

Dersingham Village Voice

Issue 47

August 2007

Dersingham Village Voice Team Loses a Key Member



**Sadness in the village as Stella loses her battle
against the 'Big C'**

(See pages 2 & 3)



Stella Caunt 1936 - 2007

Stella Caunt was 71 years of age when she died in early June of this year. Born in Rosyth in Scotland, she and her two sisters, Catherine and Ruth, and her brother, Robert, were to frequently move about the country as their father, a naval officer, was given new postings. After leaving school at the age of 17 she had a variety of jobs, as a secretary in banking, in local government and in education. She was to marry her husband, Tony, in 1956 and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year.

Stella loved teaching and gained a teaching certificate (Cert. Ed.) at the age of 41. She taught in 3 further education colleges until obtaining a position with Gaywood Park SM School in 1977, then taking up a post in 1978 with Norfolk College of Arts and Technology (now the College of West Anglia) remaining there as a full-time, then part-time lecturer until finally taking full retirement in 2005, having been involved in the development of hundreds of students. She also acted as an external examiner for the Joint Examining Board, a post which she felt was very worthwhile as it helped distant learners to gain teaching qualifications. As may be seen from some of the tributes to Stella, she was to inspire many students with her enthusiasm and dedication.

Tony and Stella moved into Dersingham at the beginning of the 1980s and Stella immediately became an active participant in the life of the community, serving a full term as a Parish Councillor and also being a member of the small team which were to found the 'Dersingham Village Voice' with which she was actively involved right up to her death.

Her love of music and singing saw her taking part in a number of stage shows with the Gilbert and Sullivan Society and the King's Lynn Opera and Dramatic Society. Stella was also a member of the West Norfolk Singers and a member of the choir at St Nicholas Church.

The following was read at Stella's funeral service, held at St Nicholas Church on 21st June 2007, and is considered to be most appropriate for her;

'You can shed tears that she is gone'

You can shed tears that she is gone
or you can smile because she has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back
or you can open your eyes and see all she's left

Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
or you can be full of the love you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember her and only that she's gone
or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she'd want smile, open your eyes love and go on.

Some Tributes to Stella

I first met Stella in July 2003 when I was persuaded to take over responsibility for the editing of this newsletter, and have had a close working relationship with her from that time up to the time of her death. She was an inspiration and continual source of support when we, along with our colleague Tony Bubb, gradually added what we believed to be improvements to that which we now call a magazine, and, even though she was suffering badly during the later stages of her illness, she nevertheless continued to produce the layout of the Village Voice right up to, and including, our last edition, saying that she was using the production as a form of therapy.

I, for one, will miss Stella's input and technical knowledge, for she did everything wholeheartedly (second-best not being in her vocabulary) but more than this I shall miss the friendship and strength of character which she seemed to convey to all the people she met, as will be shown by the tributes below. My sincere condolences go out to her husband Tony, her sisters Catherine and Ruth and to her brother Robert.

Bob Tipling – Editor, Dersingham Village Voice

Although, unlike you, we did not know Stella, we do know that the Village Voice has gone from strength to strength. If that was in part due to Stella, we too shall miss her input and the new, refreshing boost and approach given to this community led publication.

Helen and Roger Buckenham

Stella used to volunteer here before her illness and we exchanged emails after we moved into our new office when I invited her to come and see us. I had seen her driving a few months ago and thought she was doing OK. She was a cheerful and highly skilled volunteer who will be greatly missed.

David Bingham (RSPB)

Stella Caunt taught me when I was on my secretarial course at college 1986 - 1988. Some of the tutors were not as diligent as Stella, dedicated to educating each and every person on the course. I always thought I was extremely fortunate to have her as a tutor. Very firm but always fair sums her up. I have memories of several "Yes, Mrs Caunt's", never "No's".

Rosie'S'

I was very sad to hear this news. Stella was one of the nicest, most efficient and most positive people in the village. She is irreplaceable.

Paul Burall

Sorry to hear the news that Stella has passed away. The Parish Council owe a great deal to her. She was involved with setting up the systems for the council, and was one of the reasons the Village Voice is a success. Stella was also a tutor at West Anglia College, teaching computer skills. When I attended she was one of my tutors, she had a very quiet and patient way of getting across, but most important she was good at giving encouragement, if I met her in the village she would always enquire how it was going and say you are doing better than you think. Once again sorry to hear the sad news.

Bernie Twite

Unfortunately, we often learn of a friend's achievements after they are no longer with us. Stella was a good councillor and a master of the computed word but this, it turns out, was just the tip of the iceberg. Both in work and play she packed so much into her days. I will particularly miss our spirited discussions about the finer points of computer use, layout of this magazine and village matters in general. If she said that she would do something then it was done, on time and properly.

I hope that Village Voice will be a lasting memorial to her.

Tony Bubb

Meet the New Co-optees to the Parish Council

The Parish Council have co-opted two new Members at their meeting in June, bringing the complement to 11 of a possible 18 Members. There are still opportunities for you to put your name forward for co-option in order to make a contribution to the management of the village by contacting Sarah, the Parish Clerk, on 01485 541465.

Roy Johnson (right) was introduced to readers in the last issue of the Village Voice, and now holds a dual role in the community, being a Borough Councillor as well as holding his new post as a Parish Councillor. He has been a resident of Dersingham since 1972 having spent his working life in various branches of the engineering industry, particularly related to the production and application of metals and alloys. His qualifications include a PhD in Engineering, he is a Fellow of the Institution of Materials Minerals and Mining and is a Chartered Engineer. He is a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Engineers. He regularly attends both St Nicholas Church, Dersingham, and the Sandringham Church.





Editor's Notes

I sit down to write these notes on what is my 70th Birthday (on which date the American population has decided to celebrate their Independence Day!) and realise that I have, for once, got nothing in mind to say apart from offering my appreciation to my family and friends for the well wishes which I have received and for all the support which I have been given over the years. To all of you, and in particular to my wife, Margaret, thanks for making what I do worthwhile!



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

For our meeting on the 4th June we had a very interesting speaker – The Rev Sally Theakstone telling us of her life at sea as a Naval Chaplain.

Our Strawberry Tea on the 2nd July was our next event, this was due to be held at the home of our President, Mrs Betty Edey, however, due to the extremely bad weather, this had to be transferred to our normal meeting place at Orchard Close Community Centre. Mrs Edey provided us all an excellent tea with Champagne, Strawberries and Ice Cream, some excellent meringues she made herself and a superb cream cake. Assisted by her band of helpers, everything ran smoothly in spite of the weather and we all enjoyed our afternoon immensely.

We also had a presentation by Mrs Dee Morris the Poppy Co-ordinator for this area to long-term Poppy Collectors.

10-year certificates for their work as Poppy Collectors were presented to Mrs July Cole, Mrs Christine Cordner and Mrs June Gibbs.

15-year Brooches were awarded to Miss Doreen Linford, Mrs Dorothy Loseby and Mrs Joan Jackson.

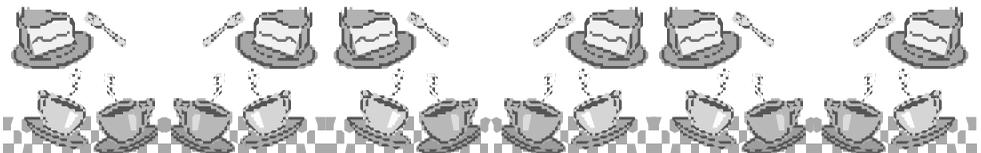
A 25-year Merit Award was given to Mrs Jean Cook and Miss Mary Spaxman received a bar to commemorate her 45 years as a collector to add to her 30-year medal.

Mr Tony Pugh was unable to attend the ceremony but was due to receive a 10-year certificate. Very well done all of them, Mrs Dee Morris would also like to hear from anyone that would be interested in joining her team of collectors, it only involves approx. 2 hours per year.

We will be having our Annual Coffee Morning on the 8th November from 10 am to 12 noon at the Methodist Church Hall in Post Office Road, so please come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and maybe visit some of our very interesting stalls including our homemade cake stall. All proceeds will go to the Poppy Appeal.

The next time we meet will be for our outing to Bury St Edmunds on 5th September, as we do not meet in August. Our A.G.M. will be on the 8th October at the Orchard Close Community Room at 2.15 pm.

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Letters to the Editor

Tom Power of 23 Hanover Court writes; I feel pretty sure that everyone will know exactly where this lovely house and 'garden' is situated, although it was probably not included in the recent Open Gardens event!

Is there any chance, in the not too distant future, that the problematic issue of ownership and eventual disposal might be satisfactorily concluded?

{Editor's note, *The following is a quote from Patrick Marks, 'Dersingham*

Village Voice' Issue 46 - Page 60. - "...Never had to sidestep the last few remaining members of the Icení tribe, spotted seeking huddled refuge in the impenetrable overgrown madness and abandoned cars of Caxton Cottage....." The next item is a part of the Council report in Issue 45 - Page 2. - "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."}

Mark Sadler of Hotel Cumbres Verdes, Granada, Spain writes; I am currently researching my family history and it appears that I am descended from John Pell (1500-1555) and Margaret Cletheroe (16 generations). I had not realised their importance in your community until I read a story by Elizabeth Fiddick about Dersingham Hall in issue 36 of "Dersingham Village Voice" on the internet. I'm wondering if there are any records concerning William Pell, who, according to the script, served as a sea captain at the time of Queen Elizabeth I and also to previous generations of the Pell family. I am descended from their grand-daughter who married into the Riches family. As I reside in Spain and have a family to look after, it is a little difficult at the moment to travel to England; however, when a suitable time arises, my family and I will make every effort to visit Dersingham.

Chris Wood, of 44 Thetford Road, Watton 01953 882183 writes; I would like to say a very big thank you for publishing my emails on the Zeppelin raid on K.L., and my request for any information about my great aunt Jemima Amelia Durrant in your magazine. I've since found out that Jemima Amelia (Millie) Simkins (age 67) married Frank Durrant (age 67) in 1939 in London. I don't know when they arrived in Dersingham but certainly by 1945. I've also found that Francis Augustine Durrant, aka Frank, b. 1872 Downham area, was the son of a farmer from Wimbotsham, and that Frank worked in a bank as a clerk (c1891), and cashier (c1901). As a result of your publication I've had some long conversations with Elizabeth Fiddick resulting in my borrowing two of the books she used for her own article, both via the Norfolk library service. I have also been able to help her a little with her naval family research. I also sent Elizabeth some photos of the Zeppelin crew (L4) including Magnus von Platen but this not for copying or publishing as this is particular photo is copyright to a German naval aviation museum. More interestingly, I was able to find and freely download from the internet a photo of their navigator in his gondola looking at a chart of Norfolk. Although this does not prove that Magnus was deliberately aiming for Norfolk, his suggestion of looking for the Humber may have been political and it would be useful to find when he made that statement, whether before or after seeing the Kaiser on his return. The log books of L4 would be the great prize but I've not been able to find them yet. I also passed on a copy of my great aunt's obituary which may also be of interest to yourself as it includes a long list of local names, mostly now sadly deceased. Brian Lloyd also rang but I was able to offer him little apart from the obituary for his Dersingham history project..





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ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED March 2007

Membership of the Trustees is limited to nine volunteers who manage approximately 100 acres of land in Dersingham. This land is divided into farm land, fuel allotments (commons) and field gardens (allotments). Revenue from the land is used to provide funding for general benefit to the poor and those suffering hardship and in assisting persons who are preparing for a trade. During the year three committee meetings were held, which were well attended. In addition to this, regular meetings are held with Norfolk County Council and English Nature to oversee work on both commons and the Fen.

Currently Mr Alan Cross holds the office of Chairman. He is a representative trustee appointed by the parish council who also appoints four other representatives to run for a four year term. They are Mrs Jean Riches, Mr Alan Hayward, Mrs Sarah Harmer, and Mr Simon Davidson. Other trustees (co-opted) are Mr Eric Riches, Mrs May Davey and Prof. Walter Blaney who serve a five year term. Revd Michael Brock vicar of the parish of St Nicholas is the ex officio member, an automatic appointment as Ecclesiastical head of the parish.

Annual accounts are produced at the end of March and sent to the Charity Commissioners. Copies are available on request from the clerk of the trustees (see heading for details). Charity donations are distributed to local charities whose criteria meet the requirements detailed in paragraph one. Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly, Tapping House Hospice and Orchard Close Community Group have benefited in the past year. Donations have again been awarded to students, resident in Dersingham, who are studying practical subjects at the College of West Anglia. This is to provide tools and equipment relevant to their courses. Donations are made by application only, and should be received by the clerk of the trustees by 1st November each year, to be considered by the committee, for December distribution.

Norfolk County Council manage Dersingham Fen and maintenance is progressive. The area is an important conservation site, being one of the few acid valley mires in the country. Rare species of moss and lichens grow there and it is vital to keep an open site. Removing sapling trees is an ongoing task for volunteer labour. Regular reports on this work appear in the Village Voice. Maintenance of public footpaths and fire breaks is the responsibility of the D.U.C and is ongoing on both commons, keeping walks open for residents to enjoy the area. Volunteers from the British Trust for Conservation, along with trustees, also help with general maintenance and manually clearing the site of silver birch and gorse saplings, which would otherwise impair the heathland growth.

The Allotment Association has succeeded in tidying the site at Station Road. The roadway created at the playing field boundary allows easy access for tenants in this area. Again there is a 'waiting list' for plots. The annual competition to find the best kept allotment creates feverish activity during the month of June and certificates are awarded at the Annual General Meeting of the Association in October.

Ruth Mountain - March 2007



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Sarah's Page



Hi - Unfortunately I have to start my page this month with sadness. Stella Caunt's passing has knocked me for six. She was a colleague who was always willing, did everything with such enthusiasm, and gave great advice when asked. A true friend and this village will not be the same without her. I know she would not want us to be sad but glad and every time a copy of the Village Voice arrives on your doormat I would like to think that a little piece of Stella is attached to it. What a great lady!

I find myself saying rain, rain, rain. Our new Police Community Support Officers are now in place and you may well have seen them around the village and if not you will soon. They assure me that it will be 80° at Christmas, so winter bar-b-que's this year. Scoles will be working non-stop for 144 hours instead of the usual 72. Bernie you can come home for Christmas without the jumpers this year. Green bags, what can I say, I have fought very strongly for us to be able to keep selling the green bags but unfortunately because they go into landfill they are being withdrawn from areas who can have brown bins. This will take effect from 31 July and the refuse men will be unable to collect. Anyone that needs any details regarding getting a brown bin please contact the office. If you have green bags left over the Borough are prepared to take the cost of them from the cost of the brown bin. It only leaves me to say that Anita and I will miss seeing you come in for your bags.

The Council this year are having a Children's Sports Week starting on the 30 July until the 3 August. This year it will take place on the Sports Ground in Manor Road so we have some shelter if we are unfortunate with the weather. The Programme was in the centre pages of the last issue of the Voice. If you missed it or would like to receive a booking form please contact the office. The response has been poor so far.

Still keep the posters coming for the Public Notice-board it is well used and must be an asset to the village and its organisations. The suggestion box is being used more often, which is good; keep your ideas and concerns coming in.

I am pleased to say that we now have two new Parish Councillors, Mrs A Chapman and Cllr R Johnson. They both have experience of how councils work and I am most grateful to have such lovely people to work with, and I know they have the village uppermost in their minds. We still have seven vacancies and if you wish to come and join us - please apply.

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

Sarah

Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

Monday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm 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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Former Dersingham Man is Honoured along with H.M. the Queen!



Duncan Goose, a former Dersingham resident whose parents still live in the village, has been named as 'a Great Briton' at a 'Greatest Britons' national award ceremony, shown on ITV1, which bestowed a similar honour on Her Majesty the Queen, actress Helen Mirren, adventurer Sir Ranulph Fiennes and footballer David Beckham, these having been voted for by a panel of judges and with the Queen selected as the 'Greatest Living Briton' by ITV1 viewers. The presentation to Duncan was made by former 'Spice Girl' Geri Halliwell.

The Village Voice has looked into Duncan's life to date and has discovered that he was born in Edinburgh and moved into Dersingham with his family in 1978, where he attended the Middle School. As with most lads in the village he spent holidays doing a paper round for the then Bowden's Newsagency, and would spend his Christmas holidays, working in the cold for hours on end, plucking pheasants for

Scoles the Butchers. At the time that Val Brundle and Mike Hickman owned the Red Pumps Garage they drove in motor rallies and Duncan became a member of their support team (on occasion, acting as navigator), the rally team were, at the time, being sponsored by 'The Spaghetti House' in London, whose owners, Mr and Mrs Lavarini, live in Dersingham.

Having attended school in Suffolk; Dersingham, and at Wisbech Grammar School, for his A-levels: Duncan went on to do Business studies in Coventry. His holidays were now spent working at Foster Refrigeration under the guidance of Mike Brannon, who, seeing his potential, recommended him to friends who employed him at their marketing and advertising company in London. Duncan then moved to another company where he progressed to the position of Director.

Between 1998 and 2000 he fulfilled a life-long ambition to ride a motorbike around the world. Despite some 'interesting' close shaves such as being shot at, colliding with a deer, being rescued by the police in Baluchistan and being in an earthquake - two particular experiences were to change his view of the world and how a little bit of support can drastically improve people's lives forever. Duncan was caught in the middle of Hurricane Mitch which decimated Honduras, killed over 30,000 people and did \$4bn worth of damage. Although he did a bit of 'on-the-spot' relief work such as digging houses out of mudslides, it was a fund raising programme he set up with some other travellers that made the difference. The money they raised was ear-marked to help re-build the village they were in, but so much money was raised that it went on to rebuild 13 villages. The second experience was being welcomed into a small village community in the Peruvian Andes near Machu Picchu. Although incredibly poor their generosity was over-whelming and Duncan has continued to support the village including the building of 30 toilets and providing educational materials and clothing. He was recently made an official 'god father' to 150 children there.

These experiences were life changing for Duncan, especially having seen poverty ridden countries where people had so little but managed to remain happy and positive, and caused him to vow to do something to help, leading to the formation of 'Global Ethics' the charitable company behind a unique way of providing under-privileged people in the third world with the facility to have clean drinking water available on tap. This then was his main incentive in the production of 'One' water, spring water produced and sold on a no-profit basis.

(The Editor makes no excuses for using the following extracts from 'One's' website in order to explain the ethics and practicalities of the charity).



Trying to change the lives of a billion people?

1 billion people without clean water, 2 million deaths each year, but did you know that the bigger problem is actually that people spend an average of 5 hours a day walking to collect water. That's around 40 billion hours a year. Imagine what your day would be like if you spent 5 hours walking to your local shop for a drink. Wouldn't get much done would you? It's the same in developing countries. Kids don't go to school and adults can't look after their crops or families properly.

As stated in 'One's' web pages "We could have sat on our backsides and done nothing, but we've seen the impact of a little bit of money used in the right way – which is why we launched **One**. We always said that if we could get just one bottle produced, or change just one life it would have been worth it. But with your help we hope to do much better than that. By installing PlayPumps™ in villages not only do we ensure people get clean water, but because it's readily available it means time isn't wasted collecting water – and that's great because the kids go to school to get an education and the adults look after their crops and families."

Like all great stories, this one started in a pub. In 2003 a group of friends were watching the Grand National in a pub in London when one of them happened to mention that he'd read an article that 1 billion people didn't have access to clean water. He thought that they should do something about it. More specifically, that they should launch a not-for-profit bottled water which gave all its profits away to fund well-building programmes. Needless to say, the resulting discussion was somewhat 'creative' and the more beer they consumed the more passionate they became.

In June 2004 Duncan Goose quit his job to work full time on getting the project off the ground. It wasn't easy, but with the support of the original group of friends, '**One**' became more and more of a reality when on May 30th 2005 the first bottles rolled off the production line – at exactly the same time Bob Geldof announced 'Live8'. It must have been a sign!

It's been a challenging, but sometimes quite magical, journey for the team behind '**One**'. What started off as three men and a dog working late into the evenings and every weekend suddenly started to snowball into a team of like-minded people who wanted to help out in any way they could. Wives, friends, former colleagues, companies, friends of friends, friends of friends of friends. It seemed like whoever got to hear about the project wanted to make a difference too.

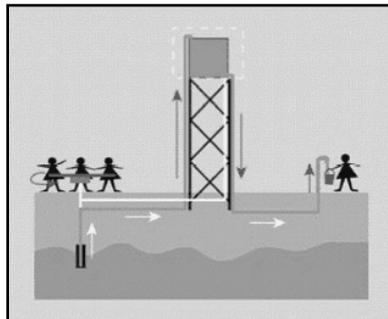
Duncan may be the man at the front, but there is an army behind him – and you are part of that army too.

Who is Global Ethics Limited and what's their relationship with 'One' water? 'Global Ethics' was the company set up by Duncan Goose when he resigned from his old job in order to

concentrate on getting '**One**' water launched. 'Global' - because we want to make a global difference - even if it's only one person, one day at a time and 'Ethics' because it's about everything the company stands for. **Where is 'ONE' water from?** 'ONE' water comes from a natural mineral water spring source in Heartsease, Powys - just over the Welsh Border. It's bottled by a company called Radnor Hills Mineral Water Company Limited who are hugely supportive of what they're trying to do. Heartsease is an area of outstanding beauty and is very unpopulated – i.e. there's no pollution there – other than a few sheep!



What kind of water is it? You'll notice that on the bottle it says 'Natural Spring Water'. It is in fact mineral water drawn from the same source as Radnor Hill's own mineral water which they sell under that name. Unfortunately the Food Standards Agency changed the legislation recently and the short version of this is that if you don't own the source of the water (i.e. the spring) you can't call it mineral water without getting into some really daft regulations & politics. As 'One' don't own their own source they can't call it mineral water. Anyway - suffice it to say it's pukka (as Jamie would say). **What charity does 'One' support?** All profits go to funding roundabout powered PlayPumps™ in Africa through a company called PlayPumps™ International. In their first real year of trading they donated over £70,000, this year it will be over £200,000 - their goal is donations of £2.5m a year - directly through the sales of 'One' water. **What is a PlayPump™?** A PlayPump™ is a unique water pumping system. Children play on a roundabout that pumps fresh, clean water from deep underground into storage tanks for use by the entire community. Simple!



How many PlayPumps™ have been built? They are currently building a PlayPump™ every 14 days. Their aim is to install one every day and change the lives of hundreds of thousands of African people. **How many lives does each PlayPump™ improve?** This depends on the size of the community in which they install the PlayPump™. Some are as small as 1,800, some as large as 8,000. In their figures they use an average of 2,500. **Why have PlayPumps™ been chosen rather than other kinds of Pump?** Other kinds of pump (normally known as Elephant Pumps or Hand Pumps) are powered by hand or pedal. The hand or pedal pumping required is traditionally done by the women and the children which often interferes with their education. PlayPumps™ are powered as a by-product of children's play and even though they are more expensive to install than traditional hand pumps, they are very low maintenance and provide pure, clean water for entire communities very easily.

Elephant pumps go to a maximum depth of 30m and can therefore only be used in areas with a high water table. PlayPumps™ can reach to 100m which ensures that the purity of the water is really good. This also allows them to be used almost everywhere and therefore helps to deliver water to areas with previously inaccessible water sources, the most needy areas. The PlayPump™ bore is also sealed which helps to keep out contaminants. In terms of output the PlayPump™ is incredibly efficient and has the ability to store water in a 2,500ltr tank - in some cases the gearing on the PlayPumps™ has had to be reduced as the children have pumped so much water! People can then just turn on the tap next to the PlayPump™ when they need water. PlayPumps™ also have only two moving parts and are incredibly low maintenance - the storage tank has four advertising panels and two of these pay for any maintenance that may be necessary. (The other two panels are used for community information messages). **How much money do you (the Directors) make?**

Duncan (who does most of the work) quit his Business Development Director's job at a marketing agency to spend time doing this and funds his lifestyle (what he has of one) by fitting in consultancy work around the One water project (It is known that he receives only £6,000 p.a. from the 'One' operation. The company is run through an extensive network of suppliers and employees any of whom give their time, thoughts and skills at heavily discounted prices and, in some cases, for nothing. This is their contribution to the project and all efforts are gratefully received. **How do we know that all their profits will go direct to the charity?** They have always set out to be morally and legally completely 'above board' in all their dealings, but given that they want to reassure people that they are doing what they say they do, they have accountants keeping an eye on things as well as three trustees who make sure they always stay on the straight and narrow.

For further information about 'Global Ethics' and 'One' Water go to: www.we-are-one.org.uk

'That's Our Business' **The Gables Residential Home**

The Gables was built in the early 1900s as a private residence (see library picture right) and 25 years ago was opened as a private Residential Home for the Elderly, initially for 8 residents. An extension was built and The Gables is now home for 16 residents. The home has been owned by a local couple for many years.



We have retained the homely features within the existing building and working alongside the Care Standards and Fire Regulations.

Throughout the last 30 years a lot of changes have occurred. Care Standards were brought into effect and stringent improvement within all care homes, including ongoing training of staff in the care industry, qualified managers and NVQ became mandatory, all relevant to quality care of residents. The proprietor at this time brought in a qualified registered manager, who is also a nurse, to oversee the changes and give the best care for the residents, recruiting the best staff and training to the highest standards. We have a committed team of carers of varying ages each adding their own individual characters. This is reflected in our Annual Inspection for February 2007, we received an 'excellent' rating (home reports can be found on the internet 'CSCF'), which can help prospective residents make an informal choice of home. The majority of our staff are local and have been with us for many years.

It is always pleasant to have local residents that can share memories and enjoy their twilight years together. A family atmosphere is generated when friends, family and visitors previously known to each other meet again.

Prospective residents and family are welcome to visit The Gables without prior arrangement. We operate an open-door policy, visiting is at any time. Bedrooms are personalised with residents' own items, including furniture if so wished, otherwise all rooms are fully furnished and refurbished on a regular basis. We also receive referrals through Social Services for placement within The Gables.

Each resident receives a monthly newsletter which they may contribute to. The newsletter keeps all residents and families up-to-date as to what is happening within The Gables – included would be group activities, singalongs, celebrations of special events, Easter, Christmas, Hallowe'en, Birthdays, etc.. Regular visitors to the home, such as Rev. Brook, Kim McNally, hairdresser, mobile library, foot care and the hearing aid technicians. You may have seen staff and residents in the village using local shops and tearooms.

We cater for day care, giving the person a change of scenery and the carer a break. We offer respite care if rooms are available and can also cater for a married couple.

We are privileged to have excellent cooks and use local produce and cater for dietary needs. Some of our lady residents like to continue to bake cakes.

We thank the Carol Brown Health Centre for friendly professional support given to our residents, local GPs. and District Nurses and all connected with the surgery.

Lynda McNerney – Proprietor – 22 Post Office Road – Tel: 01485 540528

News from the library

Wild things are happening at the library this summer

Swing into your local Norfolk library during the summer holidays and your children can take part in THE BIG WILD READ! The initiative is designed to inspire children to read and engage with nature by offering themed stories, competitions, 'eco warrior' and 'nature detective' events.

Dersingham Library will be hosting a series of events:

21st July	from 10am	First day launch at the library - come along and join the fun
8th August	2.30 - 3.30 pm	Big Wild Read stories for younger children
21st August	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Big Wild Read activity for 8s and overs
22nd August	2.30 - 3.30 pm	Big Wild Read activity for under 7s
13th September	5.30 - 6.30 pm	Big Wild Read Awards Ceremony

Every child is welcome to take part and will receive a colourful folder, scratch and sniff stickers, fridge magnets and a packet of seeds when they borrow books. They will also be told about 'Big Wild Read' events in their area.

It's easy to join the library and take part, all you need to do is go to your local library and join for free, then over the summer holidays children need to read just six books or have them read to them. Children who complete the 'Big Wild Read' will be awarded with a certificate and medal to celebrate their achievement.

'The Big Wild Read' is part of a national Reading Agency campaign in partnership with the BBC 'Breathing Places' and The Woodland Trust 'Tree for All' campaign and will inspire children to read and to make a positive difference to their environment.

Dersingham Library is open:

Monday: 10.00—1.00; 2.00—7.30;
Wednesday: 10.00—1.00; 2.00—5.00;
Thursday: 10.00—1.00; 2.00—7.30;
Saturday: 10.00 - 1.00

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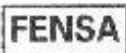


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News From Tapping House Hospice

I would like to express my thanks and congratulations to the 31 brave souls who took part in the Hospice's **Great Norfolk Skydive** on 17 June. Among those jumping were Dersingham residents Caraline Enefer and district nurse Bryony Humphryes who fundraised and jumped with fellow nurse Julie Crews.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all and is likely to have raised over £6,000 in support of The Norfolk Hospice.

Next year's Great Norfolk Skydive is due to take place on **Sunday 15 June 2008**.

A couple of forthcoming events are;

Classical Concert

St Mary's Church, Snettisham

Saturday 22 September 2007

Classical quintet Juta of Peterborough will entertain with a unique mix of light popular classics, original ambient classical music with Chinese flute, piano music, lively classics and show tunes. Tickets £5, proceeds will support the vital care the Hospice provides. Call 01485 542891.

Sponsored Swim

Dersingham

Saturday 29 September 2007

Join us for a sponsored swim supporting the care of terminally-ill people, their families and carers in our community. Call 01485 544089 to find out more.

Ride the Creakes - Charity Horse Ride

Sly's Farm, North Creake

Sunday 30 September

5, 10 & 15 mile rides taking in the beautiful scenery around the Creakes near Fakenham. £15 entry per rider, proceeds to The Norfolk Hospice. Call 01485 520240 or 01328 823240 for more information.

Are you up for a challenge in support of your local Hospice? Do you know someone who wants push themselves to the limit?

The Norfolk Hospice has a range of challenge events on offer that give local people the opportunity to enjoy the experience of lifetime while raising money to benefit people in the community who require the vital care the Hospice provides.

Challenges include: Skydiving, Kilimanjaro Trek, China Trek, Iceland Trek, London to Paris Bike Ride and the London Marathon. If you are interested in taking part in any of these events, would like to know more, or know someone who you think might like to get involved

call the Hospice on 01485 542891.

Parish Council Report

The meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 May heard a presentation from The Festive Lighting Company about the possibility of the trees along the Hunstanton Road side of the Recreation Ground being decorated for Christmas. Strings of LED decorative lights were demonstrated and costs given together with details about installation and safety. The Council agreed to consider the matter further at a later meeting.

The Council had been informed by the Electoral Returning Officer that the nine vacancies on the Council following the May elections could be filled by co-option.

A complaint had been received about vandalism and anti-social behaviour in and around the shelter on the Sports Field close to the Hanover Court flats. The Council would take this up with the Sports Ground Management Committee.

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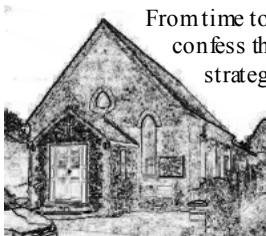
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Greetings from the Manse



From time to time in the holy life thoughts get focussed on prayer. I must confess that at such times I can be a bit naughty and use a Socratic strategy (the philosopher not the Brazilian footballer from the 1980s) to help discover whether or not people are talking about the same thing. 400 years before Jesus the great Greek philosopher made a bit of a nuisance of himself by accosting the good citizens of Athens in the streets as they were going about their daily business. He would stop people and ask them what they understood to mean certain basic words and ideas like good, truth, justice, virtue etc. Generally people assume

they mean exactly the same to everyone. As Socrates asked questions and probed the reasoning behind people's assumptions he more often than not found that people held quite individual and differing thoughts and understandings. And so it is I think with Christians I think, who unite in using and promoting prayer and spirituality in accessing and sustaining their relationship with God, but yet can go about it in different ways and even hold different ideas about how prayer works as conversations about prayer tend to indicate. Such discussions are always interesting and worthwhile and much more useful than talking about the usual state of the finances or the Church boiler, which of course in many Churches is a great matter for prayer! It's a huge topic but as always we look to Jesus to help us. When his disciples asked him how they should pray Jesus replied with a model or pattern of prayer which took his hearers right to the heart of the matter, the fatherly relationship that our heavenly father has with all his children. You can't do better than that!

Here are a few thoughts by Harry Emerson Fosdick on the prayer Jesus gave to his followers. I can pray our Father, if my faith has room for others and their needs.- I can pray who art in heaven, if all my interests and pursuits are not in earthly things.- I can pray hallowed be thy name, if I am striving with God's help to be holy.- I can pray thy kingdom come, if I am willing to have it in my life.- I can pray on earth as it is in heaven, if I am truly ready to give myself to God's service now. - I can pray give us our daily bread, if I expend honest effort for it and share with my neighbour the bread I receive.- I can pray forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, if I hold no grudge against anyone.- I can pray lead us not into temptation, if I deliberately remove myself from tempting situations.- I can pray deliver us from evil, if I am prepared to fight evil with my life and my prayer.- I can pray thine is the kingdom, if I am willing to obey Him.- I can pray thine is the power and the glory, if I am not seeking power for myself nor my own glory first.- I can pray for ever and ever, if I am not anxious about each day's affairs.- I can pray amen, if I can honestly say, "cost what it may, this is my prayer."

Every prayerful blessing to you and yours, Kim Nally

Dersingham Methodist Church

A very warm thank you to everyone who supported our Flower Festival in May. We raised a tremendous total of £3,162, half of which goes to our refurbishment fund and the other half to general church funds. The Festival subject of 'Joseph - The man whose dreams came true' was an inspiration to all who saw the lovely arrangements, heard the children sing, or attended the services.

You are very welcome to come to our Harvest Festival celebrations on Saturday 22nd September with a coffee morning from 10.00 a.m. and services on Sunday 23rd September at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Elizabeth Batstone

Gulls

By David Bingham



Seagull public relations were dealt a blow when Alfred Hitchcock's film 'The Birds' was released. Since then, their reputation has gone into a downward spiral with frequent news stories about large aggressive gulls attacking anything (or anyone) coming near their nests. Their habit of feeding from household rubbish dumps, ransacking litter bins, pinching chips from the hands of hapless holidaymakers and decorating seaside towns with smelly whitewash does nothing to help their cause. The only way to separate fact from fiction is to deal with gulls at the species level where a rich variety of lifestyles are revealed. Fortunately for us, our Dersingham gulls are not aggressive (although some of their eating habits leave a lot to be desired). The commonest gull in the village is the black-headed gull. These small gulls breed in noisy colonies around The Wash. They don't actually have black heads - it is more of a chocolate brown, which moults out in the winter. They come to Dersingham looking for food. In the summer, they can be seen wheeling high above the village feeding on flying ants. They also scavenge for discarded fast food and visit gardens when scraps are thrown out for them. Throwing scraps out for black-headed gulls is not a good idea because they often visit rubbish tips where they may pick up germs. They are also very tough and adaptable birds and can fly away from bad weather and they seem able to find food almost anywhere - so they don't really need feeding. We also get common gulls in Dersingham, particularly in the winter. Common gulls aren't all that common (just as black-headed gulls don't have black heads). They are slightly larger than black-headed gulls and are seagull coloured but with a mucky looking dark smudge on the back of their heads in the winter. Earlier in the year, a common gull could often be found sitting with a party of black-headed gulls on the roof of St Cecilia's Church - where the size difference was clear to see. Winter is also the time when larger gulls can be seen flying over the village. These are mainly herring gulls with a few lesser-black backed gulls and they are flying onto The Wash to roost after feeding inland (probably on rubbish tips). Herring gulls are the 'bad boys' that cause trouble in West Country seaside towns (yes you guessed it they also prefer fish 'n' chips to herrings). They are actually a declining species and it is unfortunate that they have picked up such a bad reputation (mainly because we provide them with flat roofed nest sites and copious quantities of chips and burgers). Lesser black-backed gulls breed in suitable locations in the area, particularly out on the manmade trial banks of The Wash, this species is also in decline. The biggest gull we have is the great-black backed gull. They are enormous goose sized gulls that are capable of swallowing a puffin whole. I once rescued a great-black gull from the sea off Snettisham beach where it was caught up in fishing lines. It was quite a struggle and I'm sure it would have happily had my eyes out given half a chance. Rather ungratefully, this is an attitude it would certainly retain once it got better. The staff at the RSPCA hospital nicknamed him 'Boy George' and were very careful not to get too close!

More local gulls: – Mediterranean gull – These very attractive gulls have taken to breeding at the Snettisham RSPB reserve. They breed in amongst the black-headed gulls and can be recognised by the confusing fact that they actually have black heads! They aren't aggressive and don't visit rubbish dumps. **Little gull** – A pair of these dainty gulls laid eggs at Titchwell RSPB reserve this year, but sadly, they were predated (they have only ever bred five times in the UK and are generally an eastem European species). They are the size of terns and again actually have black heads. They are often seen as passage migrants at Titchwell delicately picking insects off the surface of the water. **Kittiwake** – These friendly looking gulls nest in colonies on cliffs. Gulls are sometimes described as having kind or cruel faces. Kittiwakes have the kindest face of any gull and they certainly always look amiable enough. They have colonised some tall buildings in

Lowestoft but for some reason they don't find the cliffs at Hunstanton to their liking. They spend the day calling out their name so are easy to identify in the breeding season. **Raregulls** – Vagrant gulls regularly visit Norfolk (some more regularly than others). In recent years these have included; yellow-legged gull, ring billed gull, slender billed gull, Caspian gull, Sabine's gull, Laughing gull, Franklin's gull, Iceland gull, glaucous gull and Ross's gull. The last in this list is a pink coloured gull from the arctic that I haven't been lucky enough to come across but I was told by someone who has that it was the most beautiful thing they had ever seen.

Tantalizing Talent

By Kathy Jordan © 2/7/2007



Any act or age could enter,
To become the starlit centre,
Of the Royal Variety Show –
All so eager to 'have a go'.

The eccentric or barking mad –
The good, the ugly or the bad –
Some greeted with clapping and cheers,
Others booted off with jests and jeers!!

Some in Madonna's tempting pose,
The next stuck nails up his nose,
Pegs hanging from one hopeful's chin,
Then 'singing dogs' who could not sing!!

Most were taking it in their stride,
Losers too held their heads up with pride,
Judges loved and Simon Cowell –
Smiled more than his usual scowl!!!

The finalists were such a dream,
Performances fit for the Queen,
Two young girls stole everyone's hearts,
How well all the rest played their parts.

With delightful diverse talents,
The winner was not apparent –
'Til the end when all went 'potty' –
Over Wales' Pavarotti!!!!

Good Luck to Paul Potts with his singing at the Royal Variety Show.

NEW VILLAGE HALL PROJECT

Dersingham Parish Council, with St Nicholas Church, envisage building a new Village Hall on the site of the present Church Hall. This building would meet the current and projected needs of this community for the next 50 – 100 years.

We hope that it will be made of sustainable and eco-friendly materials, and

will be sympathetic to its location. We intend that the two storey design will enable the hall to be used by different groups at the same time. We are working towards a public presentation later this

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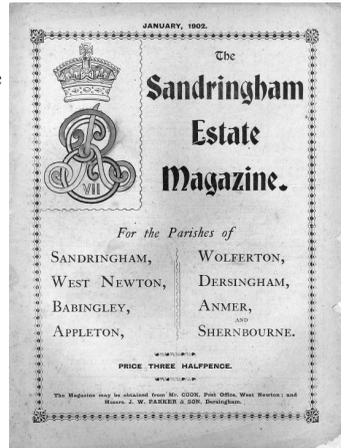
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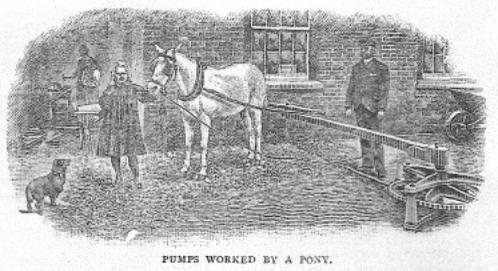
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The Editor has been fortunate enough to have been given the loan of many copies of 'The Sandringham Estate Magazine' dating from 1898 to 1903, which also incorporate 'The Church Monthly' Permission has been kindly given by the Sandringham Estate for us to publish extracts from these magazines for which we are grateful.



The following article has been reproduced from the April 1903 edition and we will publish further extracts in future issues of the village voice.



PUMPS WORKED BY A PONY.

WELL-DIGGERS PAST AND PRESENT

BY THE REV. ARTHUR KELLY, M.A.

Rector of Winslade and Tamworth

The illustrations are from photographs specially taken by the Author for THE CHURCH MONT



THE BOY BOWMAN.

IN the meantime two brave rescues from wells were brought before my notice. About two years ago, George Eales died near Basingstoke - the hero of the gallant act at Dummer well (on December 3rd, 1887), which is 258 feet deep. The photograph of the newspaper cutting gives a picture also of the boy saved - a child four years old named Bowman, who clutched at a stick, when playing nears the mouth of the well, and fell into the water - and the medal awarded by the Royal Humane Society. This rescue forms the subject of one of the panels by Walter Crane, in the Red Cross Hall at Southwark, which record the heroic deeds of the poor. On coming to the well, Eales found forty people there, but he only had the courage to go down. He sent for a long line which he had at his house, and for another belonging to present Rector of Dummer, then, tying a pickaxe to end of the first, sat astride, and was lowered to the bottom. When he got there, he found the little fellow swimming about in the water. The only thing

he could catch hold of was the end of his jacket. He did not know how to get him up, as his right hand possessed little power, owing to an operation which he had undergone. However, putting the boy's back against his chest, he got his arms round him, then, calling for the second rope, he tied the boy round his waist with this, and both were drawn to the surface, Eales being so dreadfully exhausted that the bystanders thought that he would have died. The Rector received numberless letters from societies and private individuals, asking how the boy could possibly reach the bottom of the well and live. Fortunately, as then he was wearing petticoats, these would spread out like a parachute and let him down gently, and when he reached the water he was saved from drowning by holding on to the rope.

Another notable act of bravery was performed at Tinsley Park, near Sheffield, by a girl named Emma Hutton, on December 2nd, 1897, for which also the medal of the Royal Humane Society was awarded. Being left in charge of a child of four, she went to draw water from a well into which the little girl happened to fall. Emma Hutton managed somehow to get down the well, and raised the child to the surface of the water, but found she could not get out again. "I shall never forget," to quote her own words, "my awful sensation while I was in the well. I thought I should never come out alive, for the water got right up to my neck, and I really feared I should have to die before any assistance could be rendered to me. I held the child up on my shoulders for two whole hours. I was ready to sink, for all the use went out of my arms, and when they got me to the surface, I was unconscious for the whole of the day."

Now the time had come when I was to obtain practical experience of the bottom of a well 180 feet deep, where men were engaged in fitting new pumps to be worked by a pony. The Odiham well-digger's reminiscences filled me with some trepidation; my friends also were cruel enough to hint to me that I was to dangle in 180 feet of eternity. The engineer (Mr. H. W. Jewel, of Winchester, from whom I received much valuable information) however, promised to superintend matters, and assured me that there was no cause for nervousness. Soon, therefore, I found myself sitting on a little board, slung by a rope from each corner, while a belt was drawn tightly round my chest, so that even if I fainted I could not easily fall out. The windlass began to revolve, and down, down I went, the only sound heard being the click of the iron check upon the wheel. The few feet of flints, with which the well was lined at the top, were soon passed, the rest of my journey being made through the chalk, dotted here and there with flints of various sizes. As the rope was comparatively new, it had a certain amount of 'spin' in it, and I was beginning to revolve like a tectotum, when the engineer stopped the men lowering me down, in order to give me time to steady myself.

Two experiences were rather disconcerting to the amateur. Across the well, at every 20 feet, were planks or stages, to support the pumps. When my seat caught in one of these it seemed to be tilting me into mid-air, and when the rope slipped off one of the coils round the windlass, the jerk thus given was a very odd sensation. I was told that occasionally a new rope will with a jerk uncoil several feet at a time – the nearest experience to a drop from the gallows which we need hope for. In my hand I carried two candles, but these went out half-way down. At the bottom the sinker had made for me a little platform of chalk, he standing up to the knees in water. The chalk was buff-coloured with age, covered only with a slight mossy growth where the wood of the stages had rotted against it. I saw plenty of flints, but none of the fossils which people



THE PANEL BY WALTER CRANE
IN THE RED CROSS HALL,
SOUTHWARK.

will go miles to see when a well is dug, or the iron pyrites which made one sinker surround himself with an air of mystery, thinking that he had discovered a silver mine!

The atmosphere was most uncomfortable, very different from what I had expected, owing to the blasts of fresh air pumped down by the boy working the bellows at the top. The sinker was not allowed to smoke when working below, as it was necessary to keep the air as fresh as possible, and a number of waste matches might easily clog the pumps. While the sinker dug out the chalk, a movable suction-pipe was lowered into the water, and as the pony worked at the pumps above, the well was in this manner kept empty. The ascent was more enjoyable, as I could watch the chalk with greater confidence, and by gently thrusting myself away from the stages I escaped being entangled in them.

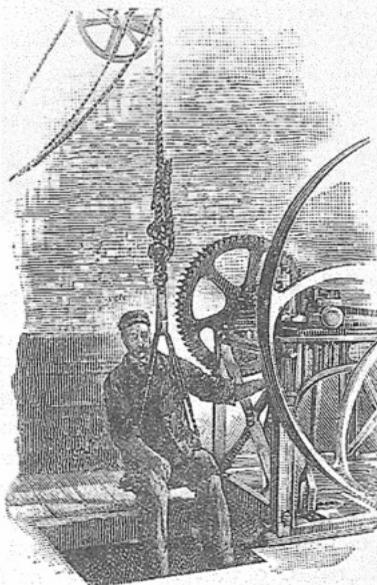
Soon, to my great delight, an invitation came from Mr. Jewel to go down another well in Herriard Park, near Basingstoke, sunk to a depth of 348 feet, and the deepest in the neighbourhood. As it gave an insufficient supply of water, an attempt was recently made to improve it by digging a "heading" at the bottom about ten feet long and eight feet square. At the bottom of large wells it is customary to drive these headings, or adits, as they are called, in different directions; for while on one side there may be no water, on the other the workers may come in contact with a "pocket" yielding such an abundant supply that they must rush to the surface to save themselves from drowning.

At Herriard, however, the heading failed, the newly dug chalk being as dry as powder, so an artesian boring was made for a further distance of 82 feet, the whole length, therefore, being 428 feet. The point at which water is likely to be obtained – unless one is ready to pin one's faith to the water-finder – is a question of geology, depending upon the strata and the level above the sea. Sometimes the pressure is sufficient to make the water spout many feet above the surface, but in other case, as at Herriard, it has to be pumped up the whole length of the well. An artesian well has now been bored at the Zoological Gardens, and powerful springs tapped, yielding 240,000 gallons a day. Similar borings were made by the Americans in the Cuban War, and by the Royal Engineers on Salisbury Plain for the manoeuvres, while at the Horse Fort at Spithead fresh water rises through a bore-tube in the chalk, though all around is sea-water.

But to return to Herriard, the sinker's candle, which was just above the water, looked a very long way down, and many, like the farmer, might not care to be lowered into *that hole*. I found the atmosphere by no means oppressive, as air-pumps are regularly used, though the engineer endorsed much that the old digger had said about the foul air where these were not obtainable. He himself had been in a well 300 feet deep, where he could not stay more than three minutes without experiencing a choking sensation, as if tickled by strong tobacco smoke. He had given very careful directions to the men that if he was not heard after a few minutes, he was to be drawn to the surface. At

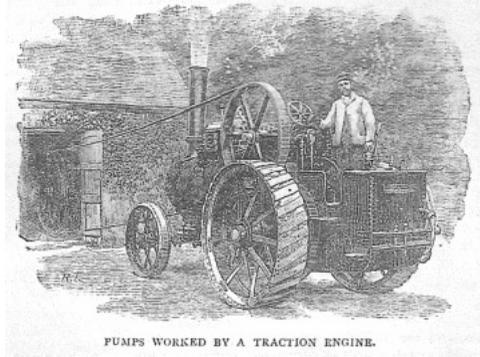


EMMA HUTTON AND THE CHILD SHE RESCUED.



THE DESCENT.

Herriard the triple pumps were worked by a traction-engine, raising 1,000 gallons per hour. The reader will easily understand what an expensive matter a village well may be - £250 could be spent on sinking, and a similar sum on the pumps, while thousands can be expended on the larger borings.



Hunstanton and District Lions Club

This month the Club have helped the Poochcorner Dog Training Club raise £620, for Guide Dogs for the Blind. They held a Dog Show at the Community Centre, where over 100 dogs were shown in the pouring rain.

Our next event is a Day Trip for 200 special needs children at the Fairground. Every year the showmen allow the children free rides for the day. They always enjoy themselves and are totally unconcerned about the teachers and Lions who have to go on the rides as well. The day is rounded off with fish and chips, bought by the Club.

In the new Lion year Bob Frewin and Peter Sutton have been appointed Region Chairman and Zone Chairman respectively. This means that they will be meeting other Lions Clubs to exchange ideas and fellowship.

On the social side, the Club had a Bowls Evening at the Old Town Social Club. This proved a very successful and enjoyable evening.

200 Club Draw - £100 C Parris (Hunstanton) £50 C May (Heacham) £25 D Nobes (Heacham) £25 L Handley.

The Lions want to help individual and organizations in the community. They do this by either grants or giving labour or assistance. They can be contacted through the Secretary Adrian Hood (571529).

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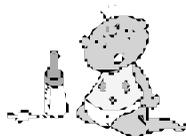
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Now That Katie Is Eight

She threw me a look
That at first I mistook
For a piece of poo on the pavement.
Then tomatoes of tantrums,
Torrents of tears.
Aghast, I reel back in amazement.
"But Daddy you don't understand!"
She cried,
"You don't listen, I've told you before...
Alice is only sick on the carpet
When I give her more and more!
And anyway rabbits are s'posed to be sick,
My teachersays, so there!
And Mummy says that Alice can..."
I throw her a look of despair.
She tosses it back with improvements,
And a flick of her pigtailed hair.
Her coat is in the garden,
Her pram is on the stairs,
Mummy's shoes are on her feet,
There's lipstick in her hair.
There's toothpaste on the duvet,
There's hair grips down the loo.
Her eyes are red and watery,
Her nails are vanished blue.
Dear, dear, Katie...
What are we to do with you?

I've Got Four Teeth Now!

Life's been strained for a little while.
Mummy's been saying
I'd forgotten how to smile,
But today is different,
I can grin with style
'Cos I've got FOUR teeth now!
I can eat carrot that hasn't been cooked
Then spit out great big pieces.
I can eat things that've been overlooked,
(The bits in sofa creases
Where Daddy's never looked).
I can throw my dinner at Little Pink Teddy,
I can throw my train at Big White Teddy,
I can crawl upstairs all by myself
Look! I'm standing up! What's that stuff on the
shelf?
Pretty soon now Mumsays I'll be walking,
But that doesn't matter to me now,
'Cos today is special
And it's smiles all round,
'Cos I've got FOUR teeth now!



© Patrick Marks – June 1998.

Players Identified

Information received from a reader shows that the following additions and corrections apply to the picture shown on page 71 of issue 46



Back Row – left to right
David Fuller - Stuart Riches – Stephen/Steven
Stebbings – Richard Crisp – Dennis Wright – Robert
Daw

Front Row – left to right
David Rolfe – David Hare – John Daniels – Paul
Stebbings – Alex Tunnidiffe –
Paul (Kevin) Fitt – Billy Valentine

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News from St Cecilia's Church

At St Cecilia's, we recently said a fond farewell to Win and Dennis Kerridge (left) who have been part of our Church family since coming to Dersingham. Terry Finbow, on behalf of the congregation gave them a card and our best wishes as they move to Essex.



Mr Jim Allen (below left), of Mountbatten Road was recently confirmed at Walsingham by Bishop Michael. Jim has been coming to St Cecilia's for some time now and was received into Full Communion in the Catholic Church at the end of May.

Some of the ladies from St Cecilia's (below right) at our third Ladies' Lunch held in the Presbytery, Hunstanton. As usual, the food was plentiful and tasty and the atmosphere convivial. We look forward to many more.

(Pictures submitted)



Members of the Catholic Church are saddened to hear of the death of Stella Caunt. We have good reason to be grateful to her for the success of this magazine "Dersingham Village Voice" and its continuity will help us keep her name in remembrance. Even if her own tongue is now silent, her earlier efforts have enabled many others to "voice" their news and views and so help contribute to the life of this community. May God reward her for her goodness and may He give her eternal rest. She was remembered in prayer at Mass in S Cecilia's Church on Sunday 17th June, the Sunday after her death.

Fr James Fyfe

Sandcastle Competition

Build your own castle in the sand at the 18th Sandcastle Competition organised by Hunstanton Lifeboat Guild.

This popular event takes place on Tuesday 14 August on Old Hunstanton beach in front of the Lifeboat Station. Entry is 50p and starting time 2.30 pm.

Competitors, divided into three age groups, have just 45 minutes to create their works of art.

Last year there were over 130 entrants and the organisers are hoping to exceed that figure this year.

For more details contact Sandy Hyams on 542380



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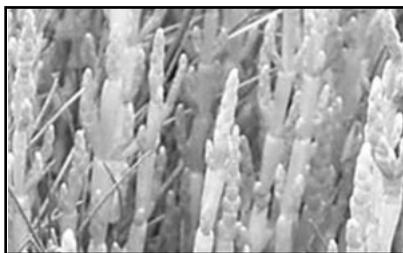
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Dick Melton's Column



Let's start with the picture on page 45 of issue 46, June, Dersingham Village Voice, as it says it was of the ladies of the W.I. and the location was Dersingham Church Hall, the event was the W.I. Drama Festival that was held each year. All the ladies in the front were from the Dersingham W.I. Drama Group, the three gentlemen and the lady at the back were from the St Georges Players, two of the men are Mr Willis, who at the time was headmaster at St Georges School, and Mr Bell, who taught carpentry at the same school, the lady is Mrs Willis. I myself was a member of the St Georges Players and I was in this production but no doubt when this photo was taken in the dressing room I was out the back having a fag! I will leave it to the Village Voice readers to name all the members of the Dersingham W.I. group.

Mr Chris Wood from Watton asks about his great aunt, Mrs Jenima Amelia Durrant, who lived at The Shrubbery down Manor Road; I can remember Mrs Durrant as I used to take her groceries to her when I was an errand boy for Parker's Stores and Milton's the Butchers, but I can not remember her husband at all. I think Mr Firth, the schoolteacher, lived in The Shrubbery at one time, or in the bungalow next door. I do remember that when Mrs Durrant lived there she had an Anderson shelter in the back garden. The Shrubbery has changed hands many times since then; in 1965 a Mr Bartlett lived there, and in 1974 it was occupied by a Mr Chapman, also, sometime in the sixty's, Fred Easton lived there.



I was looking at the calendar today when I thought, "Ah! The first week in June, it will soon be time to go and pull some samphire!" No doubt a lot of the readers of village voice will say, "Samphire, what's that?" Well it is an edible seaweed, or, as the dictionary says, an old world plant of coastal areas whose name is taken from the French for Saint Peter's herb. Samphire can be found all around the foreshores and marshes of the wash right from Skegness to Wells-next-the-Sea, it also grows around the shores of Malta, and in an area in northwestern Australia called Eighty-Mile Beach.

But of course the best samphire is on the marshes at Wolferton just to the south west of boathouse creek, my father used to take me down there to help him pull a sack full we would go down the concrete road as far as the last bridge, then along the track and up over the old sea bank, them days in the forty's and fifty's there was no fence and the shingle pits had a walk way right across to the beach, then we would walk across the mud flats until we came to the samphire beds, it grows about 8 to 10 inches high and you just pull it out by the roots, the roots are covered in mud so we would put it in an onion sack and then drag the sack through the water in the creek on the way back so as to get it clean. After the great flood of January 1953 the walk way through the middle of the shingle pits got washed away, so then we would go down to the pumping station at Wolferton and along the bank onto the marshes as you go along the bank you could see two old house boats, they are still there, one that belonged to the Laws family and one that the late Dick Leggett used to live in, Dick was a grounds man at the Grammar School at King's Lynn, he was also a very good cricketer.



I am afraid that nowadays if you want to get a feed of samphire it is a lot more difficult to gain access to. For a start you have the steel gates across the concrete road and the Wolferton Road so you either have to walk or bike and also the R.S.P.B. have taken over a large area of the marsh from Boat House Creek right along to Heacham so they do not

encourage people to go out there, but I think I am right in saying that the people of Snettisham still have the rights to go on the marsh and pull a feed of samphire. When the samphire season starts about the end of June it only lasts for about six weeks but there is usually plenty to be bought at the fish stalls and shops that is if you don't want the hassle of going to pull it your self. Once you get it home you just have to make sure it is well washed, then snip off the root with a pair of scissors, put it in a large pot, bring it to the boil and then let it simmer, when you can pull the samphire off the stick with your fingers then it is cooked, you can let it get cold and eat it with vinegar on it, or you can eat it hot with melted butter, you can also pickle it by putting it in a jar with some vinegar and some cloves, happy eating!

Out on the mudflats are still the remains of the old jetty that was built in 1942 for the purpose of loading up the barges to take the single away from the pits for the construction of runways, the creek runs by the end of this old jetty and one of my late father's favourite pastimes was to go butt

pricking in this creek when the tide was out. A butt is a small flat fish about 10 to 15 inches long, father would have a three-tined spear with barbs on and he would prod this into the sand in the bottom of the creek as this is where the butts would lay. When I worked on the land in the fifty's and sixty's horses had rust about had there day, one or two farms in the Dersingham area had horses up until around 1956-58 and then the tractor took over, the most popular tractors were the Fordson Major and the little grey Ferguson a lot of farms had crawler tractors like the Caterpillar D6, they had one of these on a farm where I



Photo courtesy of the Eastern Daily Press

worked down Clenchwarton Marsh, they had a small donkey engine on them that you had to start to enable you to start the main engine, on the Clechwarton farm they would leave all of the ploughing until we had finished taking up the tates (potatoes) at the end of October, then they would plough day and night to get it all done with just the one Caterpillar tractor, two men would work 12 hour shifts, they would stop the tractor at midday and midnight, and rest for an hour to check the oil, fuel, and water, this way as long as the weather held all the ploughing on the farm would be done by Christmas.

Though the tractor was taking over there were still a lot of jobs on the farm that were being done by hand like potato picking, but instead of the potatoes being ploughed out of the ground by a single furrow plough behind a horse, the tractor would pull a machine called a spinner this was okay but it scattered the crop all over so it made picking hard work, more than what it was, then we advanced to a machine called a potato hovernow this was a lot better as it left all the potatoes in a nice straight row on top of the earth, of course now a days there are huge potato harvesters, that lift, sort, and pick the potatoes all in one go then transfer them by an elevator into a trailer.

Carrot picking and parsnip picking was another job that was still done by hand those days, all of the pickers would have a small carrot fork you would ease the carrots or parsnips out of the ground, being very careful not to break the roots off then you would wing off the tops with your hands and put them in a sack, but the worse job of all was the lifting and harvesting of the sugar beet, first they would be ploughed out of the ground, then you would knock all the soil off them and lay them in a straight row, then back you went and topped them with a sugar beet hook put them in a heap ready to be carted off to the heap at the side of the field to a wait delivery to the factory, but now of course all this jobs are done by machine and in most cases it just takes one man to operate it .

Dick Doesn't Half Get Around Doesn't He?

The 'Village Voice' must give all credit to 'The Eastern Daily Press' for allowing us to reproduce this article by Dick Melton, and the accompanying photograph, which was to be found in their issue dated Monday 2 July 2007 on Page 6 of the feature labelled 'The Rural Revolution' – It is possible that readers may recognise some of the tale which Dick has to tell, as it was first published in the last issue of this magazine.



Picture: IAN BLITT

POTATO PICKING: Dick Melton recalls hard but happy times working in the fields in the 1960s.

First thing was to melt frost with blow lamps

DICK MELTON, of Willow Road, Huzantanton, writes:

"After I came out of the army in 1963, I worked on a farm down Clenchwarton marsh. In the first part of 1963, we had snow and very sharp frosts for six weeks.

"I was working in an outside gang riddling tates (potatoes) from an outside grave (clamp). The first thing we had to do each morning was to melt the frost with Color gas blow lamps, then take off the rest of the soil with pick axes.

"There was five of us in the gang and to earn our money we had to get out 10 tons a day. The only shelter we had from the snow and wind was some old hessian sacks strung up on poles. We took it in turns doing the different tasks around the riddle, the coldest job was picking off the tates and the clods. The warmest job was forking on.

"Everything was piece work, paid either by

THE POTATO PICKER'S TALE

the acre or the chain (22 yards). We picked potatoes by hand in a gang of five, and we picked into baskets.

"We emptied the basket straight into the trailer that would be right up your backside. The basket was strapped to your wrist by a leather thong, so you did not lose it when you emptied it into the trailer.

"We would have a small Massey Ferguson with a trailer, which went backwards up the rows. It was a waste of a man having a driver so we would set the throttle and just let her tick over. When we got near the headland, one of the gang would jump on the tractor to stop it before it went in the dyke. So much for health and safety concerns in those days.

"Two men would pick each side of the trailer

and one directly behind in the boss row. This man had to be extremely quick because if not he would end up underneath the trailer.

"The first year I worked on this farm, the master said: 'Tomorrow you can start chopping out the sugar beet, so bring your hoes.'

"I had done chopping out before but not on this farm. The next day I got to work with my long handle hoe.

"The boss said: 'What are you doing with that? Get a short handle hoe out of the shed. We don't use a long handle hoe this side of the river,' meaning the Lincolnshire side instead of Norfolk.

"Through the spring, summer and autumn, we worked from 7am to 7pm with breakfast at 8.30am, dinner at 11.30am and tea at 3.30pm. We never worked on a Saturday morning.

"It was a good life but you worked damn hard for what you earned."

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THE NINTH OF THE WINTER ALE

By Frank Nichols, Steve Nowell & Ian Stockwell

The Three Not-So-Wise Men started on their first halves of the evening. It wasn't Oliver's intention to introduce the subject for the night but it worked out that way. "I was reading an excellent piece in the Sunday Telegraph a few weeks ago about 'Strangelets'. It seems that the..."

"Great! He's famous at last!" cried Miley.

Oliver was taken aback. "Excuse me?"

"Larry, of course! 'Strange' equals 'peculiar'; and the suffix '.let' after a word means 'little'. 'Little and Peculiar'! That's our Larry to a tee!"

Larry turned almost crimson with rage. "I've told you before. I..am..NOT.. little! 'Vertically inadequate' if you insist or even 'short'. But *not bloomin' 'little'!* And as for 'peculiar'; that is the ultimate case of the pot calling the kettle black, Miles Pratt!" (He spat out the surname with venom). "And while we're about it, do you wish to drink that ale or bathe in it!?" Under Oliver raised two calming hands and continued, quietly:-

"As I was saying, mes enfants, it seems that the earth is being struck occasionally by queer things called:-

STRANGELETS

These, apparently, are infinitesimal bits of matter, about the size of a pollen grain but they weigh several tons. It is estimated that they travel at nearly 1 million miles per hour. Due to their speed and weight they hit the earth (but very infrequently) then go straight through it and out of the other side".

"I saw something about this in a scientific journal" said Larry "and much as I always *hate* to correct you Oliver, their speed is actually something like 900,000 miles per hour. I think that you will agree that the odd 100,000 mph, even between friends, is significant. Also I read that the density of a 'strangelet' is nearly 10 million times greater than the density of lead. But what I didn't grasp from the article was how we know they exist".

Oliver was clued up on this. "Well it seems that in 1993 there were two mysterious occurrences which scientists were looking for which *could* confirm their existence. In case one, in October, there was a violent but short seismic peak of activity in Antarctica which was followed 26 seconds later by another seismic peak in the Indian Ocean. This represented a strangelet entering the earth in Antarctica with a very localised earthquake equivalent to several thousand tons of TNT; followed by its exit up through the floor of the Indian Ocean. The second case was similar and it happened in November when a strangelet is believed to have entered the earth through a point in the Pacific Ocean and exited in Antarctica 19 seconds later.

"Well I'll be blowed!" exclaimed Miley who was very impressed by his friend's knowledge. "But say a strangelet hit the earth at a place which is inhabited? What damage would be done?"

Oliver replied. "As far as we know there could be very little damage or quite a lot. If the strangelet was the size of a pollen grain, the researchers predict that there might be a very tiny crater and absolutely no evidence of anything to cause it". As often happened in these situations, Miley's over-active imagination was beginning to get into top gear.

"So, say a strangelet hit the church roof one Sunday, there might be just a pinhole in the roof because there is very little resistance to the strangelet's progress there. But a small crater, accompanied by a large noise, might appear in the aisle or somewhere?"

"S'pose so" conceded Oliver.

"Or, say, there's a little old lady sitting there quietly saying her prayers when there's a bang and a hole appears in the pew beside her, apparently for no reason?"

"She might think her guardian angel had arrived?" suggested Larry.

Miley was in full flight. "What if we three were sitting in our usual places in the choir stalls and one came through the roof upon us?"

"Three basses, otherwise known as the Three Not-So-Wise Men, go to meet their Maker to put it simply" said Oliver who put his hand to his mouth and yawned. He was getting slightly bored.

“It ain’t necessarily so” sang Miley. “You see it depends on which one of us the strangelet actually struck. If it was you, Oliver, due to your enormous mass and resistance to motion you would explode and the walls of the church would be dripping with... Well, I won’t go on. On the other hand, if I was the victim then I would surely die in a miniature earthquake; quite peaceably. But you, Larry, would definitely survive if it hit you. You see there’s little or nothing above your neck for the strangelet to worry about, and the rest of you is so ‘little’ that there’s virtually nothing to impede it!” He howled with laughter and ran from the bar pursued by a crimson Larry again, shouting;

“Miles Pratt! Your time on earth has just run out!”

A few seconds later, Oliver was aware of a commotion coming from the toilet next door. He heard taps being turned on to full flow; then a sort of strangulated gurgling sound. Larry walked back to their table with a big grin and rubbing his hands. Miley came later, saturated, and drying his hair on a handful of paper towels.

After Oliver had quietened things down again he asked Miley, who had obviously thought about such things, how he fancied Humphrey the Vicar’s chances if a strangelet came through the roof and hit him in mid sermon one Sunday morning. Miley replied “Quite honestly, from what I’ve read, I don’t know what would happen to a human being if struck directly by a strangelet. But I think in Humphrey’s case there are four alternatives. a) he would say something like ‘And God said unto Moses. *OUCH!!*..go to Mount Sinai...’. There would be pinpricks in his head and big toe and that would be that. b) he would be obliterated like Oliver - he’s quite a stocky chap you know. c) due to his shiny bald pate, and with a bit of Divine intervention, the strangelet would strike him a glancing blow and wreck the pulpit instead of him. And d) with a *lot* of Divine intervention he would be carried through the earth along with the strangelet and some 20 seconds or so later would find himself preaching to a load of astonished Maoris at 11.00 pm on Sunday night!”

“Obviously no-one knows too much about these strangelet things” said Larry, quietly. “It all seems to be hypothesis but apparently they’re not too much to worry about”

“Not like asteroids” said Oliver.

“Why do you say that?” Miley raised an eyebrow as he looked Oliver full in the face.

“Oh, it’s nothing. Just thinking; that’s all.”

“Yes. I *know* you’re thinking. You’re looking serious, too. That’s what worries me!” Oliver walked away, saying;

“We’ve finished our session; let’s leave it till next time, shall we? Enjoy your week my worry-wom friends.” He slapped them on their backs and laughed.

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- *hedge clippings* twigs and small bracken
- *cut flowers *windfalls
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- *shrub prunings* vegetable waste from the garden (e.g. potato tops)

The Brown Bin Scheme Application form

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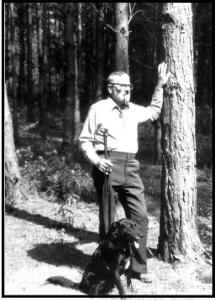
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“SAM – Son of a Norfolk Warrener” The Sixth and Final Part of a series of Six



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 10 - The Latter Years

After Sam's decision not to accept Lord Althorp's offer of a transfer to Northamptonshire, he was left looking for a job in preference to being on the dole. Work was not easy to come by, but he was offered employment in an engineering factory working with high-speed machinery cutting gear wheels. "This job was a disaster in more ways than one" says Sam. One of the 'disasters' was his complete incompatibility with factory work which resulted in his having a sore throat from Monday morning to Friday night. Sam has not enlightened me as to the nature of the other 'disaster'! But the net result was that he gave up this work after six months, having lost two stones in weight, as soon as he had found alternative employment. The new job was with Moulam and Horn, Millers and Feed Merchants at Heacham. This was a lot more up his street. It was not working on the land but it did require a lot of travelling round local farms delivering animal feedstuffs. It also brought him into contact again with farm animals, which he had worked with and loved since his first days in farming.

At the same time, Sam's wife Alice was also working; mainly doing part-time work. She worked for Anglia Cannery; did occasional house cleaning jobs; and helped out behind the bar at the Grapes pub in Snettisham where her friends were the landlords. Her main absorbing interest and hobby was Old Time Dancing - an activity which Sam never shared with her. About a year after Sam started with Moulam and Horn, Alice became ill. Initially the illness was not diagnosed and Alice kept on with her work despite failing health. Six months after the onset of her ailment, cancer was confirmed and she was admitted to hospital. Not knowing the severity of her mother's illness, Sam's second oldest daughter, Nesta, had arranged to get married. When she found out that her mother was suffering from terminal cancer, Nesta wanted to postpone the wedding and devote her time to her mother. Alice would have none of this however and insisted that the wedding should go ahead, knowing that she would never see her daughter get married. Alice Burlingham died on November 7th, 1974 at the age of 52.

This left Sam with a young teenage daughter and a twelve-year-old son to bring up. It wasn't easy but the trio worked as a team to run the house and helping each other out. Susan, Sam's youngest daughter, was the next to get married and leave the nest leaving Sam with his only son, Kelvin. There were the difficulties which one might expect from a father raising a son through his formative years but Kelvin is now 27 and has been married for six months and, Sam says, is a credit to his Dad.

Sam retired at 65 but was determined not to while away the days with his feet up watching television from dawn to dusk. He already had an allotment and this successfully filled some of his time. The allotment is the source of vegetables for Sam with plenty left over for the family, and even then there are some left for Sam's 'widdier women'. Five mornings a week, Sam goes to various parts of Dersingham doing odd jobs and cutting grass, etc. for widows who appreciate a bit of help with their gardens and the occasional bit of outside maintenance work. He charges little for

this work, being quite content to get a bit of 'baccy money'. But just as important is the company, and a bit of a 'muddle' over the mid-morning coffee. Occasionally the weather isn't suitable for gardening or outside work, in which event "Living in a four bed-roomed house always means that there are plenty of odd jobs to do inside which keep me out of mischief"

Although Sam describes himself as a 'loner', he is in fact hardly ever alone. Kelvin bought him a Labrador cross dog when he retired which is always with him except when he goes to see his 'widow-gardeners'. A more faithful and good-natured dog would be difficult to find.

All Sam's children live within a few miles of Sam and frequently call in to see him. He feels very strongly that if a parent has love and cares for his children in their early years, the children will repay this in later years when the parent is perhaps living on his own, or needs assistance of some kind. He quotes the case when he had a dizzy spell while working on his allotment. He got over it satisfactorily but just happened to mention it in passing when one of his daughters called round. The 'grapevine' sprang into action apparently and suddenly Sam was being visited by all the family in turn; then a day or two later one of his daughters turned up in a car to take her father to the doctor's to keep an appointment which she had made for the unknowing Sam!

Sam still owns and drives a car and treats this as his form of escapism. "If I decide to pay one of my sisters or brothers a visit some time, then I just up and go. Or go anywhere else, come to that. My widow women understand if I don't turn up on my regular day."

Sam is very disturbed about the emphasis on speed in the modern world. "It seems that everyone is trying to speed things up. They just haven't got time for anything." He has no experience of living in towns, but from the television he assumes that things are far worse in towns than in the country. His philosophy is that no matter how fast one works for example, there will always be plenty left for the next person to do. So why rush about like an idiot in the first place? He remembers that, only a few years ago, there was always time to pass the time of day with someone. But nowadays that same someone would blunder over you in the rush to get somewhere or to do something. He also believes that the world has become far too self-centred. It's all a question of what is good for 'me'—and to hell with the rest.

Sam is no more than an occasional drinker nowadays. He enjoys a beer now and again but that's as far as it goes. He admits however that that has not always been the case. In his navy days when he was regularly sailing to Cape Britain in Nova Scotia, there was an old camp there, made up of canvas tents and dating back to the first World War which had been taken over by some English-Newfoundlanders and christened 'The Old Contemptibles Club'. Like so many other servicemen, Sam held the view that if you had a few coppers to spend, then you might as well spend them today, because tomorrow you might be blown out of the water. The Old Contemptibles Club did a lot to help Sam live up to his philosophy! He confesses with a certain amount of regret that "the beer took a right hold of me in them days. I knew when I was drunk, cos I couldn't stop myself climbing up them great old poles what held up the marquee." He also kept some dubious company. His drinking pal was a chap from Glasgow who had the reputation of cutting people's throats when he had had a few over the eight! But on one particular occasion, Sam had drunk so much beer at the club; followed by a few black coffees at a café; that the only way he could get back to the dock was on his hands and knees being violently sick every few yards en route. That, he says, was enough. He has never drunk anything like that amount, in one session, since and has absolutely no desire to do so. He admits that by average standards he was inclined to drink rather a lot when he came back from the sea, but nowhere near so heavily as when he was in the navy. But even on a reduced intake he did find that the drink was causing 'certain social problems' (which he does not specify) and consequently reformed his habits to the extent that he would only have two or three black-and-tans over a game of crib once a week. But even that was too much apparently. It used to cause him headaches which lasted till mid-day and Sam, decided that no heavy ale and no headaches were the best combination. Which brought him to his present status of a very occasional social drinker.

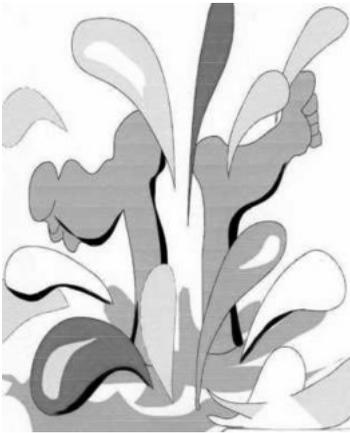
Sam never had a holiday with his parents; his wife; nor his children. The closest he came to a

holiday as a child was the once yearly school outing to Great Yarmouth but he was well over 50 years old before he had a 'real' holiday - and even that was connected with work. When working for Lord Althorp, he belonged to a Stockman's Club and that organisation laid on ten-day trips to Holland. They were run in conjunction with the Dutch Education Authorities. The participants stayed in colleges, very much on the same lines as the YHA in Great Britain with outings by bus each day.

There wasn't much time for Sam and Alice to have a honeymoon. They got married on a Saturday and on the Monday Sam was leaving by ship on his way to the Mediterranean.

Although it was a tragedy when his wife died, Sam had, and has, no ideas about getting married again. It was a difficult time for the family when Alice died but Sam feels strongly that willpower and a united family pulled everything into order again. "It is easy to give up, or even die," he says, "but it takes will-power to carry on and win against all the odds." He recalls the time when his ship was torpedoed. Crewmen were dotted about everywhere in the sea. "One of the most distressing things about that incident," he says, "was to watch helplessly while good young blokes just raised their hands high above their heads and slipped under the sea. They'd given up. They wanted to die. That was the easy way out. It was a lot harder to live - but it took will-power."

Dersingham sponsored swim in aid of The Norfolk Hospice - Tapping House.



During the latter part of September, I will be organising the second sponsored swim in aid of Tapping House Hospice, Snettisham where I am a volunteer. Swimming is fun, it's healthy and the pool is local! I am recruiting now for swimmers and do hope some of you will contact me on 01485 544089 to take part.

You don't have to be a long distance swimmer, just a swimmer and you can swim with a friend as a small team or your children can swim with their friends, just as long as you can swim. The pool is indoors, you can have a sauna or a spa before and after, and it's right on your doorstep, so please support this event.

If you don't want to swim yourself and would be happy to be a sponsor, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Many thanks, Sue Trewin

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My Patch

By Gardenwatcher



Fri. My morning stroll revealed the patch to be in good order. Spring growth was well advanced and the distasteful tadpoles were extremely numerous, a wriggling mass of amphibious life. Busied myself ready for the weekend.

Sat. Very strange, all the tadpoles have vanished. They were there yesterday, without legs, in abundance. If the fish had eaten them I would have expected them to go gradually so it must have been aliens! I will sleep indoors until the mystery is solved.

Tue. A few Beans have pushed through the ground and are already feeding the slugs. I see he has some backups in the greenhouse with which to fill in any gaps. My money is on the slugs. A bright pink Rhododendron has appeared in a patch of ground I thought had been cleared for my toilet activities. Shows how wrong you can be. I will show my dissatisfaction next time there is a pile of ironing I can sleep on!

Wed. My good cause for this week is famine relief. A dead squab I found by the shed will make a good start. There is much activity in the house. Piles of stuff, suitcases, maps etc litter the place. I suspect they are going away.

Thur. Hooray! They have gone on holiday. If I am lucky the temporary keeper they use will be the same as usual. I can look forward to large meals served promptly and on time with the rest of the day to myself. I'll start by sleeping somewhere they won't let me.

Fri. I was surprised by a stranger waving the hose around and giving me a soaking. He looks to be watering the pots and veg although I suspect his real brief is to spy on me. The Courgettes are getting water now as well as the Beans. In the greenhouse the Tomatoes have just had a go and the sideshoots that he took off and stuck in a pot look to be rooting. More plants for free!

Sun. They are back. A return to small, late, irregular meals then. They have bought a tree. It is a Paper Bark Maple. It is tiny. If I stick my tail in the air I am taller than this tree. Hmmm. He is looking at his Runner Beans and wondering why they are not winding themselves around their sticks this year? There are small Courgette fruits forming, the plants having been given a boost by the recent rain. The same goes for the weeds. Some are particularly prickly this year!

Thur. Midsummers day—it's only going to get worse now I hear. I'll take each day as it comes. Sunny today so off for a kip. As I pass the Beans I notice that they are now doing the twist, he will be pleased. His sideshoots are now planted out so I have another potential failure to watch for. This sun is really hot so—yawwwwnnnnn.....zzzzzzzzzzzz!

Sat. There were—shock, horror—some bare patches in the sacred turf I awoke to see him digging dirty great holes where they were. If I had done this .. well it doesn't bare thinking about. He then put some fresh topsoil in, rammed it down and sprinkled some bird bait on top but before I could inspect the work more closely, it was covered by some polythene with wire grids to hold it down. She enquired loudly as to the reason for this disfigurement and was told that the seed will germinate “double quick” this way. I will report.

Wed. Two days of wind have given his plants a good thrashing but more annoyingly the grass seed **HAS** germinated already. How smug he will be now! I think my claws need a good strop on one of his trees.

Sat. Endless rain. Really boring! A quick tour of inspection during a brief respite showed that the Pak Choi had bolted, half opened Roses were going brown but the Runner Beans were romping up their canes. With no hot sun to toast myself in I think I will go and gripe for food in the kitchen.

This usually winds them up and occasionally puts doubt into their heads resulting in an extra feed.
Mon. I'm worried about my carbon footprint. I trod in some bonfire ash and left paw marks on a pale carpet. They were fulminating with rage, all directed at me. Byeccc.

News from

Dersingham Infant and Nursery School



It has been a very busy year once again! Highlights of the year include the development of our new outdoor education area, our special curriculum opportunities such as the Science Day, a growing number of after school clubs and great educational visits to give our children first hand experiences. Our nursery children went to Church Farm to learn about animals, Blue and Green classes enjoyed visits to the Butterfly Park as part of their mini-beast topic and our oldest children visited Castle Rising castle and Sandringham House, gardens and museum. We are grateful to the Friends of the School in funding the transport for all these visits and to the many people who support our

fund raising events to enable this to happen. The outcome of the Ofsted inspection in February was very good as it highlighted all the things that people have worked hard to achieve over recent years. It's good to know we 'sparkle'! So we need to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported our school in anyway this year, we couldn't achieve what we do without the commitment of so many people, and now we all plan to enjoy the summer holidays and come back refreshed for a new term in September!

News from

Dersingham St George's Church of England Junior School

This has been a very busy time at school. The children have had a variety of experiences and have been preparing for moving to Smithdon High School too. We look forward to welcoming the new children from the Infant and Nursery school. The lower school had a visit to King's Lynn to learn about Captain Vancouver. The year 5 classes have visited Woburn Safari Park as well as Manor Farm, Dersingham. The farm visit allowed them to find out more about the local environment and to be part of the food and farming year. Year 6 visited Duxford to experience a day being a child during World War Two. In school, Smithdon music department visited and several of our old pupils entertained us with some of their music. I was very proud to see the amount of progress they had made. We had several successes in the Hunstanton Bible Reading competition and we thank Mrs Keeley for her time and effort in this. Mrs Bryan and Mr Rudd have been working hard with several sporting fixtures. The school continues to perform well at a variety of sports and we thank the staff and Mr Rudd for their time and hard work.

And finally.....

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

Our schools are now taking two pages each month in the Village Voice. One page will be our usual format to let everyone know our news. The second page will be contributions from our children. This month we have three little reports about things the children have enjoyed.

Visit to Castle Rising

Our class went to Castle Rising on Monday. Mrs Greenhalgh told us to bring our wellies as she thought it was going to rain. We all put on our new school red and blue rain suits. It was hot on the yellow bus. The castle was very big. It looked like there were real soldiers in there. We were allowed to go in the castle and go right to the top. When it rained really hard we had to shelter and Mrs Greenhalgh let us sing our rain song! The sun came out again in the afternoon.

Red Class

Football Fun Day Report

Jess Ibrom came to St. George's School for a football fun day. He has been teaching children different skills like kicking the ball in between our legs and tapping the ball with our feet. We also did different warm up games. We also played matches which were great fun. The teams were England, Italy and Brazil. There are going to be prizes of a football and some football boots. The football will be won by picking a persons name out of a hat. The football boots are for the person who raises the most money as this was also to raise money.

Samand Thomas from Year 5

Farm Visit

The year 5 classes went on a trip to Manor Farm, by kind invitation of Mr Richard Stanton. We learned how the machinery worked and what job they do. We all went on the sugar beet harvester and then went on a tour in a trailer which was bumpy. We went into a barley field and a pea field. We learned about different kinds of soil and got to dig a hole. There was a spade for the boys and one for the girls. When we dug a deep hole we saw the soil, chalk and clay.

We all had fun on the trip. The farm is an arable farm. They grow winter and spring barley, peas, oilseed rape and wheat.

Mrs Rampling's Class

Youth Council

Good news! As part of the Extended Services work that the two schools are doing we have formed a Youth Council for the village. We know that this idea has been talked about for a while, so we are now pleased that it will become a reality! Our two School Councils will meet together twice a year to enable the children to put forward their views about village life. We have asked the Parish Council to encourage two councillors to come along to the meetings so that they can hear the children's viewpoints and take their ideas forward. It is hoped that our young people may attend a Council meeting to feedback points raised at their meetings. We have also written to Smithdon High School to ask if two of their young people would like to join our meetings as part of their Citizenship curriculum. In this way the Youth Council would represent the views of young people aged 3 – 16. If you have any topics or questions for our young people, please pass these on to either school and we will happily discuss these at our first meeting in October.

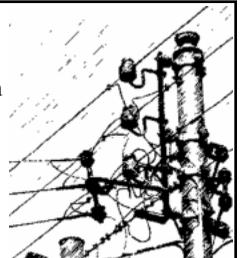
Jackie Austin
Headteacher
Infant and Nursery School

Ann Pope
Headteacher
St George's Junior School

Power Lines

A large part of the village is supplied with their electricity by overhead cables. Residents in Chapel Road recently experienced some problems with their supply, with broken cables sparking alarmingly. The Parish Council has made some enquiries into the frequency of inspection. Lines are checked every 8 years but starting in 2008 this gap will be shortened to 4 years. However, should you have any concerns about your supply then contact EDF with details.

T. B.



EXPLOSIVE PASSION

By Len Westlove

In the last edition of Dersingham Village Voice you might have seen my reminiscences about guns and my times in the Combined Cadet Force at school. Unfortunately – for my parents in particular – my early to mid teenage escapades with things that went ‘bang’ didn’t end there. I became virtually obsessed with anything to do with explosives.

It all started on Heacham North Beach. My parents had a beach hut and we used to go there on decent weekends and for a week or two during the summer. I must have been about 12 years old at the time. A family from Lynn owned a beach hut just in front of ours and I struck up a friendship with the young lady of the family. She would be about eleven years old. People who knew Heacham beach in the fifties will remember that there was a line of mussel beds (known as the Fountain Pen) about 800 yards from the shore and accessible at low tide. These beds were used by the Royal Air Force for target practice. Consequently a young lad like me, with nothing better to do, could go with his friend and collect literally hundreds of bullets; all spent and harmless. I never knew what to do with this collection but I thought at one stage that if I tried to sell them back to the RAF I might just earn a few shillings. My Dad suggested that this might be an unwise move as the RAF would have the right to say that I had stolen some of their property. I didn’t agree, but I let the matter drop.



A few of these bullets were slightly different from the rest. They were all 0.303 calibre but the odd ones had a plug of lead in their bases. Although they were of no earthly use to me, I thought that if I melted the lead out of them there might just be enough to take to Skinners Yard in Surrey St. Kings Lynn to make a few bob. So on one visit to the Beach I took a pair of Dad’s pliers with me. The procedure should have been simple. I would hold the bullet with the pliers over the gas ring that we had in the hut until the lead trickled out. I did this, but after less than a minute there was the most tremendous bang that I had, or have come to that, ever heard. I went blind and deaf at the same time. I became vaguely aware of someone leading me to the nearest water tap, and dousing my neck with cold water. I also sensed that people were running about. I was told later, and later still saw for myself, that the wooden walls of the beach hut had fragments of metal embedded in them. A sizeable portion of enamel had been blown off the gas ring; but I had had a remarkable escape, the only damage being a cut on the index finger of my right hand. Within a few minutes I regained my sight which, I must confess, was my major concern. Later still, after a long spell of noises in the head, my hearing also went back to normal.

Even now, however, I have an unsolved problem. The offending bullet obviously had explosive material packed in its head. So, was this a ‘tracer’ and had the heating caused the material to explode all at once. Or, was it of the ‘armour piercing’ variety. It makes a better story I think if I say that it was armour piercing. But in my heart of hearts I feel that it was a ‘tracer’. I can’t think of any good reason why the RAF would waste armour piercing bullets on mussel beds. On the other hand a few tracers mixed in with normal bullets would seem quite logical. If you have any ideas about this I’m sure the Editor wouldn’t mind passing them on. It all happened in the summer of 1953 or thereabouts.

As ready made explosives were difficult to come by (legally, that is) during my adolescence I stocked myself up for the forthcoming year with fireworks. These were used for three main purposes. A) to use from my bike as a rocket launcher; B) to use for powering an ejector seat that I intended to fit to my bike; and C) for something else which I don’t wish to tell you about yet because it might still be counted as a civil offence.

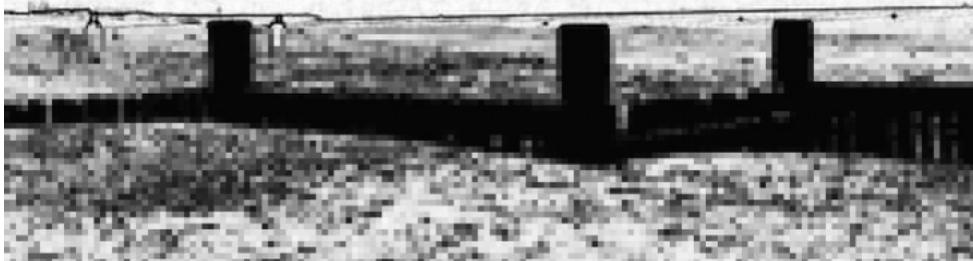
A) was relatively simple. I obtained an aluminium leg from a TV aerial (My Dad wasn’t too happy about that; it was our aerial!). This item was affixed to the handlebars of my bike in such a

way that it could be rotated upwards-frontwards-downwards, if you see what I mean. The stick of the rocket was then put into the tube. The theory was that the rocket would be ignited then the rider would pedal like mad, adjusting the tube as he went, until the rocket ignited properly and left the bike in a stream of sparks. But this was never really successful. Instead the bike would be operated like a standard rocket launcher. I would pedal round the village until I found a suitable target (but we go into that at this point!). Then I set the launch tube to the desired elevation, and horizontal angle, and lit the fuse. This method scored a far better 'hit rate' than the previous method.

B) Was merely a dream but I did try. As well as liking anything that went 'bang' I was also interested in anything to do with aircraft. I determined to fit wings to my bike. (That poor velocipede went though quite a lot when you think about it?). One sizeable hole was drilled through the cross bar, just back from the front stem, and with a load of bamboo cane and an old sheet which had been relegated to the rank of dusters for cleaning the car, a glider was born. There was no tailplane because the first part of the plan was only to get the front end to lift off the ground. But many aircraft, even in those days, were fitted with ejector seats. So the Westlove Wonder would have one too. The principle was easy. I would somehow fix a six inch nail, point uppermost, to the inside bottom of the tube coming from the pedal axle to the seat. When the emergency arose I would release a twelve-bore cartridge down the tube which would explode when the percussion cap of the cartridge hit the nail. The resultant explosion should have sufficient force to blow the seat, and me, to safety – always assuming that I was still alive! But the experimental phase had to come first. I had to content myself with dropping smouldering '6-penny bangers' down the tube then reassembling the seat hurriedly. Success was limited; *very* limited. So much so that is, that the seat remained in place while a muffled 'puff' could almost be heard.

C) I'm still in two minds about telling you about this. It was illegal after all and it's quite usual nowadays to hear of people being sent to prison for offences committed half a century ago, as is the case in point. On the other hand the results of the crime were not serious and the required reinstatement was made quite quickly. Did you know that you can blow a catseye out of the road with the faithful old 'six-penny banger'. Well you can – or you certainly could then. For two weeks during my adolescence I had fifteen of them as trophies hidden in my Dad's garage. They all came in sequence from a stretch of Hunstanton Road just north of Thaxter's (as it was then). It didn't occur to me that this could have caused any problem but when, in later years, I gained my driving licence I realized just how useful they are. The technique was quite simple. The dear old catseye can be thought of as a square block of rubber with slits in two of the opposing sides. One merely had to squeeze the banger into one of the slits, as far as the end of the fuse, then light it. 'Fssst ... bang!!' and there was the catseye lying in the road alongside its steel housing. I hasten to add that my Dad soon found my spoils in the garage and treated me to a severe haranguing plus a clip round the ear before making me reinstate the aforementioned.

Based loosely on the subject of explosives I would like to tell you about the aeroplane engine I built. And I would claim this as one of the few experiments I carried out that nearly worked. However I think that I have just run out of the printing space that the Editor can give me this month so we'll have to leave that for another time perhaps.



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CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP NEWS

The Carole Brown Health Centre Medical Staff

Following the retirement of Dr Aslam Baluch from the practice at the end of June, there have been further changes in personnel at the Carole Brown Health Centre. Sandy Hyams, a PPG Committee member has kindly compiled the following brief resumes of all the doctors now practicing at the surgery.

Dr Gerald Cupper is a senior partner of the practice and has been a member of the medical team at Gayton Road since 1974. His particular fields of expertise include cardiology and diabetes and he is also a practitioner in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP).

Recently he has been instrumental in setting up the Derma Vida clinics. Dr Cupper leads the prescribing practice, guiding the partners in cost-effective and beneficial drug prescription. He has also been involved in expedition medicine, travelling to Guyana eight years ago to assess medical needs and to Mongolia six years ago to survey mercury-tainted rivers under the auspices of the United Nations.

Married to Sandra for nearly 40 years, he has two children and two grandsons. Dr Cupper will be sharing his duties at the CBHC with Dr Vaughan-Williams

Dr Elizabeth Vaughan-Williams (pictured right) was born in Wales, trained at Newcastle and moved to King's Lynn from London in 1989. Joining the Gayton Road practice 17 years ago, Dr Vaughan-Williams specialises in women's health and family planning and also works on drug-dependency cases. As clinical governance lead, she deals with complaints and "quality control". Married to a King's Lynn GP, she has two children of 19 and 17, the eldest of whom wants to practice medicine.



Dr Steve Summers joined the CBHC about 18 months ago fresh from a year's sabbatical exploring Africa with his wife, Michele, a nurse, now manager for Children's Services. With their children now adults of 28 and 26, it was an opportunity to return to the continent of their birth and discover the real Africa. Dr Summers studied medicine in London and did his GP training in Norfolk. After one year in the Turks and Caicos Islands, West Indies, he returned to Norfolk and joined the Gayton Road practice in 1984. His specialities include cardiology, diabetes and care of the elderly.

Dr Salima Tariq (pictured right) previously worked at a practice in Wootton and has been at the CBHC just over a year. Born in Peshawar, Pakistan, she is married to a consultant chest physician at the QEH and has four children – 22 year old twin daughters, a son of 18 and another daughter aged 13. She specialises in the care of the elderly, heart problems and high blood pressure, and diabetes. Her ambition is to "develop the surgery to be the best in the world" and she is greatly looking forward to moving into the new health centre next year.



Dr Anil Goel (pictured right) qualified in 1997 in India and did his GP training in Aberdeen, moving to Norfolk in August last year to join the CBHC. He is uniquely qualified to give joint injections and holds a diploma in family planning, including knowledge of implants. He is also training in diabetic care. Married to a financial controller, he has a son of 21 months and a daughter born at the beginning of May. Each year he spends two weeks as a volunteer GP in India, a wholly self-funded undertaking.



Farewell and Thank you to Dr Baluch



At the end of his three year contract, Dr Baluch (pictured left with his wife) left the practice at the end of June. He is not retiring but is planning to spend his time as a locum in an area no further than 30 minutes travelling from his home in Hunstanton. He already has work commitments up to next April! Dr Baluch was very popular in the CBHC as was demonstrated at the small farewell function in the surgery and was one of the doctors who helped turn around the surgery some three years ago. The PPG is extremely grateful to this gentle and dedicated GP and wish him every good fortune upon his departure.

PPG Annual General Meeting At the AGM in June, the committee under the chairmanship of Vanessa Blythe was re-elected for another year. The treasurer presented the accounts which remain in a healthy state and will continue to be used to improve the facilities and services at the CBHC. The Managing Partner of the practice provided an update on developments relating to the new health centre and an opening day during July next year remains a realistic target.

Teddy Bears Picnic. 25th June 2007



Freebridge Lynn District decided to have a Teddy Bears' Picnic for their Brownie Revels. It was held in the beautiful location of Houghton Hall, taking place in the Stables and

Education Complex, with a herd of white deer grazing round the back. Approximately 90 Brownies took part from 5 Brownie Packs, 1st Snettisham, 1st Dersingham, 2nd Dersingham, 1st Gayton and 2nd Gayton. Unfortunately, due to the changeable weather the activities took part indoors. All the activities were with a Teddy Bear Theme, the Brownies were split into 4 groups and moved around between four activities, which were Making Teddy Bookmarks using Funky Foam, Teddy Bear themed stories and songs, Teddy Bear Masks and Show and Tell your Teddy Bear. They also enjoyed a picnic, in Teddy Boxes.





Dersingham Evening W.I. Report

From Phyl Jones

A resolution urging H.M. Government to stop the closure of Community Hospitals, and which was to be put forward at the National A.G.M., was explained to members by Mrs. Lynne Kerr, and after much discussion members voted unanimously to agree to the resolution. Mrs. Kerr then went on to tell us about her life as a Registrar, officiating at marriages. She had many interesting anecdotes to tell including some amusing, some quite touching and one or two bizarre happenings, all of which she thoroughly enjoyed recalling and recounting. Following this, everyone, armed with dishes and

spoons, tucked into as many of the fifty different puddings as they could manage, which had been supplied by members. 'A Pudding Party' which we hope will be repeated. Our delegate to the Norfolk Federation W.F. A.G.M. as Gilly Canny and she gave a detailed account of her visit.

In June, due to the absence of the president, the meeting was chaired by Vice-President Ann Saunders. Speaker for the evening was Chris Mackie who told us about the Archaeological Dig at Sedgeford. Some quite gruesome finds have been found in the Saxon cemetery – lots of skeletons – but also some really exciting finds including part of a gold torque and a cow's bone containing a quantity of gold coins.

A list of suggested theatre outings was made available for those members wishing to participate.

Margaret Woodford, of South Wootton Evening W.I. was our representative at the National A.G.M. in London which over 7,000 members attended. She gave an excellent report on the meeting, where the resolution regarding the closure of Community Hospitals was voted on and which 99% of those present agreed should be kept open.

Details of the Sandringham Group meeting in October were announced, there will be a buffet meal and Peggy Spencer and some other dancing group will entertain.

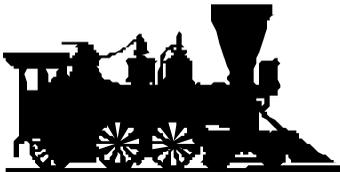


Events from the Rotary Club of Hunstanton and Hunstanton Inner Wheel

Three local charities are to benefit from two afternoons at a

CHARITY FETE AT THE NORTON LIGHT RAILWAY

By kind permission of Mr and Mrs. Schumann



**Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 July 2007
from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m.**

Entertainment will be by the Lavender Hill Mob Drama Group and the event will benefit the 1st Hunstanton Scouts and Guides, The Heacham and District Community Car Scheme and the R.N.L.I. new lifeboat fund. Attractions will include many side shows, children's roundabout, refreshments and rides on the Norton Hill Railway. One-third of all monies raised at the fete over the weekend will go to each of the three charities named above. You are invited to come along to enjoy yourselves and to play your part in helping these three charities.

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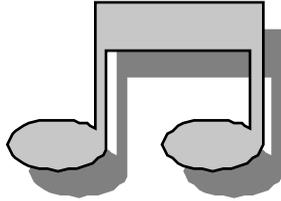
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Sunday 12th August 2007 at 7.30pm

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The Other Side

Copyright: Hugh Mullarkey - 29-06-07

'Damn you! Damn you!
Damn you! You fool!
A sharp incisive mind
By the body overruled.

'Damn you! Damn you!
Damn you! You fool!
The battle with the body
A sabotage so cruel.

Walls flaking with distemper
Old lino on the floor
From the echoes of this chamber
Came, this derogatory roar.

From this long and narrow Washroom
Every morning there would pour
These volleys of frustration
Every morning an encore.

'Damn you! Damn you!
Damn you! You fool!
Never quarter given
No concession ever made.

'Damn you! Damn you!
Damn you! You fool!
Rheumatoid Arthritis
With its power to pervade.

Every early Devon morning
I would listen by that door
Too young to know the other side
Too young to know the score.

One day my Grandma caught me
And shook me to the core.
'Don't you know he needs our love my dear
He will ever need it more.'

A View of West Newton Church

as seen from the Water Tower at Appleton with
the Wash just distinguishable in the distance.

This picture was taken by Bemie Twite during an open
day at the tower in July 2005





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R.A.O.B.



The Lodge was set up in 1990 and is now in its 17th year. Five Brothers got together in the Dun Cow Public House, decided the name of the Lodge, and away we were with it! Over the last 17 years we never get more than 9 Brothers each week (some of whom can be seen in the picture above), but have raised £8,738 for mostly local charities – Phobbies, Puddleducks, Lifeboat, Air Ambulance and King’s Lynn Hospital among them. This has been achieved with only nine Brothers, we could do with some more.

All the best from Brother Bridges, 42 Gelham Manor, Dersingham Tel: 541364

Elizabeth Fiddick, always a mine of Information, has come up with answers to a couple of posers set by this magazine :-

Village Voice No. 46, Page 45, W.I. Photo

There was, apparently, a County event at St. Andrew’s Hall, Norwich 1 1953.

In January 1954 there was a combined event here for the Dersingham W.I. birthday party with the Sandringham W.I. There was a dress parade at the Sandringham W.I. before H.M. Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and The Princess Royal from which, we are told there were several pictures of a similar nature available.



Dick Melton’s query regarding Blackheath Lodge

Our same source informs us that this is the property in Manor Road which is now called Beck House.

Thanks Elizabeth

Dersingham and Gayton Safer Neighbourhood Teams – ‘Bobbies’ to be seen on the beat in Dersingham



Police Sergeant Andy Crown, former shift supervisor at Hunstanton Police Station, has taken over a new responsibility as head of two Safer Neighbourhood Teams covering the area of North West Norfolk and will be based at the Police Station at Dersingham. The two areas under his control will be that of Hunstanton and the Bumhams and Dersingham and Gayton. The area which covers Dersingham and Gayton will, along with Sergeant Crown, have Police Constables, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and

Special Constables to offer what is described as a service which will tackle quality-of-life issues, such as anti-social behaviour and criminal damage, relieving many of the fears which people have about the lack of police presence, as the teams will be providing high-visibility patrols about the area. The two PCSOs who you are likely to see on patrol are PCSO Sally Calaby and PCSO Karen Hall, who has transferred from her duties in Lynn town centre. It is envisaged that the two teams will be expanded further by the addition of another Police Constable and six PCSOs during the next year. Once the team is established residents will be invited to attend community action group meetings to highlight any problems affecting the area, or, alternatively, they can discuss any concerns with the PCSOs whilst they are on patrol or when surgeries are being held.



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Claire has been slim for 18 months!

Official Opening of The Sports Pavilion by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

John Bunn's short history of the Dersingham Sports ground, has made us select 3 of the set of photographs loaned to us by Bemie Twite which we have used to remind readers of the occasion on Sunday 29 October 1967 when His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh attended to officially open the sports pavilion.



The pictures show the unveiling of the commemorative plaque by His Royal Highness (upper right), meeting committee members (lower left) and the three brothers Rix, who were the responsible for erecting the building, inspecting the plaque (lower right).

It's hard to believe that a man is telling the truth when you know that you would lie if you were in his place.

H. L. Mencken

Many people think they're being charitable when they give away things they don't want.

Myrtle Reed

Butterfly Hall

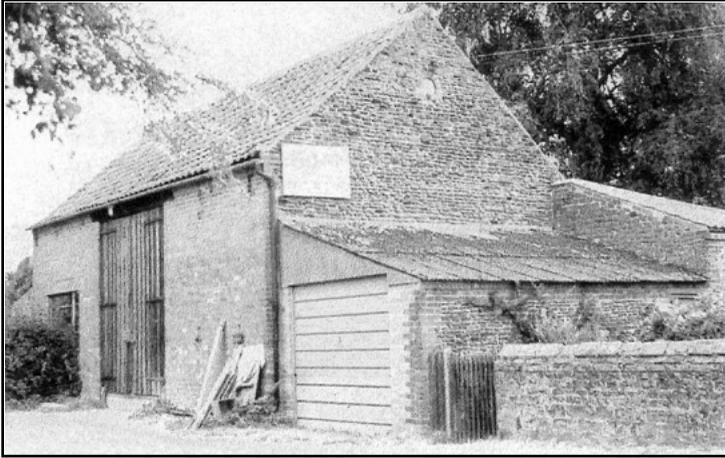
The founding of a farm

By Elizabeth Fiddick

The middle of the 19th century saw the development of that marvel of the age, the railway. The great steam engines, travelling the country at speeds previously undreamt of, were a thrilling and frightening sight. Some were convinced that such speeds were injurious to the health and well being of the inhabitants of the country and predicted dire consequences. Nevertheless by 1845 King's Lynn had joined the "railway mania" when a meeting at the Town Hall launched the construction of a local line. By 1848 King's Lynn was linked to London and a wooden station had been built near The Walks. The company that was to oversee the construction of a line to Hunstanton was first practically organised in 1856 but it was not until 1861 that the Act of Parliament was finally passed so that building could commence. Between 1856 and 1861 the ownership of the land over which the line would travel had to be established and negotiations with the landowners over suitable compensation had to be conducted. Several Dersingham villagers, including George Mann, occupied land on the marshes along the proposed route. On 12th February 1859 Parliament passed an Act that enclosed several acres of Common land in the village. This land lay on the Lynn side of Manor Road, which was part of Rice's Common, and a further enclosure, was made alongside the track called the Drift opposite Manor Road. The enclosed land was divided into plots, which were awarded to several villagers. George was awarded two plots numbered 80 and 90. Plot number 80 was 6 acres, 1 rood and 26 perch alongside the Drift. Plot 90 was 1 acre, 2 rood 30 perch situated at the top of the present Heath Road just as it descends towards Manor Road. It was on plot 90 that George was to build the barn and the house to establish his farm. George of course was not the only villager to be awarded plots of land. But enclosing common land was never going to be entirely popular with everyone. The villagers defended their common rights. In the reports of the petty sessions at Hillington in August 1859 James Green, Miles Lines and Henry Chambers of Dersingham were charged by Mr. Richard Stanton farmer, with trespass and wilful damage. The report goes on, *Mr. Stanton said he had a piece of land which was formerly part of the common but which was now enclosed and that the defendants had trespassed on this land thereby causing damage to the growing crops. He had caused notices to be put up cautioning persons not to trespass; but this appeared to have no effect; he was therefore compelled to take proceedings with a view to putting a stop to it. He did not wish for a heavy penalty; but in the event of any future case of the kind he should press for the full penalty and damages. The defendants were ordered to pay 8s. 6d. each costs.*

In 1861 there was a further dispute when Hon. Spencer Cowper of Sandringham sought to enclose 75 acres of Cranberry Fen. A meeting was held at the Dun Cow by the Enclosure Commissioners to settle the dispute between "*The Lynn & Hunstanton Railway and Dersingham Common Right Owners*". Having already lost several acres of Common land in 1859 the villagers clearly did not wish to lose any more. Perhaps they also considered that if further land was to be enclosed then, like George Mann, Richard Stanton, Henry Riches and others, they also deserved compensation for the loss of their rights. During the hearing it was established that Cranberry Fen was not mentioned in a previous Enclosure Act, possibly that of 1859. There was also much discussion concerning the value of the cranberries gathered by the villagers from the common, the turfs and the grazing rights. (This was covered more fully in the article on the railway in Village Voice Aug. 2005)

So it was in 1858 that George began the building of the barn, which still stands in Heath Road today. The date is interesting as the Enclosure Act was not passed until 1859 but clearly George considered he could start. He hired George Chambers as the builder. The Chambers family are recorded in the Directories and Census returns as bricklayers and builders. The 1841 census records William Chambers and Mary his wife with 2 sons and 2 daughters. George Chambers was then just 8. Evidence of the work of his family can be seen on the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Chapel Road built in 1878. On either side of the door are the two stones laid by H. Chambers and



W. Flegg on the one side and W. Asker and W. Chambers on the other. In Post Office Road a stone on the Wesleyan Chapel built in 1890 records G. Chambers & Son as builders. The original bill from George still exists and tells us he charged £226 to construct the chapel plus an extra 1s for Piers and 4s.4d for cutting and pointing the front. H. Chambers

was also on the building committee for the Forester's Hall and the stone there confirms Messrs. Chambers as one of the building contractors. Our George was 25 when he began the construction of the barn. The barn itself is not particularly large. It is built of English Bond brick and chalk blocks with an outside facing of carrstone. The chalk probably came from the Dersingham chalk pit which is shown on the 1839 Tithe map on the left of Sherborne Road just past Mill Road. At that time it was worked by James Fitt the mill owner. The carrstone doubtless came from Snettisham as it was considered of superior quality to that from elsewhere. There had been a carrstone pit in Dersingham. The Tithe map records James Fitt as occupying the Car Stone pit although it is described then as arable land. Some of the older villagers still refer to the crossroads of Mill Road and Shemborne Road as Carpit Corner. The late Mr. Peter Reynolds recalled both pits in his Millennium interview, "*the chalk pit is now very much grown up with blackthorn and bushes. The carrstone pit when I was a kid had the upper layer of it was very soft sand...and the stone was in the bottom part.*" He described the carpit as "*on your right hand side just before the crossroads.*" In the barn small areas of the original floor constructed of brick and pavements of beaten earth can still be seen. There is a large doorway at the front and opposite to it a smaller door, which leads into what was the farmyard. The roof is covered with heavy Norfolk pantiles and it is only because extra roof trusses were fitted that it is still standing. Many farm buildings of the 1850's collapsed due to the weight of the roof causing the walls to buckle. This is what happened to the cart sheds and pigsties on the other side of the farmyard. Halfway up the rear interior wall is a chalk block on which is incised, "*George Chambers, Bricklayer, Dersingham Sept. 1858.*" The house was built later and still is a large comfortable dwelling. In 1938 it was described as containing a front entrance hall, drawing room, 4 bedrooms, kitchen, pantry and larder. At the time it was built villagers drew their water from wells or in some cases from the streams that ran through the village. George's house had a large well at the rear, which was 22 feet deep and supplied good water. There was also a soft water cistern built with the house. This collected the water from an outhouse roof and part of the house roof to be used for domestic purposes. Mains water did not come to village until just before World War 11. There is an entry written in the school logbook for January 5th 1942 in large capital letters, WATER LAID ON. Before that time there were many wells in the village. Eric Cross remembered the well behind The Albert Victor in Manor Road, which was shared between villagers who would come to collect their water in buckets, carried on a yoke across the shoulders. Kenny Martins also remembered this and that washing water was fetched from the dyke down The Drif. Beatrice Roper remembered on washing days taking pails to fetch water from a tap at the side of the road. She also recalled visiting her granny who lived opposite the Chapel. "*Granny used to get a pail and get the water from the well.*"



The well water was lovely to drink. Much better than our water now."

She recalled that this well was behind a row of cottages opposite the Chapel.

Once the house was complete George, his wife Maria and son Henry moved in. They called their home Butterfly Hall and by 1871 the family were established there with a farm of 44 acres. The farm prospered under George's management. He purchased a further 2 acres of land from Mrs. Brett who lived at Dersingham Hall. She is described in the Tithe Schedule as a

Landed Proprietor with a House, Yards and garden, a cottage with garden and The Meadow, which was an area of pasture opposite the church. She is listed as the landowner of the Mill worked by James Fitt. We also know that at the time of his death George had two cottages with gardens occupied by Edward Mitchell and Joseph Flegg. He grew corn, turnips and mangolds and had horses, cows, calves and fowls. Maria died in 1871 so she did not live to see her youngest son Henry marry Rachel Walker in Sandringham Church on the 23rd October 1879. Henry and Rachel had nine children one of whom died at just 1 year and 6 weeks. George died in 1883 aged 83. Henry inherited the major portion of the farm but all members of the family were well provided for. Henry continued to farm for some years but had given up shortly before he died in 1917. Everything was finally sold when Rachel died in 1938 although their daughter Grace continued to live at Heath House, as it was now known, until shortly before she died aged 94. Rachel and Henry's grandson Eric then took over. When the house came up for auction at The Feathers on the 13th July 1938 it was noted that electricity was installed to the bam and that mains water was



available. Some villagers still recall using oil lamps and candles before the "electric" came. (Mr. Cliff Riches recalled that a meeting was held in The Forester's Hall to discuss the whole matter of bringing electricity to the village. "There was an old boy called Donkey Daw- that was his nickname. He had a donkey and cart. He lived right next to the Post Office. He was a proper old country man and he got up, "What was good enough for our fore fathers is good enough for us. We don't want the electric light and we ain't going to have it.") The two semi detached cottages were available at a rent of £12 and £15 per annum. It was noted that the second cottage had the right to use the well on the property of the other. The barn has had a very interesting history. At first as long as it was part of the farm it housed livestock, farm implements and crops. During the 1914-18 war it became the living quarters for the crew of the anti-aircraft gun that was stationed on the common as part of the ring of defences in the area. The stone on which the gun was mounted is still there although well hidden now in the trees. Before 1940 R. and T. Houchen ran their taxi business from the bam for a rent of £7-16s-0d per year. During World War 11 the Auxiliary Fire Service used it although the regular brigade remained at Sandringham. Its later use was as a builder's workshop.

Just after George began to build his bam and Butterfly Hall the villagers would have been excited by the news that The Prince of Wales had bought Sandringham and would soon be living there. The coming of Royalty would have a profound effect on the area and many Dersingham villagers including the Manns and Walkers who would become closely involved with the estate.

The basis of this article is a book entitled 'The Mann and Walker Families and Their Consorts' written as a family history by Mr Don McLean of Shipdham in Norfolk who has given us kind permission to use whatever material is included. Elizabeth has, in her usual efforts to tell the full story, done additional research which is used to supplement the original.

Advance warning for Village Voice Live



After last year's sell-out success, Three Parts Light will be switched on again at Dersingham Church Hall on Tuesday, October 2nd.

Keith Skipper and his cheerful colleagues, comedian Pat Nearney and singer Danny Platton, are returning by popular demand.

"It's really flattering to be invited back, although we do wonder if part of the reason is because so many people didn't quite understand what we were on about last September" said Keith.

"Come to think of it, we didn't quite understand what we were on about either, so this presents a perfect opportunity to bring extra polish, poise, panache and potency to our homemade offerings."

The trio call themselves Three Parts Light to avoid confusion with Lowestoft rock group The Darkness." It's an easy mistake because we also excite the masses and push back cultural boundaries" mused Danny Platton.

"He's talking a lot of old squat" suggested Pat Nearney, a leading expert on this subject as well as the effects of climate change on the North Norfolk coast



Admission is by ticket only. Tickets are £5.00 each, can only be bought in advance from the Parish Council Office in person, by ringing 01485 541465, or at the August and September Village Voice Live meetings.



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News in Brief

The Dersingham based Sandringham Detachment of the Army Cadet Force presented a cheque for £200 to the Army Benevolent Fund. This amount had been raised by the efforts of L/Cpl Guy Burrell and Cadet Jaimee Freestone who spent time over the Christmas period packing customer's bags at the Boots store in King's Lynn.

John Bunn – Norfolk Groundsman of the Year – John, who has been involved with Dersingham FC for over 50 years, received this accolade when he was presented with the award by Stewart Dracup, Chairman of Norfolk FA. Well done, John, and all the people who support you in your efforts on the sports ground!

Dersingham Sports Ground

*By John Bunn – Norfolk FA Groundsman of the Year
(see News in Brief)*

In 1872 the football team played games on the ground which, at the time, was a pasture rented by the Sandringham Estate to a farmer, E. Tingey, the cricket club having played games on the field before this date. It was a case of moving the cows before a game, the ball would stick before it got to the boundary, it stayed like this until the war 1939-45.

In 1947 the King said fence off the land you need for a sports ground, a committee was formed to improve the standard, and whist drives and other functions were held to raise cash. A few names to be mentioned include R. Houchen, Alec Nurse and Wallace Twite. Over the years standards have improved, with new dressing rooms and a cricket pitch which is one of the best in Norfolk, thanks to the Barrett family. This present day we have over 300 footballers playing every week in the season, 70 cricketers every week in the summer plus tennis players.

To run the ground it cost the sports group £14,000 in expenditure last year and we thank the Parish Council for their help with this cost. The football club expenditure was £16,000 to run village teams in senior football last year.



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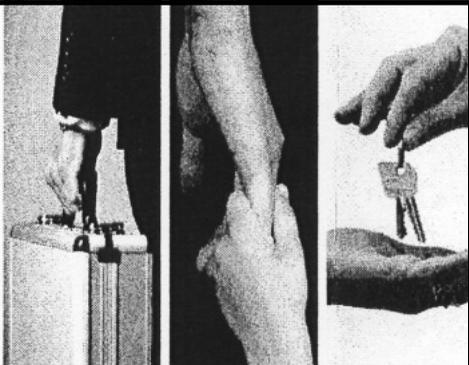
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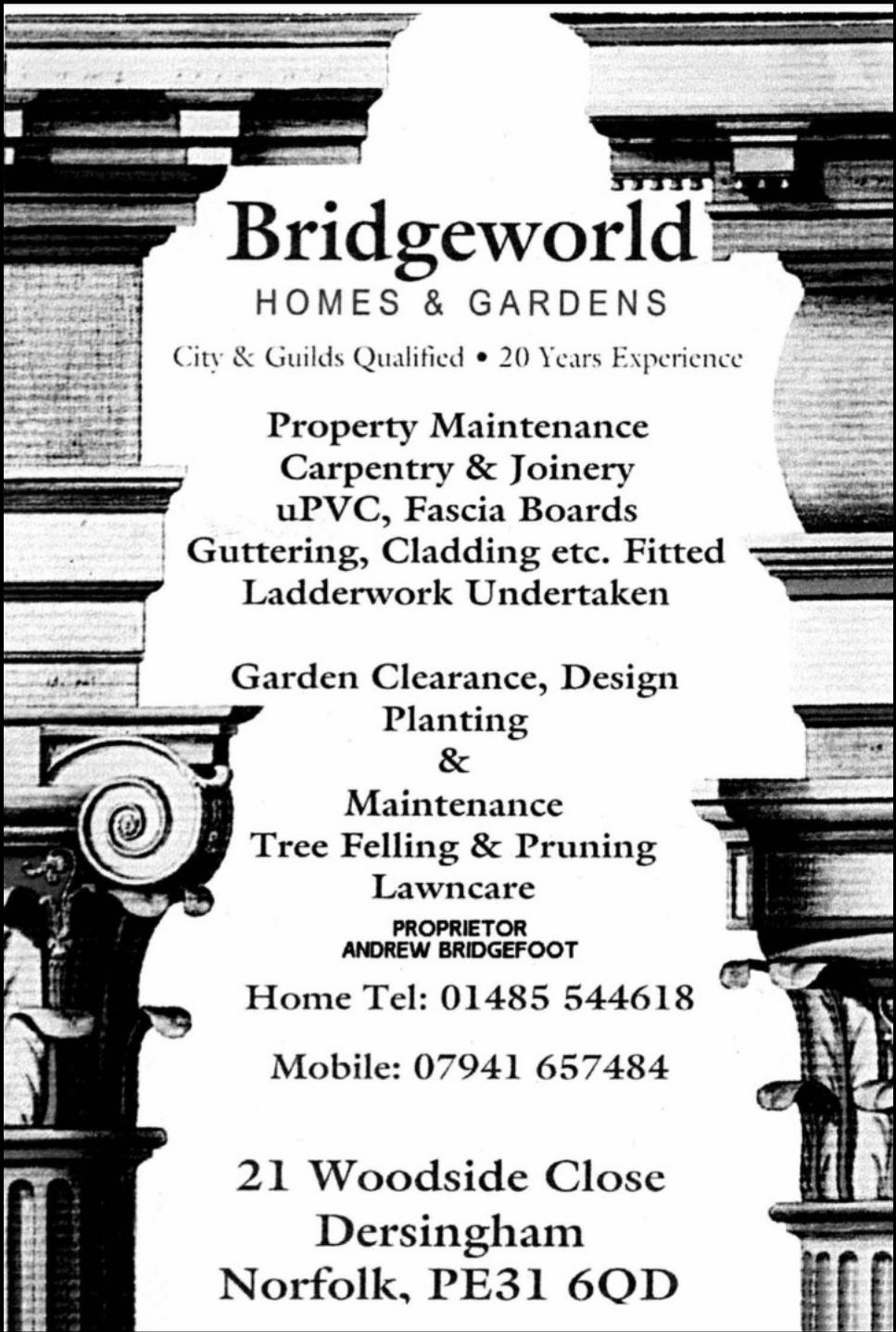
TEL: 01485 544419 or 07889 403878

HOME SELECTION SERVICE

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DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun 29 Jul		Park House Hotel	Park House 20th Anniversary GardenParty	Park House Hotel
Sat & Sun 28 & 29 Jul	2.00 to 5.00 pm	Rotary Club of Hunstanton & Hunstanton Inner Wheel	Charity Fete	Norton Light Railway, Snettisham
Sun 5 Aug	2.00 pm	Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve	Dragons & Damsels Walk	Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve
6, 7 & 8 Aug		St Nicholas Church	Children's Holiday Club	St Nicholas Church Hall
Sun 12 Aug	11 am	Dersingham Minors FC	Minors Tournament Under 7,8,9,10,11,12	Dersingham Sports Ground Manor Road
Sun 12 Aug	7.30 pm	Park House Hotel	"With a Song in my Heart"	Park House Hotel
Tue 14 Aug	2.30 pm	Lifeboat Guild	Sandcastle Competition	Old Hunstanton Beach
Sun 19 Aug	Evening	Park House Hotel	'Sherry, The Forgotten Wine'	Park House Hotel
Fri 24 Aug	11 am	Dersingham Minors FC	Charity Football Match Minors' Managers v- Cricket Club	Dersingham Sports Ground Manor Road
Sat 22 Sep	10.00 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Harvest Festival Coffee Morning	Dersingham Methodist Church
Sat 22 Sep		Tapping House Hospice	Classical Concert	St Mary's Church Snettisham
Sun 23 Sep	10.30 am & 6.30pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Harvest Festival Services	Dersingham Methodist Church
27, 28 & 29 Sep		St Nicholas Church	Autumn Arts & Crafts Festival	St Nicholas Church and Church Hall
Sat 29 Sep		Tapping House Hospice	Sponsored Swim	Dersingham
Sun 30 Sep		Tapping House Hospice	Charity Horse Ride	Sly's Farm, North Creake
Wed 10 Aug	10.00 am	Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve	Fungus Foray of Dersingham Bog Walk	Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve
Sun 14 Oct		St Nicholas Church	Harvest Lunch	St Nicholas Church Hall
Thu 8 Nov	10.00 am to 12 Noon	Royal British Legion – Women's Section	Coffee Morning	Dersingham Methodist Church
30 Nov, 1 & 2 Dec		St Nicholas Church	Christmas Tree Festival	St Nicholas Church



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&**

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**21 Woodside Close
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Norfolk, PE31 6QD**

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 24 October, 21 November and 19 December - when Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forder and Pete Shaw will be in attendance along with P.C. Stan Cobon. Services which include; Advice, Crime recording, Information, Lost and found property, Crime prevention advice and literature. Useful contact telephone numbers are; Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111 and Norfolk Constabulary: 01 953 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 £12.50 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 5 September 2007** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

Articles for publication in the October edition of Village Voice must reach the editor at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, e-mail: dersinghamvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 5 September 2007 for publication on Thursday 27 September 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

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

To advertise please contact the Parish Office 01485 541465

Printed by Clanpress Ltd, Dundee Ct., Hamburg Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday August 7th

John Maiden of the Hunstanton Civic Society
presents an evening of two parts :-



"Hunstanton Pier - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"

&



"Hunstanton - A Journey Back in Time" (calling at the Dun Cow on the way!)

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

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday September 4th

The Hawk & Owl Trust

Leanne Thomas
will talk with
illustrations of
the work of the
trust and about
their reserve at
Sculthorpe Moor



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