite) died at Matilda's home in Burnham aged 86. She was buried in the Chancel of our church and a memorial stone placed there.

On September 13 1798 Thomas married Sophia Hayles, daughter of an eminent Cambridge Physician. They had one son Richard born in 1801 and two daughters. During the time Thomas was our Vicar



Elizabeth Postlethwaite by Thomas Kerrich (National Portrait Gallery)

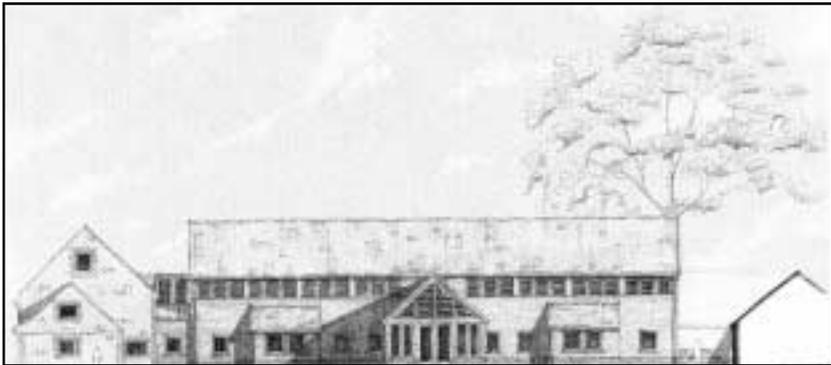
England was engaged in wars with Napoleon culminating in the Battle of Trafalgar and later that of Waterloo. These events did not go unmarked. There are many records of money being paid for prayers to be said in the church in thanks for Nelson's victories at Saint Vincent and Copenhagen and for strength to overcome the fears of a French invasion. In the church magazine of 1899 there is a short account of the funeral of a Maria Hudson who passed away, aged 94 at the house of her son William Hudson a carpenter. *"This cheerful old lady could give her recollections of the times of the first Napoleon when inhabitants in this part of Norfolk would be anxiously looking seawards for the fleet of ships which Boney had threatened to invade England."* She remembered that villagers had kept their *"bits of silver"* packed up ready to hide or carry away at a moment's notice. Further north a lookout would be taken the last thing at night to see if fires were lighted on the beacon tower of Blakeney Church or any of the beacon hills. Maria's gravestone can be seen beside the Church door. In November 1807 the village was informed that 30 men were liable to be called up for service in the armed forces. Later a collection in the village raised £6.16s. 6d for *the relief and benefit of the brave men killed and of the wounded sufferers in the Battle of Waterloo and in the several battles which may or may be fought in the present campaign."* It was in 1823 that Matilda died and was buried in the chancel along side her husband John. The memorial slab can be clearly seen there on the floor to the right as you enter. Thomas himself died at his house in Free School Lane, Cambridge on May 10 1828 and was buried in the Chancel of our church. In his will he bequeathed his remarkable collection of 15th and 16th century English and European paintings to Cambridge plus the 12th century leper chapel in Barnwell near the city which he had bought and restored in 1816. Just seven months after Thomas died his younger daughter Frances Margareta married the Rev. Charles Hartshorne. She brought considerable wealth to the marriage and bore Charles fourteen children, four of whom died in infancy. When his son Richard died he left many of his father's pictures including some sketches by Rubens for a set of tapestries commissioned for a convent in Madrid, to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Thomas's wife Sophia survived him by seven years dying in Cambridge on July 23 1835 aged 73. The memorial tablet to Thomas in the church, reads, *"He was eminently distinguished amongst his learned contemporaries by the varied endowment of his mind whilst by the excellent qualities of his heart he secured the strong affection of his surviving family."*

Cambridge on July 23 1835 aged 73. The memorial tablet to Thomas in the church reads. “*He was eminently distinguished amongst his learned contemporaries by the varied endowment of his mind whilst by the excellent qualities of his heart he secured the strong affection of his surviving family.*”

So Samuel, Barbara, John, Elizabeth, Matilda and finally Thomas now rest quietly in our church with just their memorial stones to remind us of the contribution they made to this village.

George Mann

On 22 October 1820 while Thomas Kerrich was our vicar, George Mann, aged 19, married Maria Riches, aged 16 in Dersingham Church. They had eight children of whom one or possibly two died young. Two other sons would eventually go to live in Australia. The others stayed in this village and many of their descendants live here still. With the kind permission of the family we can, in future editions, follow their story and trace the history and development of Dersingham through the 19th and 20th centuries.



An artist's impression of the new Dersingham Health Centre

Source: Pigeon Holdings - Dersingham Village Voice Picture Library



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The Editor has been fortunate enough to have been given the loan of many copies of 'The Sandringham Estate Magazine' dating from 1898 to 1903, which also incorporate 'The Church Monthly'



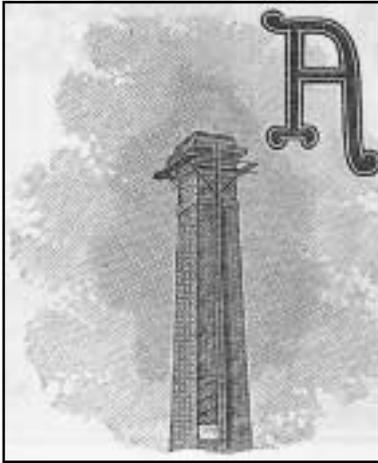
Permission has been kindly given by the Sandringham Estate for us to publish extracts from these magazines for which we are grateful.

The following article has been reproduced from the January 1902 edition and we will publish further extracts in future issues of the Village Voice.

STEEPLE-JACKS AND THEIR METHODS

by F M Holmes

Steeple-Jack is a cool and clever workman who not only builds tall towers, but climbs their summits to repair them after they are built.



How does he do it? How can he assault these lofty, perpendicular heights, that do not seem to give a foothold even for a bird?

Well, that is my story. Have you ever stood in Trafalgar Square and gazed at the summit of Nelson's Monument, the actual column of which is nearly one hundred and eighty feet high, and wondered how a man could get up there? Yet it has been done, and steeple-jacks do it. Or have you ever admired the beautiful tapering spire of Salisbury Cathedral, over four hundred feet high, or seen those huge factory chimneys in the manufacturing districts of the North, and wondered how men could build such spires and shafts and repair them after they are built?

Now there are, broadly speaking, three methods employed by steeple-jacks in climbing these great heights.

When the Navy League decorated Nelson's Column on Trafalgar Day in 1896, they sought the services of Mr. W. E. Harrison, of Sheffield, a notable steeple-jack who has repaired many well-known spires and monuments. How did he set about climbing the tall and fluted shaft of stone? He had a staff of several steeple-jacks, who, working on two sides of the pillar, began by binding the lower sections of light but strong ladders firmly to the column by means of ropes. These ropes passed right round the pillar and held the ladders in a tight grip.

By the help of other ropes passed over the upper rungs, additional ladders were now pulled up above the first ladders, the lower part of the new ladder being then bound to the upper part of the first ladders. In this way a series of ladders was fixed one above the other, and the lower part of one fastened to the upper part of the other, until, about five o'clock in the evening, the last ladder was fixed in position. The steeple-jacks ran up the ladder with ease. And, by hooked bands round their waists and attached to the rungs of the ladders, were able to work freely with both hands, and lean back from the column without the necessity of holding on to the ladder with one hand.

When this part of the work was finished, and some seven or eight ladders had been built up one above another on each side of the column, the workmen could ascend to the broad platform which

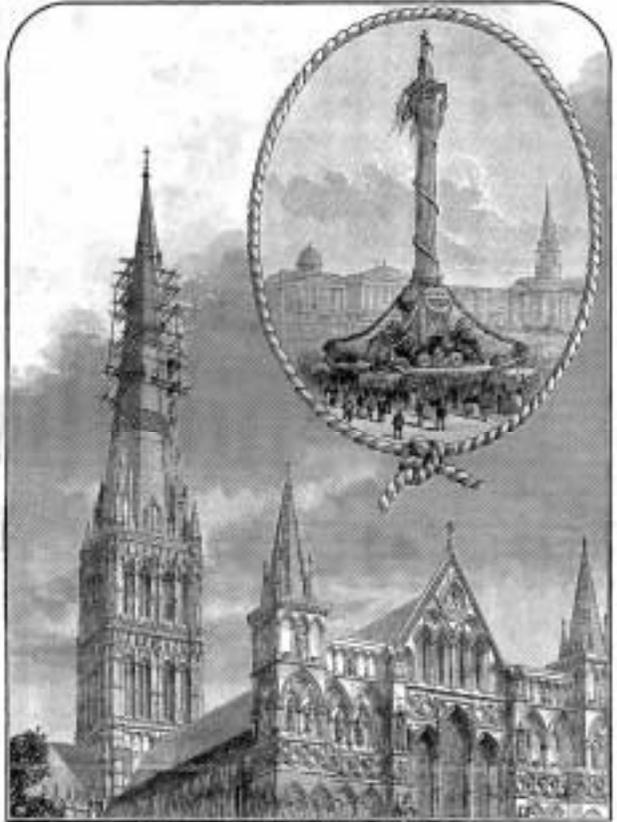
crowns the pillar and affords a standing ground, or base, for the huge statue of Nelson on the summit. Pulley-blocks were then placed in position, so that the decorations – which, with wire framework, weighed nearly seven tons – could be hoisted for fixing. The column was entwined with a huge rope of laurel and bay leaves, which had been prepared in sections of twenty-five feet long. On the ledge at the base of the pillar was placed a twelve-foot wreath, and other wreaths were grouped around.

A variation of this method is the use of dogs. The “dogs” are not smart fox-terriers; they are iron, steel-tipped pins with a ring in the head, which projects from the brickwork after the dog has been made to bite the masonry deeply - or, in other words, has been driven firmly home. A long ladder is first placed against the structure, and by mounting this ladder, the steeple-jack can drive in the first dog. A pulley is then attached to the dog, and another ladder is hauled up and fastened to the first. Ascending the second ladder the workman can fix another dog, and the process can be repeated until the summit is reached.

Yet another method is by means of a kite! But the steeple-jack’s kite is much larger than the schoolboy’s toy. It will measure some eight or ten feet long, with breadth in proportion, and is constructed of strong canvas. Lines run from the corners of the kite, and are joined together about a dozen feet down; then, after another dozen feet, another rope, called the “down-all” is fastened to the principal line.

The kite is flown in the same manner as the schoolboy flies his kite; but the steeple-jacks are, no doubt, much more clever in steering it. Under their clever manipulation, and with a fairly favourable breeze, the kite will act almost like a reasonable being, even as does a well-managed boat, and when it has sailed just over the top of the great, tall, square chimney, the man in charge of the “down-all” handles the cord so carefully that the kite falls and the principal cord lies fairly over the summit. Strong ropes are then fastened to this cord, and pulleys are run up, by which chains can be hoisted, and also a small platform on which a man can work.

But there are days when the wind is not suitable, and a kite cannot be used. Then the dogs must be tried; or if the building has loopholes, or any suitable places where stout,



STEEPLE-JACKS AT WORK (See page 41). -
Reprinted by permission of The Trustees of the Society for the Preservation of the Works of the late Sir James B. Fraser & Co., Ltd., London.

short poles can be fastened to project from the shaft, they may be brought into requisition and the ladders lashed to them.

Yet, again, a steeple-jack may be confronted by a building such as a church spire, for which both kite and ladders are not available. It may be a structure into which he cannot drive dogs, lest they should injure it. Then there is no help for it but to build up a scaffolding, and this work takes time and greatly adds to the length of the task.

Occasionally steeple-jacks meet with shocking accidents. In July, 1901, an Ipswich steeple-jack named William Ashley was repairing the tower of Threxton Church when, owing to the slipping of a rope, a small plank on which he and a companion were sitting gave way. Ashley was precipitated forty feet to the roof of the church; then he rebounded and fell to the ground. Happily, it was found that he was not killed, but his leg was broken. His companion saved himself by grasping a rope.

The important point in the work is that a man should be able to keep a cool, clear head and retain his nerve. But sometimes a man – and not only steeple-jacks – will suddenly lose his nerve, and though he may temporarily regain it, that moment may be fatal to the prosperous continuance of the business.

I know a traveller who confessed to me that one day, when passing over a certain lofty bridge and looking at the roaring torrent far below, he suddenly lost his nerve, though he had never known the experience before. He crept back to firm earth, being afraid to complete his crossing of the bridge. He has never been able to fully command his nerve since.

When such an attack of dizziness or loss of nerve seizes a steeple-jack, he had better change his trade. It is well paid, and seasoned with the spice of adventure and of danger, and is not without attraction to a strong, nimble, capable man. But if once attacks of dizziness overtake the man, he should resist all temptation to continue his work aloft, lest one day, when he least expects it, he falls crashing down to the hard earth below.

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Dersingham Infant and Nursery School Sparkles! and that's official!

These were the opening words of our Ofsted inspector when she gave us the feedback from our inspection at the end of February. She said the school sparkled in many areas of school life.

We gained

- **10 'outstanding' grades** in areas including personal development, care, guidance, support, leadership, management, behaviour.
- **16 'good' grades** for being an effective, efficient and inclusive school, the work of our Governing Body, and our above national standards in reading, writing and maths. We are in the top five per cent of schools nationally for our standards in writing.
- **Other phrases from the Ofsted Inspection report are:**
- "Excellent relationships between staff & pupils, means their attitudes to learning are very positive".
- "Children demonstrate excellent behaviour, hard work and have a high take up rate of the outstanding range of clubs and sporting activities"
- "Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school and have many good things to say about it" One parent wrote "I feel lucky that my children can attend such a great school. "Pupils' personal, social, moral and cultural development is outstanding."

And so what next?

- Despite our reading being 13% above the Norfolk and National average score in 2006, with 84% achieving level 2B+, we are going to take on the suggestion of the inspector to try to push the levels even higher by encouraging more practising of reading skills at the consolidation level.
- The inspector recognised that we have "good systems in place to check on our work". At the suggestion of the inspector, in the last two weeks we have already combined two of our pupil tracking sheets to enable us to look more closely at our planning and set even more challenging targets.

Finally, I would encourage people to look at our Ofsted Inspection report on www.ofsted.gov.uk when it is released in two weeks time on the Internet and I would also encourage people to come and visit our school to see the quality education we provide. If you live in the village and have not been to the school lately, please give us a ring and I will happily show you around. If you have a child coming up for school age please do give us a ring to put your child's name down on our waiting list. It's never too early as people register children from birth sometimes!!

*Jackie Austin – Headteacher -
01485 540022*





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2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

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Carole Brown Health Centre Patients' Participation Group

At the February meeting of the PPG, Graham Dickerson, Executive Partner of the practice, gave an update on matters affecting the Carole Brown Health Centre (CBHC) and its services. Below is a summary of his presentation together with other CBHC news.

The New Health Centre. All legal papers associated with the development of the new health centre have now been signed and the necessary funding has been acquired. The Developers (Pigeon Holdings) will be appointing a builder within the next few weeks. It is proposed that construction should begin in June and be completed in summer 2008. The latest plans are available for viewing at the CBHC. As the new building will be considerably larger than the current surgery there will inevitably be a requirement for additional items of equipment. 'Fixtures' are the responsibility of the Developer, but the Tenant (the practice) will be responsible for the provision of all portable equipment. Naturally, all portable items from the current surgery will be utilised but the collaboration of the PPG may be sought for purchase of some extra items that will benefit patients and further improve healthcare. The PPG committee will shortly determine in collaboration with practice managers how best to help and to discuss fundraising projects.

The Patients' Survey. The results were better than last year but the partners believe that there is still room for improvement. Mr Dickerson agreed that the appointments system has been a major problem – in part because of the appointments targets set by the Department of Health. It is hoped that the new telephone system introduced on 19th March and described below will help address the problem. Mrs Vanessa Blythe and Mrs Jackie Sisson attended on behalf of the PPG a fruitful meeting where the survey results were explained and discussed

The Primary Care Trust (PCT). As readers may be aware, the PCT currently has a £50,000,000 shortfall in its funds! Up to now the CBHC has been somewhat shielded from the funding cuts that are now inevitable. However, procedures such as minor surgery and phlebotomy will be affected and the funding allocated for 'flu' injections may be down by as much as 50%. It was suggested that the PPG may wish to lobby against the implementation of any measures that reduce the service to patients. The PCT has considerably reduced the funding for all practices for the phlebotomy service. Whereas the CBHC has previously been provided funding to meet six appointments per hour, staff will now have to provide 10 per hour so that phlebotomy needs can be met from the much reduced funding. Patients will be asked to cooperate by being as ready as possible for blood to be taken, e.g by waiting near the phlebotomy room with jackets off etc.

New Telephone and Appointments System As of **19 March** the CBHC and the GRHC will have a new telephone number:

084 44 77 33 77

All calls will go through to a team called "**Patient Solutions Team**" who are trained to deal with whatever problem presented whether it be appointment request, house call, prescription, insurance or general enquiry. Very rarely should the call need to be diverted to another clerical person. The current triage doctor system will continue as now and patients will still be able to have telephone consultations with their own doctors. At the CBHC there will be 2 reception staff to deal face to face with visitors and not be distracted by incoming telephone calls. Patients are requested to call early **only** if requesting an appointment for that day. For any other information or appointments patients should call a little later and consequently have a far greater chance of a speedy response.

Document Management System This new system helps staff track and trace correspondence received at the surgery. As soon any written document about a patient is received, it will immediately be scanned into the patients notes on the computer and be available to the clinical and administrative team. The new Patient Solutions Team will be able to indicate to patients with certainty whether a letter or report has or has not been received at the surgery. There should no longer be a search for the elusive hospital letter!

CBHC Dispensary. The dispensary has been moved within the CBHC so that patients entitled to

use it can go and speak directly to the dispensing team regarding any prescription query.

Royal Donation. Once again Her Majesty The Queen has kindly made a generous donation to the CBHC. This, together with all other donations made to the PPG helps maintain and hopefully improve services and facilities at the Carole Brown Health Centre.

Dr Baluch. The service and dedication of Dr Baluch will be missed when he retires in June. His replacement will be one of the partners in the practice.

Next PPG Meeting. AGM on 21 June at St Cecilia's Church at 7.30 PM.

T G M – 7 March 2007

CROFT HOUSE GARDEN

Did you enjoy walking by the woodland opposite St Nicholas Church in Manor Road this year, and seeing the thousands of snowdrops and daffodils in bloom in our garden?

Why not come to visit the wood and garden at the end of April, and discover some of the other delights that cannot be seen from the road? This is an evolving garden, and during the last seven years we have encouraged wildlife and biodiversity by making ponds, shrubberies, flower beds lawns and wild areas. You may see many of the wild birds that nest here and, if you are lucky, you may even get a glimpse of the greater spotted woodpeckers or the magnificent green woodpecker. The garden is open as part of the National Gardens Scheme's 80th birthday celebrations. All the gate money will go to their chosen charities, Help the Hospices,



Macmillan Nurses and Marie Curie Cancer Care amongst others. There will be a plant stall provided by South Creake Nursery, with a range of top quality plants. In addition, cream teas and parking will be available at the adjacent Church Hall. All profits from the teas will go to support the St Nicholas Flower Festival in July.

Springtime is one of the special times in our garden. Do come and share it with us. We'd love to see you.

Jane and Walter Blaney



**Garden Open: Sunday 29 April, 2 – 5 pm. Adults £3, Children free.
Croft House, 111 Manor Road, Dersingham (opposite St Nicholas Church).**

I never had a piece of toast
Particularly long and wide
But fell upon the sandy floor
And always on the buttered side

James Payn (1884)

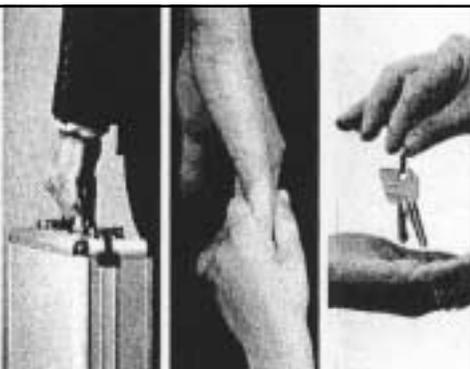
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Dersingham Walking Group

The group continues to be well supported with 36 joining us on the January walk. In view of this, the leaders have agreed to offer more walks this summer, including longer walks on Sundays which will include a break for participants to eat their packed lunch (not provided!)

The programme for the period April to June is:

Wednesday 11 April - start 6.00 pm from below the Alms House in Old Hunstanton Road, Castle Rising (map ref. L132/667 252). A 4.5 mile circular walk led by Michael and Valerie Smith (540728).

Sunday 22 April - start 10.30 am from the junction of Green Bank with the Ringstead/Holme Road (map ref. L132/708 420). A 6.5 mile circular walk to Holme and Thornham led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940). (BRING A PACKED LUNCH).

Wednesday 9 May - start 6.30 pm from Brancaster Church (map ref. L132/772 439). A 4.5 mile circular walk around Brancaster and Barrow Common led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807).

Sunday 20 May - start 10.30 am from Holkham village car park (map ref. L132/892 437). A 6.5 mile circular walk around Holkham and Wells led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807). (BRING A PACKED LUNCH).

Wednesday 30 May - start 6.30 pm from Sandringham Visitor Centre (map ref. L132/689 287). A 5 mile circular walk around Sandringham woods and Wolferton cliff led by Keith Starks. (542268).

Wednesday 13 June - start 6.30 pm from Fring Church (map ref. L132/735 348). A 4.5 mile circular walk around Fring and along Peddars Way led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940).

Sunday 24 June - start 10.30 am from Cley village hall car park (map ref. L133/047 437). A 7 mile circular walk around Cley and Salhouse led by Michael and Valerie Smith (540728). (BRING A PACKED LUNCH).

Details of the walks in July, August and September will be given in a future edition of Village Voice. There is **NO CHARGE**; just turn up on the day or contact the walk leader or me if you want further information. **WELL-BEHAVED DOGS** are welcome provided they are kept at the back of the group.



Corrections to information published in this year's edition of Dersingham Data

We have been requested to advise you of one or two entries in The Dersingham Data which, although published using the most up-to-date information available at the time, have been reported as being inaccurate;

Royal British Legion – meetings have now been re-arranged to be held at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month at the Feathers Hotel – contact Mr. C. Grimwood (Secretary) Tel: 544620.

Rainbow Guides – Contact Mrs. Lynne Wheeler Tel: 544753

1st Dersingham Brownie Guides - Time 5.30 to 7 pm.

Cubs – Monday 6.30 to 8 pm - Contact Steve Sharpe Tel: 542597.

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Because of enquiries being made at the Parish Council office in respect of the above we are happy to inform you of DVLA guidelines:

There are two classes of wheelchairs which **are not** subject to registration, these are:

Class One; Manual wheelchairs, ie. Self-propelled, not electrically propelled

Class Two; Powered wheelchairs and scooters – intended for footway use only with a maximum speed of 4 mph and an unladen weight not exceeding 113.4 kgs.

Class Three Vehicles which **are** subject to registration are defined as Mechanically propelled invalid carriages that are constructed or adapted to be capable of exceeding a speed of 4 mph on the level under its own power (generally powered wheelchairs and other outdoor vehicles including scooters intended for use on roads/highways). They must be fitted with a device capable of limiting the maximum speed to 4 mph for use when travelling on footways. The unladen weight must not exceed 150 kgs.

These vehicles need to be registered for road use in the ‘disabled’ taxation class and display a nil duty tax disc. They do not need to provide evidence of VED exemption when licensing in the ‘disabled’ class and are not required to display registration plates. Insurance is not obligatory but is advisable.

Further information at your local Post Office, or tel: 0870 243 0444 or online at:
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Monday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm Tuesday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm
Wednesday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm Thursday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

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Marian Lindsay

14 September 1933 to 7 March 2007



Marian was born in Crowland, near Peterborough. She had two elder brothers, Arthur and Douglas and a very happy childhood.

After school and teacher training college she left for Montreal in Canada for two years. She learnt to ski on Mount Royal and ice skated with the school children and swam and danced at the YMCA. She also took up badminton and played in and around Montreal and as far North as Quebec City. She spent her first summer travelling around America and finished at New York. The second summer she toured the Eastern provinces of Canada and visited Jamaica.

After three years she returned to the UK but could not settle and with a friend spent six months around Western Europe before getting another teaching job in London, here she met Ian at a party they had both gate-crashed. Within a year they were married and along came Suzanne, Fraser and Denise in quick succession. A move to Luton came with another teaching post whilst Ian travelled the country as a Post Office Investigator.

In 1979 Ian had had enough of travelling and the family bought the Post Office at Dersingham and settled down to a quiet family life. Marian and Ian had a full family life, cycling, sailing, swimming with the children and then the grandchildren.

Sadly, in 2001, Ian was diagnosed with prostate cancer and died in June 2004. Shortly after this Betty became a good friend to Marian and they had lots of trips out to Boston, Wisbech and Norwich and life was good again. However, within a year of Ian's death a lump was found in Marian's breast. Cancer again would scar this family's lives.

Marian spent the last four and a half months of her life with her daughter and family. She was surrounded by the laughter of the grandsons and she and her daughter spent many days out and many lunches in restaurants. Not a day was wasted.

She died in her bed at home with her daughter holding her hand — Ian had come to get her!

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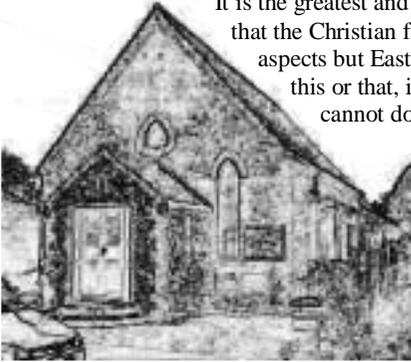
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Easter Greetings From The Manse

"Easter" is in effect the "code name" that we give; to the "Feast of the Resurrection of Christ".

It is the greatest and oldest feast of the Christian Church. There is no doubt that the Christian faith has many attractive and commendable qualities and aspects but Easter faith is its centre and heart. Christianity could give up this or that, it may even rethink this thought or that, but what it cannot do is cease to be a resurrection faith and it's people a resurrection community.



Christians are people who have died and risen with Jesus. Its importance is emphasised by the long preparation of Lent and the special ceremonies of Holy Week culminating in the joyful acclamation of the Christian people that "the Lord has risen indeed!" The gospel narrative makes it abundantly clear that there was no coincidence in the fact that the passion and victory of Jesus took place at the season of the Jewish Passover. John's Gospel

emphasises the point repeatedly that Jesus chose the time and place of crisis, and with this in his heart went up to the Holy City. Here Jesus held his last meal with his disciples.

The gospels plainly record this as a Passover meal. The Passover commemorated with joyfulness and thanksgiving, the central event of the old relationship between God and humanity, the deliverance from bondage and slavery in Egypt. But at this "Last Supper Jesus' words and actions anticipated and explained what was to come and in so doing established

the new relationship between God and humanity. The cross and resurrection, the central events of this "New Covenant", are the means whereby Jesus accomplished a new and supreme deliverance for all humanity, redemption from sin and death. The cross and resurrection seen together made a greater "Exodus" than the deliverance out of bondage in Egypt under Moses.

This is the importance of Easter. To think, reflect and even in a sense take part in these events in your heart. Eat and drink with Jesus at the Communion table; be partakers in this new relationship with God; and be witnesses of his glorious resurrection in your very being, life and work.

In this bicentennial year of the abolition of the slave trade in the then British Empire largely through the campaigning of William Wilberforce, there is an added significance to reflection and action. Sad to say slave trade continues today all over the world through things like the trafficking of women and children for economic and other reasons, and through the

drugs trade. The good news of freedom and equality is still not experienced by all God's children. There is much to do. May our Easter celebration give us courage and strength to share the message and bring it life and peace and joy.

With every Easter blessing, Kim Nally

Dersingham Methodist Church Annual Flower Festival

Dersingham Methodist Church Annual Flower Festival will take place from Thursday 24th to Monday 28th May. The theme is 'Joseph the man whose dreams came true'.

The arrangements will depict the well known story of the life of Joseph. The church will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Thursday – Saturday and Monday, and 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 pm Sunday. Coffees, lunches, teas will be served all day, stalls will be cakes, plants, cards, gifts, Christian bookstall. On Sunday 27th May the morning service will be taken by Rev Michael Brock Vicar of St. Nicholas Church, Dersingham and at 6.30 p.m. by Rev Kim Nally.

Please come and view the lovely arrangements, sample the food and purchase something from the stalls. You could combine a visit with the village open gardens on Sunday and Monday 27 and 28 May. *Look forward to seeing you. Elizabeth Batstone 01485 541068.*

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by Emily



Dersingham School Class V

Probably taken about 1905 is about the best estimate thus far!

The teacher on the left is Alice Mann

Having studied many school photographs I was struck by the clean, smart appearance of all the children and note that judging by the picture there must have been some really beautiful young ladies in Dersingham about 10 years after this was taken!

This photograph is a taste of what is to come when the story of the Mann and Walker families commences in our next issue

Doves

by David Bingham

Collared doves were unknown in Britain until one turned up in a garden in Lincolnshire in 1953. They first bred in this country in 1955, when a pair raised a brood in Overstrand near Cromer. Since then, their spread has been rapid and currently collared doves occupy around 200,000 breeding territories, which are mainly concentrated in urban parks and gardens. The colonisation of this country followed a relentless spread across Europe from their ancestral homelands in the dry regions of the Middle East and Indian sub-continent – where they would have been a familiar sight in the hot and dusty towns and villages for thousands of years. No one is sure why collared doves expanded their range so dramatically in the middle of the last century, but it was unlikely to be because of global warming. A spread into an unfilled ecological niche is a more likely explanation. Whatever the reason, they are now a familiar part of our avifauna. We had two collared dove nests in our garden last year, one in a laurel bush in the rear garden and one in a rowan tree in the front. The Dersingham population of collared doves must run into several hundred. I saw thirty-four in a small tree next to the surgery one morning last winter and this was unlikely to be the highest count for the village – those of you who feed birds in your garden will probably see them regularly. If you are unfamiliar with the species, just go outside and look for small buff coloured doves sitting on the apex of roofs or chimney pots – the search is unlikely to take more than five minutes. Alternatively, listen for their rather monotonous cooing that sounds soothing for the first five minutes but annoying after the first five hours. Their courtship flights are also distinctive. They fan their tails and take to the sky in an upward curve like an aeroplane about to do a loop-the-loop, but before they get to the top of the loop they seem to stall and remain motionless for a fraction of a second before falling back earthwards. Collared doves have a habit of perching in exposed

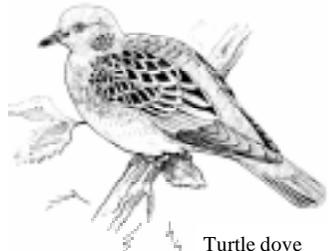
Collared dove



locations and their plumage may be an effective camouflage on the rooftops of Jerusalem but it does not hide them in Dersingham, which makes them an easy target for sparrowhawks. I saw a sparrowhawk catch and kill a collared dove a few feet from me in the middle of a street in Dersingham last year. This predation does not seem to be significantly reducing their population size.

The country cousin of the collared dove is the turtle dove.

These are colourful birds with tortoiseshell backs and a pink blush to their breasts. They were probably named after their call - a loud cat like 'turrurr turrurr' - rather than the colouration of their plumage. They are summer visitors to this country and are only found in the open countryside. A good place to look for them would be on one of the local farm trails – Courtyard Farm near Ringstead would be a likely place to try. You will need to be quiet and patient because turtle doves are very shy. Not without reason because they are shot in large numbers on migration from their winter home south of the Sahara. Malta has a particularly bad reputation in this regard but turtle doves are also a favourite target for huntsmen in Italy and France. This persecution and the changes to the farmed landscape has led to a steep decline in turtle dove numbers at the same time as the collared doves have been increasing. The two species do not share resources so the rise of one did not bring about the fall of the other. Collared doves are now beginning to spread across America following an escape of caged birds in the Bahamas. It is too early to say whether this colonisation will be equally benign.



Turtle dove

Dersingham Infant and Nursery School

A lot has happened since our last entry into Village Voice! Most notably we had a surprise visit from Ofsted for a school inspection and details of this can be seen elsewhere in this publication. We are very pleased with the result. In school our children have enjoyed topics on Kenya, Mexico, Food, Toys and Colour and Shape this term and have some super displays in their rooms. Work has included making safari trucks, tasting food from other countries, making heart shaped biscuits and learning about the lives of children in different places across the world. We have recently changed all our large corridor and hall displays to reflect the range of work enjoyed by the children. Now that 'Spring' is well on the way we are enjoying our school site to its full potential by taking our learning and play outdoors. Our wildlife area continues to flourish and we are grateful to the Horticultural Club for their support in keeping it accessible to the children by keeping the weeds down and the pond healthy. By the time you have read this we will have enjoyed two fund raising events: Ladies Night and our annual sponsored event. Proceeds from these events will go directly to funding extra special things for the children.

Dersingham St George's Church of England Junior School

Congratulations to Dersingham Infants on a successful Ofsted inspection. We are pleased

to hear that their school 'sparkles' ■

ECO SCHOOLS by Winona Lee

As part of the Eco School agenda, Sonia Staveley has visited the school to talk to the children about things we can do as a school to reduce energy consumption. We made a list of the things she mentioned: riding our bikes to school, sharing lifts, walking, turning off lights when they are not needed, recycling paper so we don't have to cut trees, using the bus, using a washing line and not the tumble dryer, not using the standby on the TV, wearing a jumper instead of having the heating so high.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT by Charlotte Sutcliffe

In school we looked at Fairtrade. This is to help prevent poverty in poorer countries. Fairtrade means when we get foods such as, chocolate, cocoa, sugar, fruit, fruit juices, honey, cakes and snacks and cotton products, people are paying the people who grew and harvested the food, a good price for the food. Fair trade food always has the Fairtrade logo on it, so look out for it when you are shopping.

And finally two pieces of news from both schools ...

We had a very productive meeting at Le Strange Hotel in early March to discuss the Extended Services that are available in the village to support children and their families. Five representatives from the schools attended and also Tony Bubb, chair of the Parish Council, and Alison Thorne our local librarian. We were guided in our discussions by Teresa Frost our local development worker for the Hunstanton Cluster. The conclusion we came to was that we are very fortunate in the Dersingham to have such a good range of clubs and services for children and parents happening before and after school, at weekends and during the holidays. We identified further ways we could work together to provide an even better range of Extended Services so watch this space for more details!

Please visit our school websites which we are beginning to build up. We hope to soon have some children's work on the sites too.

www.dersingham.norfolk.sch.uk and www.st-georges.norfolk.sch.uk
Jackie Austin,
Headteacher
Infant and Nursery School

Ann Pope,
Headteacher
St George's Junior School

GRAND SALE
at Dersingham Church Hall, Manor Road,
Saturday, 28 April 2007, 9.00 am - 12.00 noon
in aid of St. Nicholas Church



A grand sale of secondhand goods (no clothing). Now is the time to think about spring cleaning and de-cluttering your home. Are you are tidying your loft, garage, shed or spare room? If you have any household goods, curios, bygones, books, small items of furniture, garden equipment and tools, etc., that you are able to donate, we would be pleased to receive them.

You can deliver to the Church Hall on any Saturday, 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon, until 21 April. If you need the goods to be collected, please telephone 540857 to arrange this.

Do make a note on your calendar, tell your friends, and come to the sale. Thank you.

DERSINGHAM OPEN GARDENS
2.00 pm. to 6.00 pm, 27 and 28 May 2007
Admission to all gardens - £2.50 (under 16s free)



Come and be inspired by some fascinating, spectacular and varied private gardens!

Tickets will be available at the Church Hall and at participating gardens. Cream teas will also be available at the Church Hall. Some participating gardens may also provide refreshments. Income from the event is to benefit the Parish Church. Please make a note to support the Flower Festival at the Methodist Church also. It is still not too late to have your garden included in this event. You can contact me on 540857 to discuss this.

St Nicholas Church
Dersingham
Art & Crafts Festival

Thursday 12th/Saturday 14th April 2007
10.00 am - 5.00 pm
Painting Exhibition, Craft Fayre Stalls



'The Wandering Minstrels'

are back at Park House!

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On Sunday 20 May 2007, 7.30 pm

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My Patch

by Gardenwatcher



Wed. I've come to the decision that I am just not appreciated. I was sitting in front of the fire (it hasn't been on much this winter as they claim it's warm enough without) trying to dislodge a fur ball when I was grabbed and thrown out into the garden. As it happened I landed on top of a patch of Snowdrops that were nearly out so soon already. These are not the only spring bulbs flowering. There are crocuses, aconites, some little blue jobs and almost a daffodil or two.

Thur. Gosh, jolly windy today! I was awoken by my mistress making a good deal of animated noise about a tree that had blown down. It was the one next to the one they took down a few weeks ago. As I wasn't in it at the time I decided to mind my own business and, turning around a few times, continued my rest. The master was later

to be seen looking through books with pictures of trees in to select a replacement. I hope he will choose wisely as I am getting on and would like something with evenly spaced branches for ease of climbing.

Sun. Day of the Great Garden Birdwatch (same old sort of a day for me then). Usually this means a garden devoid of birds and today was no exception. Just one blackbird and a dunnock to trouble the watchers.

Mon. Garden back to normal—full of birds. Yum! The grass is still growing and he has been at it with the mower again. Tree buds are swelling as are the buds on the Camellia. Must be due for some harsh weather soon to spoil things.

Wed. The food here is wholesome and nourishing but could never be described as copious, so I like to supplement my meagre meals with a little wild food. However, the mild weather, which still continues, means that mice and voles are not coming in from the fields as there is enough food out there. Also the bait they put out for the birds is not proving popular which means that I don't need to join Weightwatchers at the moment. I shall exercise less in future.

Tue. After a boring wet and cold weekend I decided to run an Energy Conservation Workshop. Nobody came so take part so I went to sleep instead. Awoke just after 2 pm to find the sun out so I went for a stroll. There was a song thrush making a lot of noise and a jackdaw clacking away on next doors chimney disturbing my peace so I cut short my trip and returned to the bedroom exhausted.

Wed. It's only mid February and already the wildlife pond is heaving with frogs and toads. They all seem very busy in there but I can't work out what they are up to. It's making me positively tired to watch.

Thur. A week since my last entry, where does the time go? The pond now seems to have a lot of very anaemic looking Tapioca pudding in it and lots of little amphibious heads poking above the surface. I am content to watch proceedings from behind the window with no danger of my getting wet. He has placed a large mirror at the end of the small veg plot which is capturing the attention of a male blackbird. It seems to be having a duel with its reflection and neither side is winning.

Mon. Just to the south of the greenhouse is an area that he puts the half dead "bargains" that he picks up now and again in the hope that they will grow. If nothing else it is a nice sunny spot to rest in. Now, after a visit to the plant shop at Sandringham, they have come back armed with a load of veg seeds and he is going to dig it up and plant them. Vegetables Eughh! Still it might attract the birds. I will keep you posted.

Sat. He has just sowed some grass seed where the falling tree ruined the lawn, time to get digging! Blast, he has put some mesh over it. This will require some thought, I'll sleep on it.

*and finally...*I would like to thank Mr T. H. Rush for his recent communication and assure him that if I should ever have a sack, bricks and running water to hand I will give his suggestion serious consideration.

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Fr James Fyfe writes: With Lent almost over now and with the better weather (we hope!) comes the promise of new growth and life. This is the real message of Easter - a far cry from Cadbury's cream



Parishioners from Dersingham at a lunch in the Parish Centre in Hunstanton



Fr James Fyfe at the Parish lunch

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DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS

Day	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Every Monday	2.00 pm	St. Cecilia's Church	Rosary Group	St. Cecilia's Church
Every Mon, Tues, Thur &	9.00 to 11.30 am	Dersingham Playgroup	Playgroup Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Mon & Fri in Term	9.30 to 11.00 am	Puddleducks Toddler Group	Toddler Group Meeting	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Last Monday in the Month	7.15 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Council Meeting	Infant and Nursery School, Saxon Way
Every Tuesday	5.30 to 7 pm	2nd Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7 – 10 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Tuesday in Term Time	8.30 to 11.15 am	Parent & Toddler Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church hall	St Nicholas Parent & Toddler Group
Every Tuesday	8 pm	Royal Antediluvian Order of	Sandringham Lodge Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
1st or 2nd Tuesday in the month	2.15 pm	Royal British Legion Women's Section	Dersingham & Sandringham Branch Meeting	Orchard Close Community Room
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Village Voice 'Live'	Presentations by Guest Speakers/Groups	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Art Club	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
2nd Tuesday in the Month	7.30 pm	Royal British Legion	Branch Meeting	Feathers Hotel
Every Wednesday	10.00 am to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly	Recreation & Leisure Activities and Mid-day Meal	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Wednesday	10.00 to 11.00 am	Music+Movement	Pre-school Music, Dance & Drama	Dersingham Scout & Guide HQ
Every Wednesday	2.00 to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Carpet Bowls	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Wednesday	6.00 to 7.15	Beavers	Meeting for children	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every 2ndWeds of the	5.30 to 7.00 pm	Dersingham Junior Flower Club	Meeting of Children aged 8+	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every 2ndWeds of the	10.30 am	St Nicholas Men's Group	Men's Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every 2ndWeds of the	7.30 pm	Albert Victor Bowls Club	Prize Bingo	Albert Victor Bowls Club,
2nd & 4th Weds of every	7.30 to 9.00 pm	Dersingham Fellowship	Prayer and Praise and Bible Study	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road

3rd Wednesday of the Month	7.15 to 10.00 pm	Dersingham Evening Women's Institute	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
Every Thursday	10.30 am to 3.00 pm	North West Norfolk Phobbies Club	Meeting	St. Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thursday	4.00 to 5.15 pm	1st Dersingham Rainbow Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 5-7 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Other Thursday	4.00 to 7.00 pm	Dersingham parish Council	Car Boot Sale	Dersingham recreation Ground
Every Thursday	5.30 to 7.00 pm	1st Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7-10 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.00 pm	1st Sandringham Guide Unit	Unit Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.00 pm	1st Dersingham Scout Group	Group Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.30 pm	Norfolk Army Cadet Force	Sandringham Detachment Meeting	The Drill Hall, Dodds Hill
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Badminton Club	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thursday Sept to June	2 pm	Park House Hotel	Rubber Bridge	Park House Hotel
1st Thursday of the Month		Dersingham Flower Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
2nd Thursday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Horticultural Society	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
3rd Thursday of the Month	9.30 to 10.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church Jigsaw Club	Meeting	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Friday	6.30 to 8 pm	1st Dersingham Guide Unit	Unit Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every Friday	6.45 to 9.15 pm	Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club	Club Meeting	St George's Junior School
Alternate Fridays	2.15 to 4.30 pm	Dersingham Seniors Club	Entertainment and Outings for the over-60s	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Friday of the month	10.00 am to 12 noon	St Nicholas Church	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas Church Hall

DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS

April 12 to 14		St Nicholas Church	Spring Arts & Crafts Festival	St Nicholas Church and Church Hall
April 15		Tapping House Hospice	Sandringham Stroll	Sandringham Park
April 22		St Nicholas Church	St George's Day Lunch	St Nicholas Church Hall
April 28		St Nicholas Church	Mammoth Auction Sale	St Nicholas Church Hall
April 29	2.00 to 5.00 pm	National Garden Scheme	Croft House Garden Open for Charity	Croft House 111 Manor Road Dersingham
May 9	10.30 am Coffee from 10.00	Hunstanton & West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild	Annual General Meeting	Lifeboat Inn Thornham
May 20	10.00 am to 1.00 pm	Campaign Care 94	Annual Plant Sale	Rear of Church Crofts

May 20	7.30 pm	Park House Hotel	The Wandering Minstrels	Park House Hotel Conservatory
May 24 to 28		Dersingham Methodist Church	Annual Flower festival	Dersingham Methodist Church
May 27/28	2.00 to 6.00 pm	St Nicholas Church	Open Gardens	St Nicholas Church Hall
May 27	Morning Service	Dersingham Methodist Church	Service conducted by Rev. Michael Brock	Dersingham Methodist Church
May 27	6.30 pm Service	Dersingham Methodist Church	Service conducted by Rev Kim Nally	Dersingham Methodist Church
May 27 to 28		St Nicholas Church	Open Gardens	St Nicholas Church Hall and village properties

News in Brief

Nineteen-year-old Jamie Clarke of Dodds Hill Road, Dersingham, has been named Young Pub Chef of the Year, a nationally acclaimed award, in the PubChef Food Excellence Awards run by Pub Chef magazine. Jamie is currently employed at the Rose and Crown in Snettisham having started there when he was 15. The Village voice is pleased to add its congratulations to those of his employers, and to wish Jamie every success in his future career.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Mrs. Margaret Sutton, formerly of Dersingham Hall (The Gamekeeper's Lodge) – It is only a short time since she and her husband opted for retirement, having been the extremely successful and popular owners of the hotel, bar and restaurant. The contribution which they made to the village has been greatly missed since the closure of the business, and our thoughts go out to Dick in his loss.

Two Members of Dersingham Parish Council have faced a disciplinary hearing by the Code of Conduct Panel following allegations that one of them made insulting remarks against the County Councillor who represents the village, and that they both failed to make Declarations of Interest at meetings arranged by the Parish Council. West Norfolk Standards Board decided that Cllr John Gilmour-Houston failed to treat others with respect and had not declared a financial interest during discussions over plans for a skate board park on the recreation ground. The Councillor was ordered to write a letter of apology to County Cllr Janice Eells and to attend a code of conduct training session later this year. At the time of writing it is not certain whether Cllr Gilmour-Houston will appeal against the ruling. At a separate hearing Cllr Valerie Brundle was found to have breached the code of conduct on two occasions but no penalties were imposed because of mitigating circumstances. It is not known whether Cllr Brundle will appeal against the decision.

Dersingham resident John Hannant, recently retired gardener at Park House Hotel at Sandringham lost touch with his sister, Margery, in 1953, and never expected to ever see her again. However, following his retirement, Mr Hannant began a detailed search, using the press, libraries and Council records, and was eventually reunited with his 88 year old sister, now Mrs Jack Cooke, in Hatfield, Hertfordshire. Well done, John - now you have 54 years of catching up to do!

Norfolk Constabulary Western Mobile Police Station

West Norfolk Constabulary advise us that the Mobile Police Station will be open in Budgen's car park as follows; Wednesdays – 11 April, 9 May and 6 June 2007 - 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 16 May 2007** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

Articles for publication in the April edition of Village Voice must reach the editor at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, e-mail: dersinghamvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk before the **deadline date of Wednesday 16 May 2007 for publication on Thursday 7 June 2007**.

(Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication).

Should you be providing graphics to accompany advertisements or articles, it would be appreciated if these could be in JPEG format.

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

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

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

The Production Team consists of

Editor: - Bob Tipling

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

Layout Artist and IT consultant - Stella Caunt

Advertising Sales: - Ron Brackstone

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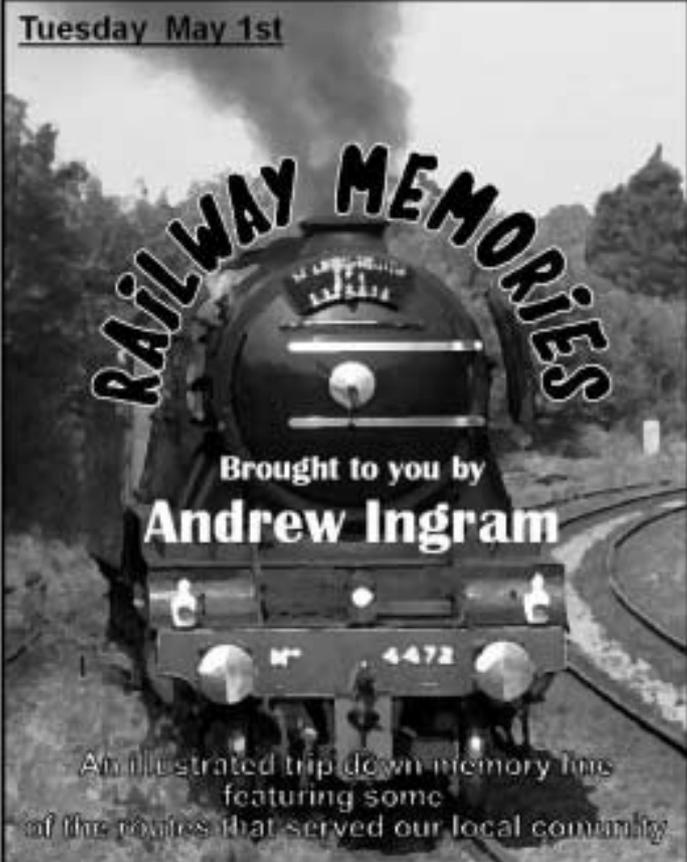
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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday May 1st



RAILWAY MEMORIES

Brought to you by
Andrew Ingram

An illustrated trip down memory lane
featuring some
of the routes that served our local community

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

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday June 5th



SAVAGES OF LYNN

Tim Thorpe

from
Lynn Museum
An illustrated talk on two aspects
of the museum's collection



IMAGES OF LYNN

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