

BERSINGHAM VILLAGE VOICE

Issue 49

December 2007

The New Surgery Is On The Way!



Work has started on the alterations and extensions to the farm buildings which will form the new Health Centre

**WE WISH ALL OF OUR READERS A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Parish Council Report

At the meeting of the Parish Council held on 24 September 2007 the Council heard that three quotes had been received for putting lights to the trees on Hunstanton Road by the Recreation Ground. It was resolved not to proceed with this project until it had been considered as part of the budget.

The Council also resolved that the Finance and General Purposes Committee continue, but with added responsibility for considering quotations and tenders.

The Council were also advised that Budgens are interested in the provision of a bus shelter, litter bins and recycling facilities.

The Council then heard a presentation on the Village Hall. It was stated that a meeting had been held on site with the surveyor, designer and planning agent. The process is expected to take 4 to 5 years.

A.C.

At the meeting of the Parish Council held on 29 October, Councillors once again focused part of their attention on finance. One issue raised concerned the Council's policy towards reserves, which currently stand at around £90,000. It was pointed out that the Council's current policy was to reduce this to around £30,000 over a period of years by spending on capital items that would not recur annually such as new street lighting or play ground equipment. The policy and spending plans would be decided at the Council's budget meeting in January.

Concerns were expressed about drivers speeding through the village and various suggestions about how to tackle this were discussed. One particular problem was that of drivers ignoring pedestrians at the crossing adjacent to Budgens.

Councillors also expressed concern about poor drainage in various parts of the village including Dodds Hill and Fern Hill. It was pointed out that, if the water froze during the winter, these roads could become quite hazardous.

P.R.B.

Coming Soon To Dersingham Library...

Ancestry Library website taster on Friday 7th December from 1-3pm - If you'd like to find out how this website can help you start researching your family history, then book yourself a place by calling the library on 01485 540181.

The next Family History Forum will be on Monday December 17th at 2.30pm for any one who would like to come along and share their research queries or offer their help and expertise to others.

Pre-school story-time for under 5s is on Thursday December 13th from 10.30-11.30 and our Christmas story-time is on Thursday 20th December from 2.30-3.30pm. Under 7s must be accompanied by an adult.

Thursday evenings from 6.30-7.30pm is our DVD happy hour when you can rent one DVD, and get another rental free.

The ARCH (Archiving Rural Community History) project continues - If you'd like to know more about the project or if you have any stories or photos that you'd like to add to the www.remembornorfolk.org website, then please contact Alison on 01485 532280 or email hunstanton.lib@norfolk.gov.uk



Editor's Notes



I have so many articles and advertisements to publish this month that I had to reduce my own piece to allow for others. With this in mind, I would like you to know, (before the grapevine gets to work if it hasn't already), that I will be relinquishing the position of Editor of this magazine following my efforts to produce the next (January) issue which will, co-incidentally, be the 50th edition of Dersingham Village Voice. My reason for this decision is that of wishing to have more time to do other things as the magazine has almost become a full-time occupation, and, after all, I have been doing this for about 4½ years having seen 26 issues, including this one, go to the printers and I believe it is time that it was injected with some new, and hopefully younger, blood! If you feel that you would like to do this job, with effect from the March edition, then please don't hesitate to contact Sarah Bristow, the Parish Clerk, at the Police Station in Manor Road, telephone 01485 541465, who will provide you with the details. Incidentally, I am not leaving the locality, so will be available to give advice in the first instance should this be needed. I will now take the opportunity to wish you all the very best of the time of year and for the future.

Bob

Dersingham Community Centre

A meeting was called by the Dersingham Parish Council on 10 September 2007 to notify all users of the Community Centre that a new five-year lease (back-dated one year) was to be arranged with the Sandringham Estate. This lease could also be extended after this time by annual agreement.

Councillor Tony Bubb stated that the Church Hall was to be revised to accommodate all the Community Centre users and their storage needs. When ready for use, all equipment owned by the Community Centre users would be moved into the 'new' Church Hall.

As a result of the above all village groups looking for a reliable meeting place can now book at the Community Centre and be assured that, when the new Church Hall comes into use, their booking can be transferred to the new building should they wish to use it.

The meeting was told of the need to form a Community Centre Management Committee to cover the new lease period, and those present agreed to hold a further meeting on 1 October 2007.

The meeting held on 1 October 2007 duly elected Mr Derrick Worth to be the Chairman; Mrs Lynn Reeve agreed to continue in her present role of Secretary/Treasurer; and three further members agreed to serve on the Committee.

For new bookings contact Mrs Reeve on 01485 543300

St. Nicholas Church, Dersingham

Christmas Tree Festival

Friday 30th November. Saturday 1st December 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday 2nd. December 12 Noon – 4 p.m.

To Celebrate the Feast of our Patron Saint Nicholas

The Church will be decorated with trees and seasonal arrangements depicting the seasons of Advent and Christmas



The church will also be open Friday 7th December 10 a.m - 12 noon and Saturdays & Sundays 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd December 12 noon - 4 p.m. **In the Church Hall** - Christmas Gifts - Decoration - Hand Made Cards - Raffle Bottle Tombola - Book & Cake Stalls - Refreshments



Letters to the Editor

George Rowland, 2342897th Ave Nth, Port Byron, Illinois 61275, USA writes; Concerning the death of a WWI soldier from Dersingham - I have a bronze medallion and a note from Buckingham palace concerning the death of a Ernest James Howell. I believe his service number was 3031, 1st/5th Bn. Norfolk Regiment and he died on the 12th August 1915.

I have him as the son of George and Elizabeth Howell of 5, Manor road, Dersingham, Norfolk. I would like to know if there are any living relatives as they would be entitled to this death plaque.

John F. Murray of 26 Brooke Road writes; I wonder if, through the 'Village Voice', I can make an appeal for anyone who may have any old photos of the street where I live. It is now called Brook Road, but I understand it was originally called, Laundry Lane. I am hoping someone will have a photograph of my house, number 26, perhaps a tall order, but we can live in hope!

Lynn Turner, Assistant Head of Mathematics, Smithdon High School writes; The mathematics department at Smithdon High School spent a few weeks before the summer holiday doing a project on Speed with our Year 8 & 9 students, in which they had to produce a newspaper article on the results of the investigation. 2 winning articles have been chosen. We would be grateful if you could publish the attached winning Year 9 report. We also intend the other local village newsletters to publish this report. (The year 8 report has been sent to the Lynn News for publication) We intend to continue this project and report to the readers the future findings and hopefully the improved problem of speeding drivers. Many thanks for our support. (*Editor's note - please see page 43*)

Tom Morris of Tudor Way writes; We are all guilty at times of moaning that the police service is "not what it used to be" and that we hardly ever see them "on the beat" these days. However, only two couples could be bothered to attend the first meeting (surgery) arranged by the Safer Neighbourhood Team - as advertised in the last edition of Village Voice - to express their concerns, views or to be briefed on police initiatives to counter crime in Dersingham and the surrounding area. Such apathy does little to encourage cooperation and collaboration between the police and the public. The two officers from the team gave a very good account of their work to date and of their aims and objectives. So, come on Dersingham residents, give the team some encouragement by spending a few minutes of your time by attending future Safer Neighbourhood Team surgeries and, if appropriate, advise them of your concerns and seek their reaction.

Valerie Brundle of The White House writes: Hallowe'en Night - May I praise two little girls who took the time to get into the spirit of dressing up for the occasion. The two young ladies in question were Ocea Grey and Charlie Mead. As I opened my front door I was confronted with these two little girls dressed as witches, with painted faces and fantastic costumes, they both looked tremendous. Well done to you both and I hope to see you around again next year. Whilst at the time of writing it would be lovely to see other children getting into the spirit of this occasion. Quite a lot of parishioners have said they didn't see anyone dressed like that. So come on, let's see more next year!

BROWNIES AND GUIDES

Brownies

The 1st & 2nd Dersingham Brownies and the 1st Dersingham Guides joined together to plant daffodil bulbs on behalf of the charity Marie Curie Cancer Care. - The Brownies and Guides spent a wet October evening at Sandringham planting about 100 yellow daffodil bulbs. The planting took place, with kind permission of the Sandringham Estate and Mr Marcus O' Lone close to the Visitor's centre and garden Shop. Mr Mark Loads, the area coordinator for Marie Curie Cancer Care, attended and Mr Martin Woods, gardener at Sandringham, advised on the planting procedure. The bulbs were scattered in a random way to give a special show each spring. The Brownies and Guides collected £100.00 sponsor money which was forwarded to the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity.



Sandra Hullett - 1st Dersingham Brownies
Lynne Wheeler - 2nd Dersingham Brownies
Jeanette Lister - 1st Dersingham Guides





Budgens

James Graven
Established 1860



Dersingham Community Chest Awards

About James Graven

James Graven & Sons Ltd is a well established family business, founded in 1860. Today the company owns and operates two supermarket sites trading as Budgens, in Soham and Dersingham, along with three petrol stations, situated in Chatteris and Ely. Central to the company's ethos is the commitment to actively support the local communities in which it operates.

What is the Community Chest scheme?

The Community Chest scheme enables James Graven along with members of the customer panel at Budgens Dersingham to provide funding to some small but incredibly important local community activities. Each year the company will award £1,000 to community projects in Dersingham. The ethos of the scheme is:

- 1 Working together towards improving both facilities and the lives of residents in the community
- 2 Promoting, encouraging and supporting community involvement within Dersingham
- 3 Offering access funds to local groups with clearly identified needs

Who can apply?

Applications are welcome from any small voluntary or community organisation, group or charity with a local interest that is based or works in the Dersingham area for the benefit of local people. You must have a constitution or set of rules and your activity must benefit more than one adult, child or family. We do not give to statutory organisations such as Councils.

Your activity, project or purchase must fit one of these five broad themes:

Access – Education – Imagination – Facilities – Experiences

Awards could be made in the following areas:

**Pre-schools - Youth work and activities - Elderly or disabled - Health and social care
Local community - Conservation and the environment**

What can you apply for?

Any community group based within Dersingham can apply for a Community Chest award up to a maximum of £1,000.

How can you apply?

Pick up an application form from the customer services desk at Budgens Dersingham

When do you have to apply by?

Any groups wishing to apply for a Community Chest award must submit their applications by 18 December 2007. Awards will be given by 31 December 2007.

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Hi

I hope that you are all ready for Christmas as it only a few weeks away. I also hope that you will support the Dersingham Entertainment Committee Carol Service at Thaxters.

Unfortunately the Christmas Lights did not work out this year but we will try again for next year, I only received one or two comments, please let me know.

Thinking a little way ahead to the nice warm summer, would you like Children's Sport 2008, if so let me know as soon as possible as it will need to be organised early so we can get what you require?

Eventually the new light in Queen Elizabeth Drive is now working, it has taken ages and lots of phone calls. May I thank you for your patience but when you are in the hands of one company doing the work in East Anglia only they pick and choose when they wish to

do the work, and we are a village near the sea and quite a way from King's Lynn and Norwich. Green bags unfortunately have now been taken away for Dersingham residents, if you still need to get rid of waste we do still sell red bags which are £1.00 each and you can put them around a black bag and the Borough Council will take them away with black bin. Budgens have agreed to have a Bottle Bank on their premises, we are just waiting for the Borough Council to sort, so hopefully it will not be much longer and will be an asset to the village and desperately needed.

Still keep the posters coming for the Public Noticeboard it is well used and must be an asset to the village and its organisations. It would be nice if you could laminate them as they present better this way. The suggestion box is being used more often, which is good; keep your ideas and concerns coming in.

We still have seven vacancies for parish councillors 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

The Dersingham Parish Council Office is at

The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE316LH
Tel: 01485 541465 E-mail: Dersingham@wncb.net

Orange Trade Refuse Sacks - £34.08 incl. VAT per roll of 24
Green Garden Sacks - no longer available (see above)

Tags for Black Refuse Sacks £1.00 each

Doggy bags - £1.50 per 100

Can be obtained at the Council Office during the above times





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LOOKING BACK TO CHRISTMAS PAST



These two photographs from the collection supplied by Bernie Twite show a scene from a Nativity Play presented in St Nicholas Church in Manor Road Dersingham in the 1950s (above) and a picture of TocH Carol Singers, well wrapped up against the cold, in full voice at

Dersingham in December 1960



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

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

The following article has been reproduced from the January and February 1900 editions and

we will publish further extracts in future issues of the Village Voice.



IN A STAINED GLASS STUDIO

BY F. M. . HOLMES,

Author of "The Gold Slip," "The White Sledge," etc.

Illustrated from photographs specially taken for THE CHURCH MONTHLY in the studio of Mr. C. E. KEMPE.



HY cannot we produce such beautiful stained glass now as in the Middle Ages? Is it a lost art?

Now, we do produce stained glass to-day quite as beautiful as in past years. The art had disappeared, but it has been revived; thanks very largely to the efforts of Mr. C. E. Kempe, and you may see painted glass to-day fully equal in design and colour to the productions of centuries since.

One quality, of course, you cannot have: you cannot have the mellowness of colour wrought insensibly in old glass by years of weathering. The wind and the rain, the light and the air, the sunshine, snow, and frost, have all passed over it in endless succession, and have exercised their gradual effect; and possibly when three hundred or more years have gone by, some wise men will look at the painted glass of to-day and, shaking their sage heads, will lament that the handicraftsmen of the twenty-second century have lost the art of the nineteenth.

Sadly will they exclaim, "Why cannot we produce such beautiful stained glass now as in the later Victorian era?"

What then, it may be asked, really is stained glass? What is its art and mystery?

In explanation it may perhaps surprise many people to learn that there are no less than four methods by which glass is coloured, and that all the methods find their place in almost every stained-glass window.

First there is what is familiarly called "pot metal."



Painting the glass

This glass is coloured at the glass-house itself. The maker casts certain colouring matters into the melting-pot wherein the materials forming the glass are fused, and the glass is coloured throughout. We might call it self-coloured glass.

But, secondly, there is flashed glass. This also is made at the glass-house. A small quantity of the 'molten coloured glass is gathered like treacle at the end of a blowpipe out of the melting-pot and then dipped into another pot of molten uncoloured glass, so that a film of the

coloured is veneered over the uncoloured. It is then blown out, and manipulated, as glass workers know how, so that it becomes a sheet. Flashed glass is therefore white glass filmed over with colour, and the reason for this treatment is not economy but the attainment of a correct shade of colour. Very beautiful ruby and blue are thus made - colours which, if produced by the first method, would appear very different; the ruby, for instance, looking almost black.

Now it is obvious that neither of these products can be called either stained or painted glass. They are very useful, and the skilled worker employs them with admirable effect; but their production belongs rather to the work of the glass-house than to the stained glass studio.

Upon the white, the self-coloured, or the flashed glass the artist paints other colours; and here

again we meet with two broad divisions of procedure. If the artist uses nitrate of silver mixed with clay, and then subjects the glass so treated to great heat - fires it, as it is called - and the clay is cleaned off, the colour will be found actually stained into the glass for some little distance. Nitrate of silver will yield a beautiful golden stain.

The colour may even penetrate nearly through the whole thickness of the glass, and such productions are really the only material entitled to the term stained glass. The word has, however, no doubt become popularly applied to almost all coloured glass.

But then, lastly, colours are painted on the glass, which, on being fired, simply remain on the surface; and this, strictly speaking is the painted glass.

So then we have the four methods, and of these four the two last enter more particularly into the work of the stained glass studio. Here you may see clever painters busy at their easels, depicting features, raiment, or bodily form, and touching in the various colours according to the design of the chief.

The colours which are thus painted on the glass are ground and mixed in the studio. They must be of



Sir Richard Asheton and Dame Anne his wife
anno dñi mcccclxiiij.

SECTION OF THE FLODDEN
WINDOW IN MIDDLETON
CHURCH, LANCASHIRE.

the staining-nitrate or of the surface-painting character, according to the effect desired. Further, they must be mixed with some fusible substance to enable them to become permanently fixed on the glass when fired. But the colours must be ground so smooth by rubbing them round and round on a slab that not the tiniest grit can be found. The original design is wrought by the chief himself and his co-workers. Full-size drawings are then made of the design and a map constructed of all the lines along which the leads will be placed, to hold the various pieces of glass. The leads produce an aesthetic effect as well as serve a useful purpose, and may emphasize the fold of a garment or the outline of a face; in short, a lead is like a line in a pencil drawing.

The map is then taken to an apartment which may be called the glass-cutting room; and here the pieces of glass which skill and experience decide to be the best for the various effects are laid on the map and cut exactly to pattern. Curiously enough, no diamond cutters are used, only little wheels firmly fixed in handles. In the hands of a dexterous man, the most wavy outlines and strangely shaped patterns can be accurately cut by these little wheels, and, of course, the most accurate cutting of the various pieces is an absolute necessity. In the old days, the glass was cut by first cracking the edge and then drawing with a hot iron the line where the breaking of the glass was desired.

The leads into which the pieces of glass are to be fixed, and which are to hold them all firmly together, are made with flanges on either side, something like a thickly printed letter I, so that the edges of the glass can be placed within the flanges, and finally soldered in their places. The leads are of different sizes, owing to the fact that the glass is of different thickness. This difference of thickness is again necessary in order to obtain the desired effect; a colour on an eighth-of-an-inch glass yielding a different effect from the same colour on three-eighths glass.

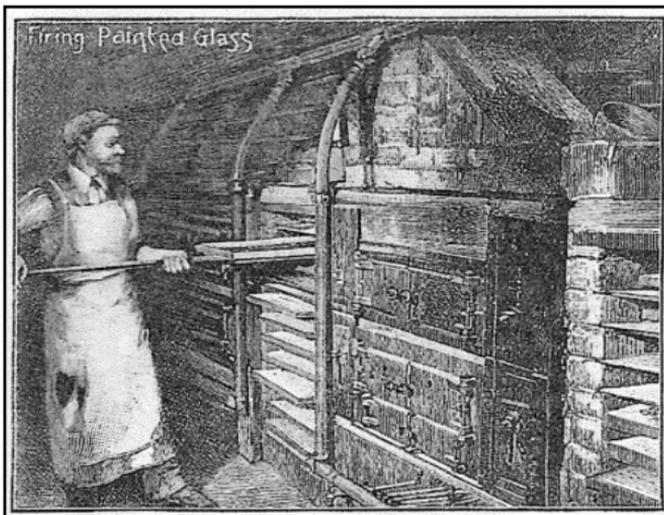
But the glass being cut, the pieces are taken to the painting rooms, where the artists touch in the colours. The glass on which they are painted is fixed to large pieces of uncoloured glass held on easels against the light, so that the effect of the work can be clearly seen as it progresses.



WHEN the colouring of the glass is finished; and the chief has passed it as quite satisfactory, the firing follows. This process is accomplished by placing the painted glass in oven "muffles," which are now frequently heated by gas. The gas flames, however, are so arranged that they play around and over the covered trays on which the glass is placed. The heat obtained in this way is very great, and yet no fumes can touch the work to deteriorate it. In former days, the same results were obtained, possibly with fires

of wood or charcoal built around closed ovens containing the glass.

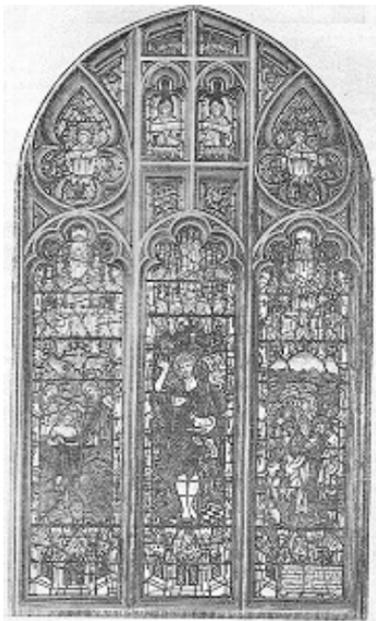
The colours being thus permanently fixed, the glass is taken to another room, and put together by means of the leads. Should the general result not be satisfactory, alterations are again made until the desired effect is obtained. Then the glass is firmly fastened in its place by a strong cement, which sets very hard and is impervious to wet, so that the whole mosaic becomes like a rock.



Weather will not spoil it, and time, as it passes on, will only mellow the colour and beautify the effect.

Glass painting thus presents a beautiful combination of artistic effort and of manual skill. In glass painting, as in all forms of art, simplicity and directness of design and of colouring are only obtained by the master. The child with the Paint-box throws on all his colours pell mell; but the master holds himself well in hand and seeks to obtain a much stronger and finer effect by using only a comparatively few pigments. To such artistic effort must be added knowledge of the best methods of combining and of compounding the colours, and of firing and fixing the glass; while through all the processes must run that feeling of pride in producing the very best work, that adds dignity to all labour and redeems it from being a mere dull and depressing drudgery.

Examples of Mr. C. E. Kempe's glorious work may be found in nearly all our Cathedrals. We give an illustration of a very fine memorial window from the studio of this artist, placed a short time back in the new Parish Church at Homsey. This is the first painted window erected in the Church, and it adds very much to the beauty of the spacious building.



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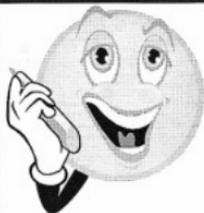
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23rd December	9.00 am Mass at St Cecilia's
24th December	8.30 pm Vigil of Carols& Readings at St Cecilia's
CHRISTMAS EVE	9.00 pm "Midnight Mass" at St Cecilia's 11.30 pm Vigil of Carols& Readings at Our Lady's
	MIDNIGHT - MASS OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Our Lady's, Hunstanton
25th December	9.00 am MASS OF THE DAWN – St Cecilia's, Dersingham
CHRISTMAS DAY	11.00 am MASS OF THE DAY - Our Lady's, Hunstanton
30th December	SUNDAY 9.00am Mass at St Cecilia's- THE HOLY FAMILY
2nd January 2008	10.15 am Mass at St Cecilia's- SS Basil & Gregory N.
6TH JANUARY 2008	9.00 am MASS at S Cecilia's- THE LORD'S EPIPHANY

Addresses: Our Lady & St Edmund's Church - 30 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton
St Cecilia's Church, 81 Mountbatten Road, Dersingham

Fr James Fyfe and the members of the Catholic Church would like to send you our greetings as we prepare for the great celebration of our Lord's Nativity. At the time when we remember that Almighty God came to share in our world as a helpless baby, we can surely find time to show concern for those in our society who have no voice or power of their own - the poor, the weak, the elderly and the unborn - and pray for all who have dedicated themselves to the promotion of healing and saving lives.

Parish life at S Cecilia's continues to bring its chores and delights. Recently we have managed to begin the much needed painting of the outside woodwork of both house and Church. We are also hoping to renew the water heater and taps in the kitchen and restore the sink unit in the flower room. Two new altar cloths were recently bought, one of which came from the sale of items by Janice Moseley, whom we thank. We are pleased that a growing number of local groups are able to

use our hall and welcome them - it is good to serve the community in this way.

A sizeable group from S Cecilia's joined the Parish Sponsored Walk at Hunstanton for the annual jaunt and the tidy sum of £1333.00 was raised for Church Funds - not bad for a group of just 40! The parish also enjoyed a rather



Sponsored walk

hilarious Quiz Night (some of the questions were very obscure which caused much merriment) but Mike Keogh rose to the occasion and helped his team (all from Dersingham it must be said!) to win the prize.

Members of our parish joined with a group of pilgrims to journey to Santiago de Compostela, in northern Spain. Where tradition says that the body of Saint James rests. Many pilgrims return bringing with them a sense of freedom, fresh air and new discovery and much changed. May that be true for us?

Soon we shall be celebrating the feast-day of our Patroness, Saint Cecilia (22 November) followed by a combined Ladies Parish Lunch at S Cecilia's at noon on 1st December.



In Spain

Looking back at 2007 there is much to be grateful for. The strength of any parish lies in its people - may God bless you, each and every one.

If my body were a car.....

Received by e-mail



If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull. But that's not the worst of it. My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close.

My traction is not as graceful as it

once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump things even in the best of weather.

My white walls are stained with varicose veins.

It takes some hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it....

Almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter....either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!



Tales from the Fire Station

As we go to press we are coming to terms with the loss of four of our colleagues in Warwickshire. The shock waves from the tragedy that struck there on Friday 2nd November will be felt by every firefighter and indeed their families in the country. We all know the risks that we face, when every one else is running away we are the ones running towards a fire, but we train to deal with those risk however on occasion things happen which are out of our control and tragedy strikes.

Every firefighter is taught the theory of "Dynamic Risk Assessment" this means that we constantly assess risks and try to control them – we wear protective equipment, breathing apparatus and use hoses to put out fires, we look to see if there are signs that an explosion may be imminent or if a building is liable to collapse, we get information about who may be inside and after we have considered all these factors we decide if it is relatively safe to commit our crews. We have a saying in the fire service;

"We will risk our lives a lot, in a calculated manner, to save SAVABLE lives. We will risk our lives a little, in a calculated manner, to save SAVABLE property. We will not risk our lives at all for lives, property or the environment that are already lost or can not be saved."

But the important words are "we will risk our lives" and by doing so, on occasion, we will lose the odds and someone will die as is proved in Warwickshire.

So please do every thing you can to prevent fires and escape from them if one occurs; fit smoke alarms, practice escape plans, undertake fire risk assessments in commercial premise and deliver staff training. Every little thing you can do will help us perform our job in a safe and calculable way.

And if you need any further information on home fire safety or workplace fire safety please telephone a Local Risk Manager at King's Lynn Fire Station on (01553) 669801 or visit www.norfolkfire.service.co.uk

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Bernie's Bytes

It's good to be back, the shorts are on again! (*Edibr's Note; Bernie has been revisiting the village and the area from his present domicile in Cyprus and took the trouble to look up yours truly, revitalising a friendship which is highly valued!*)

Follow on to October Village Voice.

The piece on bell-ringing - I was a ringer in the fifties and remembered the church had a set of hand-bells which we used to ring at times through the year in the Church Hall, etc. for events, I wonder what happened to them? Does anybody know?

The picture of Cobbold's. The shop was what is now the house on the corner of Chapel Road and King's Croft. The man on the right in the photo was Peter Houchen who worked there, I think before the war, and was manager. I worked there as an errand boy in the fifties, it had been renamed Norfolk Stores and was owned by Cawdron's who had a Wine and Spirit store in Fakenham. They were taken over by Thos. Peatling another wine and spirit wholesaler and became known as Peatling and Cawdron. The manager at the time was Arthur Steward, whose parents lived at Dodds Hill. Arthur's father, Herbert, worked for Stanton's at the Premises. Other names I can remember there were Derek Laws who went round the surrounding villages in a van taking and delivering orders. Ron Holder, Joy Soanes and Betty Wright. One half of the shop sold groceries and the other half, beer, wines and spirits. After it closed it was re-opened as a launderette, eventually going back to being a house.

The sports pavilion carpet - The original is still down, at the time the colour wasn't an issue, the priority was something hard wearing which would stand up to football and cricket boots, if I remember rightly the other colours available were all bright, and blue was the best!



Another trophy for Dersingham Indoor Bowls Club

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Dersingham Horticultural Society



I mentioned the annual village Horticultural Show in my last notes. When several villages have had to cancel shows through lack of support, our organisers can be congratulated that we are able to continue with a quality show. Children's entries in the craft classes were high, thanks to the teachers at the infant school and Lynne Wheeler, Rainbow Guide and Brownie Leader, who gave children in their care the opportunity to enter. It was disappointing that so few

parents came along to see their efforts and the presentation of prizes.

One of our seniormembers Wally Desborough, in his 93rd year, has been a regular entrant in the show. He has always been successful but this year especially so, when he won the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society's Banksian Medal.

In September we welcomed Sue Stephenson back to the Society to give tips on growing bulbs, bringing a variety of species, which were soon bought by the members. Sue is a real 'plantswoman' who has a plant nursery called Puddle Paddock at Gedney Drove End in Lincolnshire. As the name suggests, it was a muddy field when she acquired the site. After a great deal of hard work she and her husband have turned it into a working nursery and garden to be proud of.

Stephen Lowell was guest speaker at our October meeting. He is very much a professional gardener who made his topic of pruning into an art. He gave two short cuts to remembering why one should prune - two Ws-Weak and Wayward and three Ds- Dead, Diseased or Damaged. Stephen answered questions at the end of his talk, giving invaluable advice.

The Fund Raising Committee put on a 'Happening' with a Halloween theme. They had prepared some aptly named soups and puddings and decorated the tables in an appropriate way for the season. A gothic quiz featured unlikely cures for ailments.

Guests were invited to dress in suitable attire and prizes were awarded to Jenny Oliver and John Jenkins, for their efforts. Bob Harris entertained with conjuring tricks and a raffle concluded the enjoyable evening.

David Clark, who wrote the Society news item for Village Voice and recently moved to Wales was able to join us for dinner in Llarelli on our recent visit there and wishes to be remembered to his friends in the village. He has settled in well, joining his local Horticultural Club and is helping out at a plant nursery near to his home in his spare time.

Ruth Mountain 541523

DERSHINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

The refurbishment of the premises is going well, the hall is finished, the kitchen will be very soon, heating, lighting and new windows have been installed in the Church, we have new doors to the front porch and the side porch. The next step is to remove the pews, decorate Church, carpet the Church and corridor and buy the chairs. We hope to hold a re-dedication service in end of January/early February, we will keep you informed. Thank you for your support, please continue to support us.



You are welcome to join us for any of Christmas activities.

These are as follows:

Christmas coffee morning Saturday 15th December 10.00 a.m.

Christmas Family Carol Service Sunday 16th December 10.30 a.m.

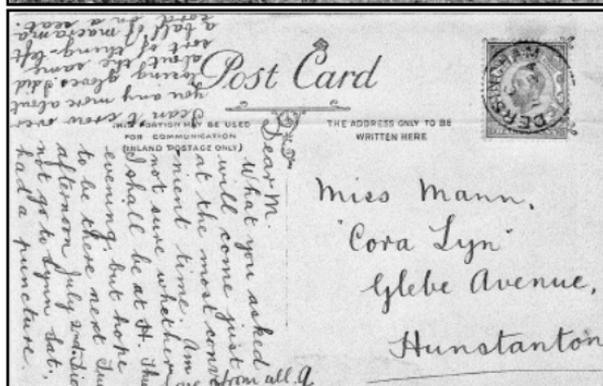
Carols by candlelight Sunday 23rd December 6.30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service 10.30 a.m.

We wish you all a blessed and happy Christmas.



Two Sides of the same postcard



....but can you help Don McLean by supplying some additional information?

The card was apparently sent to Mildred Mann (later to become Mildred Smith) who was working as a postal clerk in Hunstanton. It is dated July but does not give the year! It is signed "A" who is identified as Alice Mann. The postcard was passed on to Don McLean by Mildred, who became his mother-in-law. Don is seeking

any information that can be given about the people, the time the picture was taken and on what occasion. (It has already been determined that the building behind is the Church Hall. Some of the information so far obtained appears to suggest that the gentleman standing second from the left at the rear is Harry Malden, the hatless lady standing fifth from the left to the rear is Rachel Mann and that the person standing to the extreme right is Mr Firth, the school headmaster. Other information regarding the people concerned is that Alice was unmarried and died on 6 January 1924 aged 41, Mildred was married on 7 December 1916. Mildred was employed as Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist in Hunstanton and was notified of her proficiency in these tasks on 29 October 1915, making it certain that she worked there between October 1915 and December 1916. These facts lead to the belief that the postcard was posted between these dates.

Don points out that there were photographers in the family (one being Ralph, the husband of Mildred and Alice's sister Annie) and that it was quite common practice during this period for photographs to be printed onto postcards. If there is anything that you can do to help Don in his quest, please let the Editor know and he will see that the information is passed on.

The Mann Family
A photographer, a teacher, soldiers and childhood memories
By Elizabeth Fiddick

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.



Annie Mann

Many of us have looked with pleasure at the postcards that show this village as it was in days gone by. From the sepia images men, women and children from times past, going about their daily business stare at the camera. We can glimpse this one fleeting moment in the lives of people we may never know but who walked this village in some cases over a hundred years ago. Although parts of the village are hardly changed there are areas so altered that it is only through these cards that we can ever know what they once looked like. We owe a great debt to the photographers who walked the streets and recorded what they saw. The name Ralph will be very familiar to any one who has looked at the cards of this village. On 12th October 1901 Ann Rachel

Mann, the oldest daughter of Henry and Rachel Mann of

Heath House married Frederick William Ralph in the parish church of Islington London. Frederick was born in Dersingham on the 15th March 1872. He grew up to follow in his father's footsteps and became a photographer. The Ralphs had photographic studios in Dersingham and Hunstanton. The firm had a Royal Warrant of Approval and they took numerous photos of the Royals on all sorts of occasions at Sandringham. In 1896 Frederick Ralph is listed in the Directories as "Usher and Photographer" residing at Victoria Cottage Dersingham. I am not certain what the term Usher implies but in one photograph of Frederick he has a Royal Crown on his tie. Unfortunately not a lot is known about Frederick, as he seems to have disappeared from the family records. He did attend the funeral of his father-in-law Henry in 1917 and the Directories of 1922 record Frederick Ralph Photographer at Heath Road. Frederick and Ann had eight children, the last two being born sometime after 1916. At some point Frederick's house was cleared and it is said that hundreds of glass negatives were destroyed. If this is true we can only speculate on the treasure that has been lost. A Walter Ralph was still recorded as a photographer here well into the 1930's. We owe Annie's husband and his family a debt of gratitude for recording so much of this village for posterity.



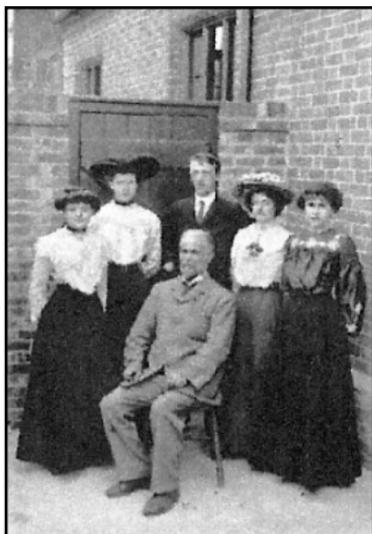
Frederick William Ralph

Annie's sister Alice who was born in 1883 grew up to become a much-loved member of this community. She trained as a teacher and took up her first post in or near Wisbech. From there she used to cycle the 25 miles to Dersingham each weekend. Perhaps this journey along the non-too smooth roads of the time on a bike of that era was too demanding as after a while Alice took up the position of teacher of infants at the Dersingham School. This school at the bottom of Doddshill



was built in 1875 on the land given to the village by the Prince of Wales. Mr. Alfred Firth had been appointed the headmaster when the school first opened. He was born in 1851 in Kenninghall so came to Dersingham as a young man of 24. Before coming to Dersingham he had been at Castle Rising from 1871 to 1875 and in those early days of his career had to attend lectures with other apprentice teachers from 6.15 to 7.15 each morning. He then taught six or more hours a day

with long preparation of lessons in the evening. Castle Rising then was the only school in the near neighbourhood under a master. Boys walked from Sandringham, West Newton, Dersingham, Babingley, Wolferton, North and South Wootton, Roydon and Hillington and, according to Mr. Firth, were usually punctual. Sometimes at the end of the school day one of the boys, a farmer's son, commandeered from home a small cart with a pony. The loading up of the boys was great fun especially when some of the locals tried to get on. They were evicted with great ceremony before the laden cart set off. One fears for the pony! Alfred came to Dersingham with his wife Susanrah, daughter Emma and son Alfred Richard. A second son Frederick was born here in 1880. The Directory of 1890 records Emma Firth as a schoolmistress alongside her father. Mr. Firth ran the Dersingham Sunday School for 25 years and the well-attended Evening Classes. One report in the Parish Magazine records that the Evening School was open three evenings a week. There was instruction in Agriculture, Mensuration and Drawing. The highest number present was 23 and "*the lads are fairly regular and are attentive.*" He presided at the opening of the new church organ when the service was attended by King Edward, Queen Alexandra and all the royal children. He also served as clerk to the trustees of Dersingham United Charities and was Chairman of the parish Council. He served as a Churchwarden at a time when they had many functions including one of being trustee of the common lands. The choice of the people's warden was often decided on questions outside church matters. The election address of one candidate one year was, "*You put me on, and I'll keep the donkeys off your gardens.*" He was duly elected and although he retired at the end of that year he had made all the common fences secure thus saving many gardens from the four-legged raiders. So this was the headmaster when Alice joined the school. A family photo shows her with her colleagues standing behind Mr. Firth. The young man standing with her could possibly be the Mr. Walden who is mentioned in the school logbook in 1914. "*Mr. Walden on military service having joined the RAMS*". It is certain that Alice would have known Mr. Firth's eldest son Alfred Richard known in the village as Dick. He was almost successful pupil at Dersingham and



Alice and colleagues about 1905.
Alfred Firth, seated, was Headmaster at the village school,

the King Edward VII Grammar School in Lynn. He graduated from London University and became Vice-Consul in Kobe, Japan. In 1916 aged just 26 he died after an operation for appendicitis. The whole village mourned his passing and a memorial window was erected in the church. (See Village Voice No. 37 for a fuller account). Mr. Firth retired in 1915 after 52 years as a teacher but continued to serve the village until his death in 1932. Elton Wheeler, who I believe lived in the large house Park View by the new agents, took his place. In 1923 aged 40 Alice became unwell and after a short illness she died a few days after Christmas. Her obituary in the Lynn News reflects the shock felt by the village at her unexpected passing. There was a large attendance at her funeral. Led by Mrs Wheeler, the headmaster's wife, *"the little scholars of her class followed her to her last resting place carrying beautiful flowers in token of their affection"* Mr. Firth accompanied the hymns on the organ. A concert and a play were organised to raise funds for a memorial. This took the form of a wooden screen with an engraved brass plate that was placed somewhere in the school. Unfortunately it seems to have been removed during a "modernisation" but perhaps some villagers remember seeing it.

Ruth Mann the fifth daughter of Henry and Rachel married Herbert Cross at Hunstanton in 1920. They had six children and two of their sons Alan and Eric gave extensive interviews during the Millennium project. The Cross family lived at the end of The Drift and both men remembered a happy childhood in the village. There used to be a rubbish dump situated in the area just behind where the roundabout at the entry to the village now is. I remember going there with the household waste and walking round to the sand quarry close by. There by the steep sandy cliffs I used to watch the sand martins as they swooped around and flew with such uncanny accuracy straight into the burrows in the cliffs. Alan Cross recalled. *"We spent a lot of time scavenging around the dump for anything we could make a good cart from. We used to go down the hills on the common."* There was very little traffic in those days and Alan remembered that it was a Sunday occupation for many villagers to go to the common. *"There were six or eight seats there and most would be occupied on a Sunday. To watch what traffic was coming along was quite an event. Many would break down and a break down was an interesting event."*

There used to be several garages in the village. I have advertisements for Eric Hynes & Co. Ltd. at The Sandringham Garage. Charles Whisker ran the Heath Garage. R. Isherwood ran the Red Pumps Garage, which still stands next to Beck House. Mrs. Isherwood was a member of the Beck family and they lived next to the garage at Blackheath Lodge (now Beck House). J. Twaiter ran The Garage that used to stand where the new flats have now been built at the corner of Post Office Road. In one old photograph this area is called 'Twaiter's Corner.' There was also the Auto Service Station still to be found on the right as you exit Dersingham for Hunstanton. This was a BP garage when I first came here but now is no longer available for petrol and known as Torc Motors.

Eric Cross recalled being taken onto to the common when he was only 4 years old and that he spent a lot of time looking for the tiddlers that could be found in the dyke alongside the Drift. He remembers that you could find water hens' nests there and many voles. *"Since the Dyke has been cleaned out and nothing lives there now."* He remembered walking along the banks down to Dersingham Beach passing all the cattle grazing on the marshes. *"That was all altered during the war. The marshes were ploughed up and a concrete road put in and they used to grow cereals."* An interesting memory of Eric's that recalls the village in the late 1920's was his walk to the local school along Manor Road passing Westhall Manor. He remembered the family living in that area. *"They used to do quite a bit of laundry work for Sandringham House. I recall walking past their washhouse and seeing the steam going through the roof tiles. They had a copper and did all the washing by hand in large tin baths."*

Eric enjoyed school especially some of the lunch times. *"Some of us would go over the school wall and up into Sandringham Woods, do a bit of bird nesting, go home and have lunch and be back in time for school. There were two sides to the village. Us who lived this side were called 'The Whin Bush jumpers'. Whin Bush is gorse."* Eric and his wife lived in Heath House and he



Dersingham Village School and pupils—date unknown

ran his building business from there. Alan became very involved with The Ancient Order of Foresters. This was a Friendly Society founded in the middle of the 19th century. Alan recalls the Dersingham branch or ‘court’ was established in 1840. In 1893 The Foresters’ Hall was built on land given to the village by the Prince of Wales. It was opened by H.R.H. The Duke of York on December 11th of that

year. The Court was called “Motteux” after John Motteux the owner of Sandringham about whom I wrote in the last article. Alan explained in his interview, *“Up to the Second World War there was no such thing as the Health Service and if you did not belong to some such club and you fell on bad times you had nowhere to turn. So it was important to belong to an organisation to insure against illness. The funds came from members’ contributions. The unit that was insured for used to be 10 shillings a week.”* The hall was used for the meetings and members organised dances, and tombolas to raise funds. *“We used to play dominoes and darts and the hall was used for many events.”* The hall is used by Supreme Carpets today.

The family of Rachel Walker the wife of Henry Mann came from Tilney All Saints. Her father was born there in 1826 and died in Dersingham in 1902. Her mother Sarah came from West Newton, the daughter of the local shoemaker. She also died here in 1898. Rachel and her siblings were all born in Tilney so when they came to live here is uncertain. Rachel had six brothers and four sisters. Two brothers died in early infancy. The first, George, died six months before Rachel’s birth when just over a year old. The second son also christened George died when Rachel was five. Her oldest brother John served in the Rifle Brigade but clearly lied about his age as he was just sixteen when he enlisted. It is not certain where he served but between 1866 and 1873 the Brigade was employed in India, Britain and Ireland. When he was 23 John joined the Metropolitan Police giving his age as 25. He died in London in 1876 aged only 26. The police records show “Spinal Paralysis” as the cause of death. Arthur Walker was born in 1865 and died in 1915. The 1908 Kelly Directory records an Arthur Walker as the proprietor of The Coach and Horses. In 1895 he married Jane Anne Wyer and the Directory of 1916, the year after Arthur’s death, duly records Mrs. Jane Ann Walker running The Coach and Horses Hotel.



John Neale Walker

A John Wyer is recorded as a baker here in Dersingham and later John Edward Wyer was a carrier for the village. Thomas Walker, Rachel’s youngest brother, was born in 1867. Like his older brother before him he became a soldier. He enlisted in the 19th regiment of Foot, the Norfolk Regiment. In October 1888 the regiment was ordered to Burma and arrived there in November 1888. Immediately they moved to Mandalay and went into action with the Field Force under Sir George White. From the 28th December 1888 the force was engaged in continuous actions to drive the “wild tribes” of Chins away from friendly villages. Two villages were captured and destroyed. Thomas was killed on January 22nd 1889 possibly during this action. His father embroidered a memorial tapestry for his son and records on it *“He being the first to reach the Height where on the enemy were concealed.”* Thomas was just 22 years of age. The country of Burma is still making unhappy headlines today.

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PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP NEWS

CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE

The New Carole Brown Health

Centre Village Voice readers will have noticed that work is now well underway with the construction of the new health centre. Pigeon Holdings and the practice management expect the completion to be in mid 2008. Although the majority of the equipment and facilities in the new health centre will be funded by the NHS and the practice partners, the PPG aims to fund some of the "extras" not available from statutory or other sources but which will help to enhance patient care at the centre. So please, support any fundraising ventures that the PPG may organise from time to time. We have, in the past, benefited considerably from donations and legacies. Long may they continue!

Finally on fundraising, we need volunteers to form a Fundraising Group. Please Contact Vanessa Bly on 01485 544866 or Tom Morris on 01485 541450.



DNA DNA stands not only for "deoxyribonucleic acid", a nucleic acid that contains the genetic instructions used in the development and functioning of all known living organisms. In the NHS world, it also stands for **Did Not Attend!** The appointments system was changed – at patients' request – to allow for booking appointments up to two weeks ahead. Unfortunately, this has led to a considerable increase in the number of patients who fail to turn up for their appointments which, in turn, means that other patients are denied those appointment slots. Please make every endeavour to either attend or, if necessary, to cancel our appointment as early as possible

Patient Surveys Patient surveys are an essential tool for monitoring patient satisfaction – or otherwise – with the service they receive at the health centre. Please make every effort to complete one of the questionnaires when a survey is being conducted and remember that both positive and negative remarks are equally important.

Patient Care Group Members of the PPG committee attend the Patient Care Group (PCG) meetings to represent patients' views to practice management, doctors, nurses and administrative staff, to learn and comment on initiatives proposed to improve patient care and to be made aware of any restrictions being imposed on the practice by NHS authorities. At the October meeting, it was learnt that:

The practice is being asked to reduce its prescription budget.

The GPs are being asked to reduce their referrals to hospitals.

The practice (including Gayton Road Health Centre) provides 2000 appointments per week.

The practice receives 9000 calls for appointments, test results etc. per month, most of which are between 0830 and 1000 hours

It was an eye opener for PPG representatives to learn how much effort is expended in collecting, compiling and analysing statistics – much of which is at government direction to meet 'targets' – and how the medical, nursing and administration staff use the output for



our benefit, to improve patient care. We should remember that when doctors and nurses finish seeing patients, their work for the day is far from over!

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation Trust Early next year, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn will apply to the Department of Health to become a Foundation Trust in summer 2008. This means that you and your family will be able to play an important part in deciding how NHS hospital services are developed in this area. The idea of Foundation Trusts is that they are democratic. In other words, every one has a 'say' – but decisions are taken based on the views of the majority of members. Membership of the Foundation Trust is absolutely *free* and is open to patients, the public and NHS staff. There are a number of ways to apply for FT membership. The easiest way is to apply on-line or e-mail the trust at FTmembership@qehkl.nhs.uk and they'll send you an application form in the post. You can also pick up an application form at the Carol Brown Health Centre or at the library. Finally, you can write to: *The Foundation Trust Office, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gayton Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 4ET. Tel: 01553 613142.*

The Trust is looking for *thousands* of Members, because the more they have, the more they can prove that the Trust really does reflect the views of local people. Members of the Foundation Trust elect representatives from amongst the membership to serve on a Governors' Council. The Governors' Council works closely with the Board of Directors (which is responsible for the day-to-day running of the hospital) to decide on the way in which hospital services are developed. This will ensure that the type of healthcare provided by the QEH is absolutely right for the families who live in this area.

Repeat Prescriptions A post box is now available at the Post Office for patients to deposit their Repeat Prescription scripts. Please allow 72 hours before attempting to collect your prescribed

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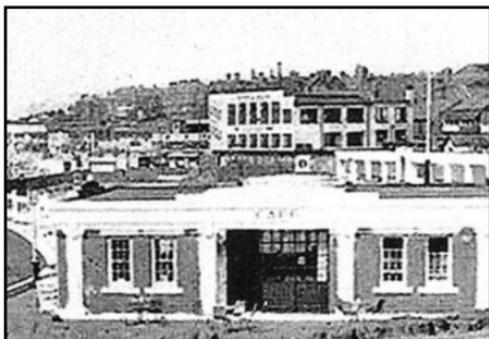
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This is a copy of the rules of the 'Kit-Kat Sunday Dance Club' that was started at the 'Kit-Kat' in September 1961 by the late Leonard Colisanti:



1. The object of the club is to promote brighter Sundays for its members by organising social dances each Sunday at the Kit-Kat Ballroom in Hunstanton.
2. Membership is restricted to persons of eighteen years and over.
3. An annual subscription of 1/- shall be paid by each member.
4. A 2/- admission fee to the ballroom, shall be paid by each member and guest to every dance (this fee maybe varied at the committee's discretion)
5. Each member will be permitted to bring one guest into the dances providing that;
 - (a) the 2/- guest's admission fee is paid.
 - (b) the guest is over 16 years of age.
 - (c) the member does not allow any guest under the age of eighteen to attempt to purchase, or consume, any alcoholic refreshment.
6. Membership of the club does not guarantee admission to the dances. The right to refuse admission to any member is vested in the management of the Kit-Kat, Hunstanton.T
7. The membership cards are not transferable, and are for use of the bona fide member only.
8. Infringement of these rules, or any disorderly conduct on the part of a member or a member's guest will entail automatic expulsion from the club and the withdrawal of their membership card.

The 'Kit-Kat Sunday Dance Club' was the first of its kind in Norfolk, as you had to have a special licence to run dances on a Sunday. A year or two after this the Hunstanton Social Club, under Hunstanton Town Hall, also ran a Sunday dance club. At the Kit-Kat dance club there was a resident group - Danny Ford and the Off Beats'. In the upstairs ballroom and downstairs in the lounge bar was a different group each week, some of the groups that appeared in the lounge bar were as follows: 'Johnny, Lofty and the Blue Grass Boys', 'The Mike Bunting Big Band', 'Ricky Wilson and the Young Ones', 'The Tea Time Four', 'The Two Plus Four', 'Maureen and the Three Piece Sweet', 'Larry Bond and the Trojans', 'Purple Sage', 'Mountain Dew', 'The Jeff Stinton Music Men' and 'The Strollers'. These Sunday night dances at the Kit-Kat were very popular and would attract people from a wide area, Norwich, Kings Lynn, Cambridge, Theford, Brandon, Cromer and Wells. Over one thousand people would pack into the Kit-Kat every Sunday night all the year around. These dances ran for twelve years, until 1973 - then the discos took over.

Seeing the picture of the postmen in the *Village Voice* I thought back to the fifties and sixties in Dersingham when we only had four postmen and women, the ones that I can recollect were Mr Wells, Ken Martins, Cliff Riches, and Miss Gilson - Mr Lee was the Postmaster. I know that the population of Dersingham then days was only about 2,000 but they had a very wide area to cover as they delivered to Shernbourne, Red Barn, and Ling House and, of course, they had no vans, it was all done on their trusty old trade bikes. Also there was a morning and an afternoon delivery in

all sorts of weather.

I was very pleased to see the article that Bernard Twite wrote about John Bunn, John has done a lot for sport in the village over the years. I will always remember John's late father, Jack Bunn. He was a good all round sportsman and he was an exceptionally strong swimmer, he would swim with us lads in the old shingle pits and make sure we did not get out of our depth, he would also go to Hunstanton where he would swim out to sea for about five miles and back just as if it were a stroll in the park. Jack was also a talented musician, for many years he played the drums in a local dance band but I can not remember the name of the band - help!

I thought that I would just mention Shernbourne Club, as a lot of people from the village used this very popular watering hole. On Sunday the 30th of October it closed down, a village club no longer, it had been there in its present format for over eighty years, before that there was The Bull pub on the site and a farm that was run by Mr and Mrs James and Jane Hooks. Mr and Mrs Stevens were the stewards for forty years from 1942 till 1982, then it was taken on by Dennis and Jane Perffit, they stayed there until 1990, and since then it has had three or more different stewards. Up until about 1992, when the royal party were out shooting in the Shernbourne area, they would always stop at the club and have their lunch. A lot of sports were played at the club including bowls, crib, darts, and dominoes, a lot of people will miss this club and we shall just have to wait and see what plans the Sandringham Estate have got in mind for the site.

Now then - Blackheath Lodge - Manor Road or Chapel Road? - that is the question! In Kelly's Directory of Norfolk of 1904 for the village of Dersingham it mentions Blackheath Lodge as being the home of Mr James Jackson, a farmer and dairyman. In the same year it also mentions a Miss Freeman living in Blackheath Lodge. Now, was this the same dwelling or were there two dwellings by the same name, one in Manor Road and another one in Chapel Road? No roads are mentioned in the 1925 edition of Kelly's, it is not mentioned at all nor is The Shieling. The first time The Shieling is mentioned is in the 1929 edition and the occupant is named as Mrs Frank Beck, and Mr James Jackson had moved to Centre Vale where he stayed until 1938/39 when he, or his son of the same name, moved up to High Farm.

According to the 1965 edition of the King's Lynn Blue Book, Mrs Frank Beck still lived at The Shieling, as also did Mr Risherwood. In the 1974 edition of the same book Mr Risherwood still lived there, but it is now just 88 Chapel Road and not called The Shieling any more. It is all very strange and intriguing but I have no doubt that one of your readers of the Dersingham Village Voice will come up with the answer.

In the October edition of the Dersingham Village Voice you have a photo of Cobbald's wine shop in Chapel Road sent in by Mrs Bond who lived near me in Lynn Road. This shop was later called the Norfolk Stores, and then it was taken over by Peatling and Cawdron's wine and spirit merchants, then in the seventies I believe it was turned into a private house and a Mr Baverstock lived there. This shop was situated in Chapel Road on the left hand side just past the junction with Fern Hill and next to the Red Pumps Garage. The Red Pumps Garage was constructed out of the barns that at one time belonged to The Shieling.

In my paper today it says, the end is near for the milkman and our door step bottle deliveries. When I first moved to Dersingham with my mum at the end of 1945 our milk was brought round by a company from Hunstanton called Sankey and Wright. You had to take your jug out to their van and they would use a pint or quart ladle to measure the milk out of their large churn into your jug. When they stopped delivering the round was taken over by Mr Riches and Mr Gilbert, the milk was then delivered in bottles and the depot where they washed the bottles and filled them up again was in Manor Road opposite the Coach and Horses pub, and next to the fish and chip shop. A Mr Dewar from Snettisham also began to deliver milk into the village as did the Co-op from King's Lynn, now we only have Dairy Crest and it looks like soon we will all have to go to the supermarket to get our milk. As I have mentioned before in the Dersingham Village Voice, at one time you could buy every thing at the door there was no need to go to the shop at all, Mr Keny and then Mr Ken Milton, who I worked for, would bring round your meat, as did



Norman Towers, and for many years Norman brought it round with a horse and cart, the horse was kept on the Shut Up Common. Twice a week Dan Andrews and his son Billy would come around with a horse and cart laden up with fruit and vegetables, every Wednesday Dan would have a fruit and veg stall up on The Green at Sandringham, opposite the church, two mobile grocery shops would come around from Snettisham – Lambert's and Daniel's, Lambert's also had a van that would deliver paraffin to your door for the oil stoves and oil lamps. Mr Don Bradfield came from



Norman Towers (mentioned in Dick Melton's article) is seen carving for the 'Mothers' Union Christmas Dinner' (left) and the 'Churchyard Supper' - assisted by Frank Smith (right) in December 1960



Pictures courtesy of Bernie Twite

Heacham with

his hardware van, you could also order furniture or carpets from him and he would bring them the next week, we had two bakers that came around three times a week, Mr Playford, who had a shop and bake-house in Manor Road, and Mr Fitt, who's bake-house was in Chapel Road nearly opposite the Chapel. A Mr Plime would come out from King's Lynn to fit you out for clothes, he worked for a clothes shop called Catleughs in Norfolk Street, you could pay him on the 'never-never' and then he would call every two weeks for the money. Just after the war a lot of people would pay into an insurance policy at one penny, sixpence, or a shilling a week, then the insurance man would come round to collect it. The insurance men I can remember were Mr Playford who lived in Lynn Road, and Mr Raynor who lived down Brooke Road (Laundry Lane) and of course they came around on a bike not a car them days. There were also a lot of shops in Dersingham them days, more than there are now but every one seemed to make a steady living.

Just one more thing before I sign off. I had my good friend Bernard Twite to see me, he and his wife Rosemary were over in England for four weeks and it was good to see him. He told me that while he was here he went to see Ken Martins, and while he was there he met Gerry (Spiv) Turley who was on holiday in Dersingham. Geny lived in the village for many years in the Albert Victor



Snow on The Green. Will we see any this winter?

Cottages (Wash-house Yard). Gerry was a very good and versatile piano player and could often be heard playing the piano in the Coach and Horses pub - all pubs had pianos them days, all they have now is a telly or a music box.

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DERSSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

Details of the walk from Sedgeford Church on 12 December were given in the last edition of Village Voice. The programme of walks for the first three months of 2008 is:

Wednesday 9 January start at 1.30pm from Thornham Church (map ref L132/734 435). A 4.5 mile circular walk led by Chris Chater (541177)

Wednesday 13 February start at 2.00pm from Snettisham Beach car park (map ref: L132/647 335). A 4.5 mile circular walk to Snettisham Bird Reserve led by Keith Starks (542268).

Sunday 2 March start at 10.30am at the drive opposite West Lodge, Houghton (map ref: L132/777 289) A 4.5 mile circular walk around Houghton and Peddars Way led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940).

Wednesday 12 March start at 2.00pm from Brancaster Church (map ref: L132/772 439). A 4.5 mile circular walk around Brancaster and Barrow Common led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807).

There is NO CHARGE: just turn up on the day (wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear). WELL-Behaved dogs are welcome provided they are kept at the rear of the group.

The leaders are happy to organise and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety.

If you would like any more information contact me or the walk leader. Keith Starks (542268)



More Bellringers – but Who? And When?

Another picture from Bernie Twite but without any form of identification, can you help?



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Dersingham Evening W.I. Report

In September President Dianne Neeve welcomed members and two visitors following the summer break and after the business welcomed the speaker for the evening, Val Anckorn. Val entertained us with an account of her colourful life, starting with the time when, to raise money, she stood on the pavements of London selling paintings done by her husband, on one occasion being 'propositioned' by a wealthy Arab! She declined! She moved on to sharing a stall with friends, selling hand-made paper flowers, plus various other crafts. On moving to Norfolk Val continued selling her craft work and added candle-making to her many talents and gave us an insight into what this involved, showing us many examples of her work. She also ran a Bed & Breakfast establishment in Walsingham, and kept us amused with many anecdotes concerning unusual visitors.

On September 21st members Julie Calvin and Shirley Brooks organised a coffee morning in St. Cecilia's Church. Takings from a raffle, cakes and bric-a-brac stall amounted to £269 and, with a donation of £66 from the church the grand total of £369 was raised for the MacMillan Nurses.

The Sandringham Group meeting on October 12th was well attended with Dersingham Evening W.I. winning the competition for the prettiest evening bag. At our October meeting the speaker for the evening was Mike Daly who gave an informative talk accompanied by slides, on the history of Holkam Hall, home of the Earls of Leicester since the 1700s.

Nominations were taken for a new committee, and details of a very varied programme for 2008 were on view.

We welcome any ladies wishing to learn more about the W.I. to our meetings on the third Wednesday of each month in St. Cecilia's Church Hall, 7.15pm to 10.00pm.

Phyl Jones - 01485 540669

Vacancies at Grouped Homes, Castle Rising

Residential Units in a lovely 17th Century Building at Castle Rising.

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D K Waite Clerk to the Trustees 34 Bridge Street King's Lynn PE305AB Tel: 01553 775676

Malcolm Batterbee

Memorial Day – August 2007

It started as a wet day – but things got better as the day went on. The bowls match had to be cancelled, but was replayed at a later date in which Sandringham Bowls Team beat The Fire Service. 'Waddo' was the entertainer at night to a good crowd. All in all we raised £1,500.00, which beat last year's total.

Thanks to all who contributed and supported us again.

Emily Batterbee

SWIMMING AIDS THE NORFOLK HOSPICE - TAPPING HOUSE



Following David Isbell's marathon swim, Sue Trewin, on behalf of Norfolk Hospice - Tapping House, receives a cheque for £300 from Dow Chemicals, who sponsored David. His colleague Andy Williamson made the presentation on behalf of Dow.

Splash for cash! said the poster – and when the day came splash they certainly did. Sue Trewin, who works as a volunteer for the Norfolk Hospice - Tapping House, opened up the Trewins' swimming pool for a Sponsored Swim to raise funds for patient amenities. Some twenty swimmers of all ages took part with a host of supporters cheering them on.

Dersingham was particularly well represented. David Isbell from Hipkin Road arrived first with the aim of swimming at least three kilometres of the fifteen metre pool. His wife Mel kept count as his laps mounted up. David had been backed by his employer, Dow Chemicals and many of his colleagues. Alan Crawshaw from Old Hall Drive was another. A quartet who swam together calling themselves the Dippy Ducks (in reality Ann Sanders,

Maggie Langridge, Ivy Kelly and Frank Gibson) confessed to 300 years of age between them. And still they came: Keith Blythe, who wears a multitude of hats (Rotary, the Friends of St Nicholas' Church and also drives for Tapping House), Bridget Box, Janice Gathergood, Sheila Broughton – Dersingham residents all.

The Trewins had called in favours from some celebrity sponsors including actors Judi Dench, Michael Palin, Donald Sinden and Joss Ackland, writers Jilly Cooper and Susan Hill, politicians Lord (Douglas) Hurd and Ann Widdecombe, as well as Earl (Charles) Spencer, who spent some of his childhood at Park House, the journalists Sue Lawley and Janet Street Porter and the mountaineer Chris Bonington.

But it was also hugely warming to witness just how important the Norfolk Hospice is to the people of Norfolk, who splashed out cash to an impressive degree. One participant was asked as she crossed the road by the Chapel Road bus stop what was going on. When she stopped to explain the waiting traveller opened her purse and produced a five pound note with instructions to give it to the cause.

Sue Trewin particularly wishes to say how grateful she is to everyone who took part, who contributed to the swimmers' sponsorship and who supported the swimmers on the day. Thank you Dersingham!

At the time of writing the total raised is unknown as pledges are still being redeemed. We shall crave the Editor's indulgence in a future issue to give the final amount.

Ion Trewin



The Dippy Ducks, Ann Sanders, Maggie Langridge, Joy Kelly and Frank Gibson after their swim in aid of the Norfolk Hospice - Tapping House.



Dersingham Village Voice needs a new editor.

Bob Tipling, our excellent editor, is standing down so we want a replacement to assist with issue No 50 in the New Year and to fully produce the March issue.

If you are interested please contact the Parish Council Office on 01485 541465

Dersingham and Sandringham Branch of the Royal British Legion

Legion News



On Sunday morning the 11th November 2007 Members of the British Legion attended the Remembrance Service at St Nicholas Church. The march from the Church Hall to the Church was led by a piper. As this Sunday was also Remembrance Sunday, a service was also held at the village War Memorial when wreaths were laid on behalf of the British Legion.

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Worry for parents

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- Will I be able to cross the road?
- How long are my children taking to get into school safely?
- Will my children come back alive or will I get the call of my life!



Many parents worry about their child's first day at school, however, did you ever stop to wonder whether they would finish school? would this day be their last even if they did not have a choice?

Our school is extremely worried about the fact of speeding and how one day a innocent child will be struck down and not even have a chance or choice.

To stop the matter 9A3 and a group of other maths students conducted an experiment to see how many cars speeded when driving past Smithdon High school. We used a seed trap and when we got the reading we noted the gender of the driver, the colour of the car and the registration numbers.

Warning to anyone speeding, do not let us catch you again!

And this was people who were coming into town, which is quite shameful, and thousands of pedestrians are in Hunstanton. Imagine you hitting one as you speed down the high street.

Do you really want your child to die in early ages because of reckless driving?.

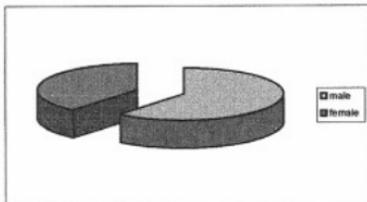
A massive 83% of the speeders were males!

And only 17% of them were women.

It still does not count, no-one should be speeding near a high school, a young child's park and especially when your on your way into town.



Every day thousands of children swarm into Smithdon High school. Further down the road there is a park. Imagine the little children playing, too young to know anything, too young to go to school. Imagine them no more, as all we can hear now is the sound of there last screams.....



Natasha Southerland
Smithdon High School

(Note: see letter on page 4)



NATIVITY

By Hugh Mullarkey

In the eke of disruption
By the occupying Power
Came the order for a Census
The place, the date, the hour.



Every one to register
No exceptions made
No excuses taken
The Decree must be obeyed.

A man and a woman reached the top of the hill
The Town lay there before them a little further still
But the woman was with child and needed yet to rest
For they had struggled many miles at some Bureaucrat's behest
As she sat by the roadside the baby kicked then kicked again
As if trying to inform her it was ready there and then
Of course there was anxiety, it could arrive at any time
But in the midst of all the buffeting was tranquillity sublime
And though their path was desolate that little spark of life
Gave her true vitality with the keenness of a knife
Every thing was crystal clear as night began to fall
The man would find them shelter however mean however small
For she still held within her that other soul that was unique
A soul to which she'd given life and now which life did seek
She knew its every movement, her love its source of being
It brought to her a purpose, another way of seeing
And so they struggled onward: the final stretch of road
And though their way was arduous their pace now never slowed
Together they would meet the cares of mortal destiny
For love gives life a reason, an essential need to be
Where once there had been two there now needed to be three
The glory of creation in a proud nativity.

© Hugh Mullarkey 22 October 2007

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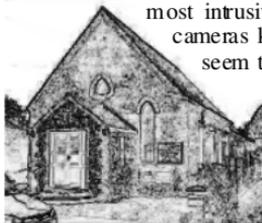
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Greetings from the Manse

A report has been published this week stating that we in the United Kingdom live in the most intrusive society in the western world. Four million CC (Close Circuit) cameras keeping an eye on us are scattered around our nation, which would seem to underline this. Our personal details are passed back and forwards by all kinds of businesses and organisations mostly without our knowledge. That's why we get increasing amounts of junk mail and phone calls, including charity mail and calls. It makes us think how on earth these companies know about us. I have stopped doing "surveys to help market research" as I know that sooner rather than later more questions and more sales materials will find me out.



I remember hearing a piece on the radio about a pilot for the new 2011 Census Form which commentators are already labelling as the most intrusive census form ever. Apparently people are going to be asked for new details about themselves like their income level. Another question will ask about national identity preference, or what would you be like to be considered as your nationality, in so far as now you can be born in one place, have parents from another, yet feel that you really belong somewhere else or may be even to the country you live in! Mobility and migration make national identity a little more problematic these days. The radio programme then asked for texts and emails to show if people at home thought that these proposed census questions would make it the most intrusive one ever. There were some great responses but one had my wife and me in tears of laughter. It said you should try taking your pregnant spouse hundreds of miles on a donkey! It was sent by one "Joseph from Bethlehem!" It was priceless and had the presenters in the radio studio in creases.

"In those days", says Saint Luke, "the Emperor Augustus sent out a decree for the world to be enrolled or registered." The text makes the point that this is to be the whole world. The holy family travel to their patrimony in Judea from their home in Nazareth, in Galilee, to be enrolled, and there the Christ Child, God's Son, the Saviour of the whole world is born. We celebrate this moment of divine "intrusion" into our lives and the life of the whole world with great joy and welcome, knowing that the intrusive activity of God in Jesus saves us from sin and death. In Jesus, God confirms our identity as His children, people of light and life that is eternal, whose names are enrolled and registered through faith in him in the book of life.

A very happy, joyful and blessed Christmas to you and yours, Kim Nally

Dersingham Community Centre

The village Community Centre is situated opposite the Feathers Pub. It was built as the village school and is now used by many user groups in the village. The centre consists of two large halls, three medium halls, two kitchens, disabled toilets, car park and grassed area.

The centre can be hired on a room (hall) basis or the whole centre.

Charges ; Large Halls- £8 per hour, Small Halls - £4 per hour, Whole centre from £15 per hour

The centre has many regular groups;

Mon: 7 to 9 pm Dog Classes

Tue: 10 to 11 am - Pilates, 10 am to 3 pm - Lace, 7 to 9 pm - Bridge, 7 to 9 pm - RAOB

Wed: 10 am to 3 pm - Day Centre, 6 to 9 pm - Youth Club

Thur: 6 to 8 pm Guides

Fri: 9 am to 12 noon - Art Class, 7 to 9 pm - Youth Club

(All times are approximate)

If you are interested in any group you are more than welcome to go along to the centre and ask the group leader about times and availability.

If you would like to book for parties or group activities please phone 543300

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The Norfolk Coast

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and then?

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for interested, positive
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be invited to help with
including putting up
village notice boards,
attending occasional
variety of other activities depending on skills and interests.

In return, we'll host evening gatherings - with guest speakers and supper - to share ideas and to learn more about this special area. We will also cover travel expenses.

The Norfolk Coast Partnership came about in 1991 because of a local need to manage the area more sustainably for both people and the environment. It includes a wide range of organisations such as the National Trust and local authorities. Along with local communities we want to keep this area special now and into the future. We need volunteers to bring views and ideas to and distribute them from the Partnership.

Whatever your level of knowledge, we'd love to hear from you. If you'd like to find out more, with no strings attached, please contact Maree either by telephone on 01328 850530 or email maree.limpus@norfolk.gov.uk

You can also check out our website at www.norfolkcoastanb.org.uk

We'll be having a get-together in the autumn and it would be great to see you there.



NORFOLK COAST PARTNERSHIP

PROTECTING AN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

needs you!

Norfolk Coast area?
involved in looking
spare a little time now

Partnership is looking
people to help link into
These volunteers will
a range of tasks
small posters on their
assisting at events,
parish meetings and a

Heacham & District Volunteer Centre

West Norfolk Voluntary & Community Action opened a new volunteer centre at the Heacham Library, 3 Lynn Road, Heacham last November.

It is open every Wednesday between 10 am and 4 pm.

The Centre, managed by Karen Lee of WNCVS provides a drop-in centre for people wishing to volunteer, a source of information about volunteering opportunities in Heacham and the surrounding area and a CRB checking service for members of WNCVS.

Chris England, Volunteer Manager for WNCVS said: "This is an exciting time for volunteering as we extend WNCVS' coverage to the more rural areas, thus enabling people wishing to help out others to find out more without having to travel to King's Lynn to do so."

If you have a few hours to spare a month and would like to find out more, please drop into the Volunteer Centre in Heacham or contact

Karen on 01485 570484 or e-mail Karen@westnorfolkva.org

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Pop your cork!
By David Bingham



If you want to help wildlife during this festive season you can do more than just feed the birds in your garden – you can also get very, very drunk. To work the drinking needs to be done with a purpose and the purpose is to open as many bottles with real cork stoppers as possible. Cork is the outer bark of cork oak trees and it has been harvested in a sustainable way for thousands of years. Portugal is the world's largest supplier with more than half of all cork production centred on Portugal's Alentejo region. Spain is the second highest producer and has cork oak forest covering a vast area in Extremadura. The cork is harvested in a traditional way using broad headed axes to make a vertical incision down the trunk. The bark is then peeled away by hand. This treatment would kill other trees but does not damage cork oaks, which quickly grow a new skin. This ability is thought to be an adaptation that enables cork oaks to withstand fires by sacrificing their outer covering. I remember seeing cork oaks in Portugal that had been recently harvested. The cork was piled in sheets next to the smooth red trunks - making the trees look like freshly skinned animals. Cork oak forests are full of wildlife and this includes real rarities such as the imperial eagle and Iberian lynx as well as unique plant and animal communities. All this is under threat because of the recent trend away from traditional cork and towards screw tops and synthetic corks. These were once confined to New World wines but the trend is spreading and I recently noticed bottles of expensive Chablis with screw tops. The reason for this move is said to be to prevent the wine from becoming 'corked' – a chemical reaction between the cork and the contents that can make wine taste like sweaty socks in severe cases. This hasn't been a serious problem for the last two or three thousand years so I suspect profit is the main driver rather than quality. Cork forests themselves are only marginally profitable and any loss of production could lead to a severe decline affecting people, wildlife and landscape. The plight of the cork forests has been highlighted by various campaigns



including a giant sculpture of an imperial eagle made out of 330,000 corks at the Eden Project in Cornwall. This is used by the RSPB to raise awareness of the plight of cork oak forests. Most articles that discuss this subject in weekend colour supplements tend to deal with the demise of the cork in terms of wine quality and do not consider the social and ecological damage these changes will cause.

So, if you want to do your bit - choose cork. The only supermarkets to come on board with this message are Marks & Spencer and Waitrose, where you will find the material the stopper is made of clearly marked on the label of all their wine bottles. If you don't shop at either of these establishments I suggest drinking Champagne. Producers of Champagne tend to be traditionalists and are likely to



resist the lure of plastic for longer than most. The stoppers are also massive with a big corky knob on the end. An added bonus is that Champagne needs to be drunk quickly before the fizz goes so you will just have to open another bottle!!

[‘Goose News’ overleaf]

Goose News

By now we should have around 30,000 pink-footed geese roosting at the Snettisham RSPB reserve with possibly another 100,000 along the north Norfolk coast. They feed inland during the day mainly on the sugar beet tops that are left after the harvest. Joining one of the organised RSPB ‘geese galore’ early morning walks is the best way to get up close and personal with these geese. The dates are December 2, 3, 7, 8, 14, 15 and January 4, 5, 6. To book a place on one of these events just call 01485 210779. They cost £6 for adults and £2.50 for children with discounts for RSPB members.

Another good place to view

Walk at Holkham
(opposite the Victoria

The geese are easily
the fields so chasing them
farmland is not the best



the geese is Lady Anne's

Hotel).

disturbed when feeding in
around local
thing to do.

Coming Events at ParkHouse This Christmas

Sunday 2 December at 2.30pm

‘A SUNDAY AFTERNOON SEASONAL CONCERT’

By the local award-winning choir ‘Cantos’ (formerly known as ‘Fentasia’)
Another delightful programme of carols and seasonal songs, beautifully arranged and presented
always a popular feature in the Park House Christmas programme
Tickets £7.50 to include ‘Seasonal Afternoon Tea’

Sunday 16 December at 8.00pm

Clearer Productions Present

‘A CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA’

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top class professional Artists and Musicians
Tickets £10.00 including Seasonal Refreshments in the Interval

Alex Vale D.F.C.
August 1922 – September 2007

A very good friend of many people in Dersingham, Alex Vale of Duck Decoy Close, died on Saturday 22 September 2007.

The following is, with her permission, an edited extract from the eulogy given at his funeral service in Salisbury on Friday 12 October 2007 by his grand-daughter, Louise.



Alex was born on 30th of August 1922 in Peckham, South London. He won a scholarship to Alley's School in Dulwich where he developed an interest and skill in art, which led him into employment as a graphic artist. In his early teens he began going out with the love of his life, Rose Dann, or 'Danny' as she was always called. They had known each other since they were young and stayed together until her death in 2003.

Alex was a pacifist until he decided that being forced to hide from enemy bombing was unacceptable - and promptly enrolled in the RAF. He trained in Texas as a fighter pilot returning to England to play his part in 1941. He flew mainly Spitfires but sometimes Hurricanes or Typhoons and on one occasion borrowed a Tiger Moth to fly from Cornwall into Croydon airport to visit Danny. His first Spitfire is one of the few remaining and can still be seen in the RAF museum at Hendon. He served in Malta during the war and returned there in 2005 to join the 60th anniversary celebrations with other veterans. At a time when a fighter pilot's lifespan was reckoned to be about six months, he lasted 3 years. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross but was unable to collect it from Buckingham Palace before his luck ran out. While flying from Predannack in Cornwall to soften up Brittany prior to D-Day he was shot down during his 3rd sortie of the day. With a mixture of skill and good luck he managed to survive the ensuing crash landing although not without injury. Sixty years later he returned to find the crash site and was fortunate to meet the farmer who had pulled him from his aircraft and the daughter of the family who tried very briefly but unsuccessfully to shelter him from the Gestapo. Of the three other Spitfires on that flight, one pilot was shot down at the same time and died, another, a good friend, escaped unharmed only to be killed a week later and the last one, returned to base with 10 holes in his aircraft. He saw Alex crash and believed he had died until they met again in 2002.

The rest of Alex's war was spent in POW camps where his artistic skills were in demand for drawing fellow inmates, murals on hut walls and, more usefully, for forging documents used within the camp and by escapees. Although much of the time was relatively comfortable, the last few months in a camp at Luchenwald in Germany were a time of great deprivation and starvation. After the war he decided to leave the RAF and joined the Metropolitan Police, serving in Peckham and then on to CID in what was then known as New Scotland Yard. Promotion was the lengthy business of dead man's shoes, so when a senior officer suggested he might like to apply for a position in the Colonial Police in Uganda he took the advice. Going to East Africa was a big deal in those days, a real adventure. He was a keen member of the sports club and played snooker, squash, cricket and football all reasonably well. Alex's role in CID was as a fingerprint and photographic expert and his career progressed until, by the time he left Uganda, he held the rank of Senior Superintendent of Police and had been awarded the Colonial Police Medal.

Returning to England was the trip of a lifetime for Alex and Danny. They spent some time

holidaying in Mombasa before taking a cruise ship to Venice and returned to England happy, relaxed and tanned. The intention had been to settle but the idea proved more attractive than the reality and, following a short teacher training course, Alex left for Botswana in 1966 to take up a new post, training CID officers. The country was relatively unknown at the time and there was a sense of pioneering. There was no television service and the cinema consisted of one projector occasionally set up in the central aisle of the Town Hall with lights up and long pauses to change reels or repair a broken film. The small city became the family base for the next few years. This period proved a particularly active and creative time for Alex. In addition to his full time job and sports club membership he was an enthusiastic member of the Capital Players, the amateur dramatic society, and was involved with many highly successful productions as a producer, director, set designer and occasional actor. His artistic capabilities were again brought into play when he designed several series of stamps for Botswana and, with one of these, won The Observer prize for best Commonwealth design.

After Botswana, Alex and Danny finally settled in UK. Alex joined the Construction Industry Training Board based at Norbury in London. The organisation relocated to Bircham Newton in Norfolk and Alex and Danny built a house nearby. Alex's work as Head of Training aids and Editing Services allowed him to use his organisational, language and graphics arts skills to great effect until his retirement in 1987. After a while, Alex and Danny started spending a lot of time in Cornwall, when they became part-time parents to their grandchildren for a few years while their Mum and Dad were working in Bahrain. With old age looming Alex and Danny decided that the house and garden in Bircham would become too much for them and they moved to a new bungalow in Dersingham. Their time there was punctuated by holiday in Bahrain and during one of these they were lucky enough to join a flight on a VCO which was refuelling Tornados. A day out which they both absolutely loved. Everything changed in 2002 when Danny suddenly suffered a massive stroke in August and died in the following spring. It was without doubt the biggest blow of his life and came close to killing him. He moved to Cornwall to stay with his daughter Lyn and it took several months to reach a level where he could begin to live again. For the rest of his life he treasured Danny's memory. Once he returned to Norfolk his social life centred around his two locals, The Feathers in Dersingham and The Stanhoe Crown, where he was well liked and respected for his love of conversation and good sense of humour. Close friends from both hostels gave him great support and later, as he became more frail, they looked after him really well. He was legendary for his habit of ordering cups of tea in the pub. New bar staff occasionally delivered this in the traditional fashion, blissfully unaware that it was actually code for a large Famous Grouse Whisky, 50:50 with water and no ice... He drank a lot of tea...

His love of flying never left him and in 2004, as a result of getting to know one of Status Quo's engineers, who met him in the Feathers, he undertook a glider flight, as a passenger, and loved every minute of it. He was very patriotic and, although he didn't generally shout about it, he made a point of celebrating St George's Day and during one memorable birthday party thrown for him, and attended by friends from both the locals, there were very enthusiastic renditions of "Land of Hope and Glory". Just over six months ago, Alex went to live in Salisbury. He'd always liked the city and although he was mostly wheelchair bound he still enjoyed going out for a pint and continued to enjoy meeting new people. Even in his last few weeks he enjoyed a couple of parties. Throughout the many hospital visits and, despite his failing health, he was charming and friendly to the many members of the medical profession he encountered. He enjoyed joking with the nurses and even persuaded one of the heart failure team to consider a tandem parachute jump with him - but it was not to be. Alex was always grateful for his lot in life and his family and friends are grateful that he was part of theirs. He was constant to the end and it is wonderful that the same things were said of him by people he met long ago as by the last person he got to know - his morning carer. After he died, she said he was a lovely man and a real gentleman, that it was a pleasure to have known him and she would always remember him.

The following is an extract taken from an article first published in Dersingham Village Voice Issue No 32 - December 2004 - "Return to Brittany: 22nd September – 27th September 2004. (A record of Alex Vale's journey back after 60 years)" ©Sandy Brownjohn 2004. which tells a part of his story:



Alex Vale (right) poses with squadron comrades

“On 22 May 1944, Flight Lieutenant Alex Vale was on his third flight of the day out of Cornwall and across to Brittany. As part of the lead up to D-Day the RAF was engaged in bombing railways and other strategic sites, and Alex had found a troop train which received his attention. Flying low to escape the German radar all had gone well until he turned ready to fly home. Mounted on the back of the train, manned by some understandably irate soldiers bent on revenge for the shooting up of their train, was a machine gun. Alex only paused for a moment and lifted his

plane, showing perhaps a little too much belly, while he tried to check on the rest of his squadron. This was enough to ensure that his Spitfire was hit. The local people who rescued Alex from his plane wished to save him from capture by the Germans, but, due to his injuries, had to take him to a nearby farmhouse where he could rest and recover, and where arrangements could be made for the local Resistance group to hide him. It was

Alex's bad fortune that he was betrayed to the Germans by someone in the neighbourhood and was taken prisoner, moved to nearby La Martyre, then prison in Paris and two weeks later to Stalag Luft 3 on the Polish border. After six months there he and the other prisoners were made to march 90 miles through the snow and cold of the winter of 1944/45 to a second prison camp at Luckenwald, south of Berlin, and it was another six months before they were finally released by American occupying forces.” The Editor spoke to Sandy Brownjohn, who was a very close friend of Alex's, and was given further information about Alex's search for the past when she told him that - “I was also pleased to be able to take him to Berlin last year, where he revisited the Prisoner-of-War camp at Luckenwald. I had contacted the curator of the museum in Luckenwald before we left, and the curator arranged to meet us from the train and took us to the site of the old camp.

While we were there a reporter and photographer for their local paper came down to interview Alex, and took photographs. Subsequently an article appeared in the local German paper. The director of the museum took us back for coffee and showed us a number of things from the archives of the camp, and Alex gave him copies of photographs. While Alex had been in the camp, a friend had managed to steal one of the German's cameras. When this camera was smuggled home and the film was developed, not only were there pictures taken by the British, but also, at the beginning of the film there were also pictures taken by the Germans. These included a picture of a German standing alongside a prisoner facing a firing squad, and then a photograph of the prisoner being shot. The director of the museum was as horrified as we were at the actions of these guards!.”

To be in Alex's company was always a pleasure, as he was a marvellous raconteur and a very generous person, and I am certain that all his friends and drinking buddies at the Feathers will be sorry to hear of his passing.

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My Patch

By Gardenwatcher



Thur. Early September and he has ripped up all the failed Broccoli & Chinese Cabbage and dug the ground over. I was just preparing for a landfill session when he returned and encouraged me to move away by shying a couple of clods at me. He then proceeded to re-sow the lacklustre crops. Time will tell if I am to be rewarded by a further dismal result.

Sun. Spent a pleasant couple of hours on the shed roof this morning in the hope of a squirrel breakfast. This shed is on one of its routes around the patch and passes close to the peanuts that they put out to lure birds into the area for my pleasure. I possibly dozed off for a few min's so I missed him. I have been promised my weight in Go-Cat on production of its tail.

Tue. A wet night following a windy weekend so slept indoors. Much safer! Lots of pots blowing over makes lurking amongst them hazardous. He is taking cuttings from some of the largest pot specimens with a view to leaving the donors outside this winter, citing a shortage of greenhouse space as a reason. I reckon it's going to be death and decay all round. The outdoor tomatoes are bypassing the ripening stage and going straight from green to rotten. Hee Hee.

Fri. Tremendous activity on one of the raised beds roused me from a deep and much needed sleep. He was pulling and digging every thing out of what had been a fairly boring part of the patch, but was never the less a good spot for a quiet kip. He then started digging small holes (I offered to help but was dismissed quite offensively) and popped lots of bulbs into them before restoring the surface. There followed a planting of Potentillas and other plants. There are several empty areas left which I will inspect after dark. The wasp trap trial has been abandoned due to a lack of wasp. I cannot remember a year with so few of the little pests. I wonder why?

Sun. Spent last night binge-mousing and managed to keep them all down. It's hard to get effective traceability of this delicacy, perhaps if householders could brand them and keep records standards would improve. The best sources could be identified and the breed improved.

Wed. They are away again! The woman that comes to tend to me is a soft touch, if I whine and rub around her legs I get bigger meals. A new cat on the block has paid me a visit, I'll give it a good hiding if it shows up again! I am supreme in my patch and I will be shown respect.

Thur. They got back late last night with what I hoped were bags of goodies for me but it turned out to be Tulip corms. They taste disgusting. Why not bring me some nice rodents?

Fri. He has been planting the Tulips in the raised bed thus providing me with a splendid latrine area, perhaps they do care for me after all.

Sun. Was obliged to spend the day in a conscious state after they found the bottom of the peanut bait feeder gnawed through. The previous incentive of food has been withdrawn and my very existence seems to now be the reason to catch the beast. A new, stainless steel, squirrel proof dispenser has been installed. On a lighter note, there still seem to be a few Runner Beans available.

Thur. November the month and it's warm and sunny. My morning stroll revealed some paradoxes. The Hostas are all yellow and dead but the Dahlias still flower on. The grass is still growing, occasioning more use of the s*****g mower and moss is taking over in some places, causing him some very satisfying anguish, but the Tomato plants have all gone over with lots of grey mould.

Sat. An uncomfortable (for me) 24 hours have just passed. I captured an extremely lively rodent and brought it in for their delectation whereupon it gave me the slip in the kitchen and made a run for the bin area. I was then bundled up and dumped in the lounge to "catch your beast that is under this cabinet or else". Needless to say I was out of luck so returned to stake out the piano for the following 20 hrs or so, where I am sure the mouse lurks.

Tue. Suddenly all the leaves are falling off the Cherry tree, it's interesting how they go from green to gold and then drop so quickly. Quite tiring to watch—yawn—Christmas soon with goose, yum!

Can I thank "wellwisher" for the recent note and ask him or her to which well did the wish relate?

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Having been sent copies of the poems related to the Tithe Barn, his Royal Highness The Prince of Wales' office at Clarence House has sent a reply to Hugh Mullarkey thanking him for sharing them with him

Our Village Heritage. (Part Two) **(Or: Our Restoration Superstore)**

Hugh Mullarkey

But the Barn had not been built a month when summer seemed to end
No harvesting of crops on which the village would depend
For Nature seemed provoked to find this triumph of endeavour
The rain fell from a sodden sky no respite found whatever

September brought the savage winds that blew from East of North
The tides were trapped within the Wash such was their manic force
The land was overrun by sea in cataclysmic flood
With crops and village livestock overwhelmed in saline mud

John Chamberlain rallied village folk and led them in the fight
To salvage stock for winter on each day and then each night
On the third day came the brittle calm of devastated dawn
No promise of recovery an aftermath forlorn

But the Church and Barn stood resolute above the spoiling water
The work of God and the work of Man confirmed in stone and mortar

The Barn they'd built so proudly that must ultimately store
The essentials of the village life for wealthy and for poor

The Barn stood as a solid rock which they had built on hope
Though grievous was their circumstance they struggled now to cope
From Sherborne to Sandringham from Hillington to Fring
They gathered all that they could glean through endless foraging

So do not pass the Tithe Barn by without a second thought
Remember all the village folk that built it to support
The village life of Dersingham for folk like you and me
In their battle for survival in another century.

© \Hugh Mullarkey 31st August 2007

Reg Houchen's
Garage in Bank Rd,
but who are the men
in the picture and what
are the vehicles?

Is there anyone who
remembers riding in
the "Chara" ?



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Safer Neighbourhood Teams

So what's it all about?



The safer Neighbourhoods' initiative is fundamentally changing the way Norfolk is policed.

The main aim is to enable the public to have more contact with officers and staff that serve them to provide a greater opportunity to have a say regarding how policing is delivered on a local level.

This change will take time to evolve as staff are recruited, trained and put into posts. The process will ultimately see that your community are provided with a dedicated team consisting of a Sergeant, a Constable and

Police Community Support Officers- (PCSO's) and special Constables.

How will it work?

The primary role of the 'Safer Neighbourhood Team' will be to talk to you and find out what issues most affect your daily life; this might be graffiti, noisy neighbours, fly tipping or anti-social behaviour. The team will work in partnership with other agencies such as the Borough Council, Parish Councils, Highways and the Fire Service etc to come up with long-term solutions to solve these problems.

These problems are likely to be raised at local surgeries. We currently have eight surgeries. In the Hunstanton and The Burnham's Neighbourhood there is one in Heacham (includes Hunstanton as they are large and close to each other), Burnham Market, Syderstone and Docking.

In the Dersingham and Gayton Neighbourhoods these are held at Dersingham, Gayton, Great Massingham and Castle Acre. These surgeries are held once a month.

These surgery venues were selected on the location of these villages within the Neighbourhoods to spread the service as evenly as possible.

The surrounding villages are invited to attend these surgeries as they are not intended to be solely for the village that hosts them.

The surgery dates and locations are advertised in parish magazines, local press and on posters displayed locally.

We gather the issues raised and the team come up with a plan of action to address these problems. No issue is too small. So far we have actioned all issues raised. Some are resolved the same day whereas others may take a few weeks to address. Some issues may need police action or forwarding on to another agency and we arrange this to be done. The action taken will be provided as an update at the following surgery. I believe that if we are to encourage public participation we must keep the public informed as much as possible.

If this process is to be successful it requires the team to be accessible to the community and the surgeries are the most effective means to achieve this. My team is responsible for over 50 parishes and we cannot possibly or practically serve all 50 on a one to one basis and attend all the meetings.

In the meantime all parishes that are not surgery locations will continue to have a police officer as their point of contact. We will liaise with these officers to share your issues. The surgeries will allow the public to get to know the team as well as meeting them whilst patrolling on foot or cycle.

Safer Neighbourhood Priorities will be agreed on a monthly basis -through a central Local Action Group. These priorities will be kept to three in each neighbourhood so that we can maximise our effectiveness. These priorities can be seen on the Norfolk Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Web site along with results and other news items.

(Continued on page 63)

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(Continued from page 61)

What is our aim?

Our aim is not simply one of reassurance and visibility but also to contribute positively to our community by driving down crime and anti-social behaviour thus making your neighbourhood a safer place to live in.

How do you make contact with the SNT?

You can contact our team if you have issues in your community via 0845 4564567. The team members are listed on the Safer Neighbourhood Team web page of the Norfolk Police web site.

Or you can attend any of our monthly surgeries where your issue will be taken seriously and followed up. You will be made aware of the outcome/progress made at the next surgery, or sooner by phone or e-mail if you prefer.

We need to work together to make our community a safer place to live in and we need your co-operation and support to succeed.

Sgt 3123 Andy Crown Safer Neighbourhood Team Supervisor. 0845 4564567



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

September was our annual outing, this time to Bury St. Edmunds, the weather was kind to us, it was market day, and everybody enjoyed themselves.

Two of our members attended the Gallipoli Service at West Newton Church on the 9th September.

October was our A. G.M. The committee remained the same except for Mrs Kath Morgan who declined to stand again,

We also welcomed a new member to our branch, Mrs Carole Paice. Also Mrs Audrey Barlow and Mrs Groom who transferred to our branch from Hillington. From now on Mrs Barlow will be representing the Dersingham and Sandringham Branch of the Women's section as standard bearer for events when they arise.

Five of our members attended a social evening at the Feathers Hotel organized by the Branch, the refreshments were excellent and we all enjoyed listening to the Speaker who gave a talk on the Land Army Girls, a very delightful evening.

Nine Members attended the laying up of the Hillington Branch Standard at Hillington Church and after enjoying a very good lunch at the Ffolkes Arms.

For our November meeting we had a talk by Lt.Col Chris Taylor from the Ghurkha Trust - very enjoyable and very informative.

Next time we meet it will be for our Christmas Party on 3rd December at the Orchard Close Community Rooms starting at 2.15 p.m.

We all wish you a Very Happy Christmas, and hope you enjoyed our Coffee Morning.



The Christmas Teaser

Scattered about the magazine are a number of snowmen.

Just count them up and send your total to
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or drop a note into the Parish Office. Don't forget to add your name and address!

First correct answer (or closest) out of the hat wins a prize.



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A Wall of Herring
A Short Story by Dick Melton

"Well, that's that then! The last bus has gone, looks like we shall have a long walk home!" Jack said to his mate, Dave. The two teenage friends had been out for a night on the town and they had just seen the rear lights of the last bus disappear into the distance as it made its way out into the county side.

It was not a bad night, there was no moon, only a slight breeze, and it was not too cold for the middle of winter with no rain or snow in sight. "Well" Dave said "as long as we have to walk home, let's make our way down to the beach and walk along the foreshore, that should at least save us about five miles! So the two friends headed off down a lane in the direction of the beach, went over the sea wall,



and started walking off in a northerly direction towards home, this stretch of beach was all shingle but the stones were small and it was not very deep so the two friends were able to make their way along at a brisk walking pace, it was now 1.30 in the morning, the tide was out about twenty yards from the shore and, it being a still night, you could just hear the ripple of the waves.

"I have never been along here before". said Jack "No nor have I," answered Dave "but my grandad, Jim, who was a longshore man (fisherman) many years ago, always fished this stretch of beach as this is where he always had good catches of herring. He told me a story once about something that happened down here many years ago on a night just like this, in the middle of the winter when it was dark and still".

My grandad, Jim, and his mate, Bob, had come down here to the beach about two hours after high tide to see what was in their nets. The nets were empty, no fish at all, so they began to sort out the nets, picking out the sea weed and rubbish, setting them up again for the next high tide. All of a sudden the wind got up and the sea started to come back in just as though some thing was behind it pushing it up the beach. Jim started to run back up the beach towards the sea wall, but Bob just stood there, gazing out to sea, frozen to the spot. Jim shouted to Bob, 'Bob, run, run Bob, you will get caught by the water!' Jim got to the sea wall he climbed to the top then turned around to see where Bob was, and what an amazing sight for it was not water that he could see but just a ten foot tall wall of herring, thousands and thousands of herring, Jim looked for Bob who was still standing on the beach and just at that moment the herring hit Bob, knocking him off his feet and covering him up. With this the wall of herring still coming towards the sea wall, and fearing that he would be covered by the herring like Bob, Jim jumped off the sea wall and ran as fast as he could across the marshes, when Jim came to a dyke he jumped in it and squatted down thinking that the herring might wash over the top of him, but it did not happen. The wind dropped, the noise of the waves went away and it was still again. After about ten minutes Jim ventured to crawl out of the dyke, he looked towards the sea wall expecting the marsh to be covered in herring, but there was nothing just mud and grass like always. So Jim made his way slowly to the sea wall, climbed up to the top and looked out to sea. Nothing! The tide had gone right out and the beach was clear, not a sign of any herring or Bob. Jim climbed down the wall on to the beach and started shouting, "Bob, "Bob, are you there Bob?" Jim's eyes were used to the dark and he peered across the beach seawards. Nothing, nothing at all! Jim then walked out across the beach to the nets, they were still there, but they too were empty, not even one small herring. Jim said to himself "This is very strange, very strange indeed!" Once again he started shouting "Bob, Bob, where are you?" but all was quite.

Jim thought "Well, there is only one thing for me to do now and that is to get home as quickly as I can so that I can report this to the Police, then they can start a search for him!" Jim had been on the beach on his own many times before and he had never been scared, but he was now, Jim ran as fast as he could to the end of the sea wall where he and Bob had left their trade bikes. When Jim got to the end of the wall there was his bike, propped up against an old gate just as he had left it,

but Bob's bike was nowhere to be seen. Jim thought "Well now, that's a strange thing Bob would not have gone home without looking for me first." As soon as Jim got home he phoned the Police, told them what had happened and they got on to the coast guard to make a search of the area, but Jim could tell by the sound of the Policeman's voice who took his call that he did not believe all of his story, especially about the wall of herring. Jim then woke his wife up. She did not believe him either, she told him off as she said he had been drinking. "Right" Jim said "The next thing that I must do is to go to Bob's cottage and tell his wife what has happened to him.

When Jim went up the garden path to Bob's cottage, he could not believe his eyes, there, propped up against the garden fence was Bob's trade bike! Jim knocked on the cottage door. "Come in" shouted Bob's wife. Jim walked into the kitchen and to his amazement there sat Bob at the table eating his breakfast. "I want a word with you Jim" said Bob's wife "What have you two been up to? One of the fishermen from down the street found Bob fast asleep and soaking wet down in the sand dunes with his bike lying on top of him. Why did you leave him there like that?" "But I didn't" said Jim, all in a splutter and a sweat. Jim then sat down at the table and told Bob and his wife the whole story, but Bob's wife did not believe him, and the only thing Bob could remember was waking up in the sand dunes with his clothes soaking wet and his bike on top of him. All Bob's wife kept doing was walking around the kitchen table muttering to herself "Thousands of herrings, thousands of herrings, where are they Jim?" Then Jim left Bob's cottage and he went off to the phone box to let the police and the coast guard know that Bob was safe and well so they could call off the search.

"Blimey! Jack said to Dave "What a story, do you think it was true?" "Well" said Dave "No one else believed granddad, and about two months after it happened he was taken up before the local Magistrate's Court and he was fined £5 for wasting the Police and Coastguards' time, but after that my grandad and Bob always stayed away from this stretch of beach!" With that, Jack and Dave started to walk a lot faster so as to get off the beach and home as fast as they could.

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Nightjar on Nest—Courtesy Paul Gilbert

During a walk across Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve last week, I noticed an increasingly regular visitor to the site. It was a ghostly pale Barn Owl, which I have seen during every evening visit this year. I watched it quartering the heather and was struck by its effortless, buoyant flight on steadily beating wings, occasionally swooping down in an attempt to catch small rodents in the dense vegetation. The county of Norfolk is a British stronghold for this beautiful creature and it is a delight to see it on the reserve, taking advantage of the recently restored open heathland. Despite the poor weather, it has been a good year for heathland breeding bird species on the site. Nightjar (for which Dersingham Bog is Nationally important

for), Woodlark and Tree Pipit territories have all shown population increases this year. Stonechats have also done well this year and have become a characteristic sight on the heath. These small, beautifully marked birds can be recognised at distance as they bob around on the uppermost tips of young birch saplings giving their repetitive metallic clicking call, for which the species receives its name.

Dragonflies and damselflies also fared well this year, although their flight periods were significantly affected by the cool, wet summer weather. Dersingham Bog is one of only two sites in Norfolk for the black darter. This enigmatic dragonfly was present in particularly high numbers. However, its emergence was almost a month later than the average. Climatic change has had a marked effect on a range of insect species and this may also account for the appearance of up to four keeled skimmers. This species has a very restricted distribution in Norfolk and until recently was only known to occur at Holt Lowes.

Another species that may be reacting to the milder, wetter winters is the Hill Cuckoo Bumblebee *Bombus rupestris*. This species shares a similar colour pattern to the common red-tailed bumblebee. The similar colour pattern allows this cuckoo bumblebee to enter the nests of red-tailed bumblebees without raising too much alarm. Once inside, it kills the resident queen and gets her daughters, the workers, to forage for nectar and pollen to support her own young. Up until recently this species had not been recorded in Norfolk for over forty years. The discovery of two males last year and several queens this year provide hope for the future survival of this rare species in Norfolk.

Natural England has recently embarked on organising and funding a series of subsidised events at Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve. The first of these, a photography course led by Nigel Downer, took place in October and was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. Nigel started off the day with an introduction to digital photography techniques, before leading the group

out onto the reserve where they got 'up close and personal' with a host of the species which have made the heath and woods their home. Nigel will be hosting a series of seasonal photography events during the course of the next year in a series entitled *Nature through the Lens*.

Tony Leech will also be working with Natural England to conduct a series of fungi identification courses next autumn. Look out for details of future events in forthcoming issues of the Village Voice.



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Dersing ham "My Village"

By Jacky Frusher

I read the Dersingham magazine each time it is published and keep saying I will write to you and tell you about my view of the village.

I am very proud to be a real local having lived in the village all of my life apart from the first eighteen months of my marriage, when I moved to King's Lynn! But we could not stay away and have been here ever since. An aunt told me that I was born at a house in White Horse Drive. Incidentally, you had an article a while ago about a refugee who was lodged at the same house. I am wondering if the person was "looked after" by my Grandmother, Mrs. Bush. I can assure you that she was indeed a very strict woman and would have no nonsense from any child. I can remember sitting beside her in the kitchen, at the tea table on a Sunday afternoon on a small wooden stool, and being made to eat my jam sandwiches. Table manners were very strict and we betide anyone who dared to put their elbows on the table, they would soon feel the wooden copper stick across their hands. I only saw that once and have never forgotten the lesson!

I think I only ever went upstairs in the house once and my impression was of a bare, cold feeling in the house. The rooms were painted in distemper with whitewashed ceilings. The main room was the kitchen area with the black lead stove, (nice and warm) where Grandad Bush sat in the corner against the fire, usually with his cap on. There was the "best" room which had a piano and there was another room which was used at Christmas time. A memory of that was of a large Christmas tree and log fire. Again I can only remember that happening once. There was no bathroom and the toilet was the wooden "thunderbox" in the outside lobby. Water was supplied via the pump outside, contained in a wooden box to help prevent the pipe from freezing.

My Grandmother looked after four of her grandchildren, while their mum lived away in London. All of them were expected to work and do the chores, and I think it was the youngest one who usually had to pump the water into the bucket for use inside the house. Again I can remember that anyone who misbehaved could well have felt Grandad's belt across their backside.

My home in the village was a one up-one down cottage which stood on a piece of land opposite John Riches shoe shop. I think Jamie Asker's wooden garage now stands on the site. The house was one of two sited there and the next door neighbour was "old" Fred Easton, I think his son still lives in the village too. There were also a couple of brick sheds which adjoined the houses. When I speak about my life in the village I feel about ninety-five instead of sixty-one. We lived in the house until I was eleven years old, when we moved to a new bungalow at the very top of Dodds Hill. It actually had a bath and a sink with taps and running water!! The old saying "kids today don't realise what life was like" is very true.

Until we moved I shared a bedroom with my Mum and Dad. The house had no running water or indoor toilet and the floor was bricks on the earth with coconut matting on top. My mum cooked on the black range and the washing was done in the brick copper which stood in the corner of the adjoining shed, where the obligatory "thunderbox" also stood. Like Dick Melton said, the long tin bath was brought into use once a week, with the water being bucketed in from the copper in the shed next door. Obviously it also had to be bucketed out again and was poured on the garden. Care had to be taken once you were in the bath not to touch the side nearest the black range, it got very hot! Night time calls of nature were dealt with by a bucket behind the door or the china pot under the bed. My dad told me that originally the "toilet" was once housed across the main road in a row of sheds. (Now also demolished). The thunderbox was emptied across the road into a big hole which was filled in every so often. Apparently it grew good vegetables. The water supply for both of our cottages was also situated against the wall of the row of cottages on the main road. Nothing was too easy really.

To supplement the range in the summer we had a primus stove, fuelled by methylated spirits and just big enough to boil a saucepan or kettle on. Mum used to black lead the stove to make it look clean and I can remember the oven was just about big enough to cook a small chicken in.

Each side of the range was a cupboard, one under the stairs and the other in the chimney breast alcove. The bucket with the cold water for drinking etc., was kept in the cupboard under the stairs, and I can remember a mouse used to make the trip from one cupboard to the other. Once though, my Dad won a turkey at a Whist Drive and he got the butcher to cut it up small enough to put in the oven. Another time I can remember we had a sheep's head and it was being cooked in a big saucepan, and Mum found a big maggot floating in the eye socket. I don't think we ate the sheep's head then!

Dick Melton mentions quite a few of the people I knew when I was small. In one of his articles he was trying to remember the coalman's name who came round with his horse and cart, and I think he was called Fyfe

Robinson. John Riches dad had the shoe shop opposite our house and I can remember going there with my pocket money for sweets.

I also went to the fish and chip shop run by Mr. & Mrs. Stevens for six penny worth of chips (where the Chinese takeaway now stands). My Mum worked at both the Dun Cow pub and the White Horse which was run by Charlie and Mabel Chester. Quite a few characters there and possibly a story for another time.



Can you put names to the members of the choir ?



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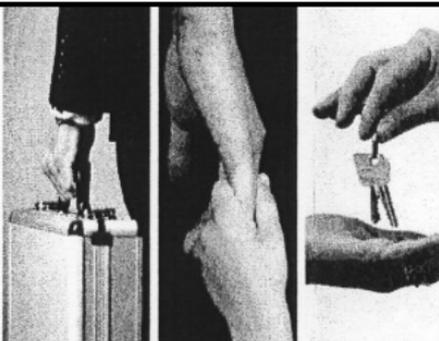
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Christmas giving that doesn't cost the earth

The Norfolk Coast Partnership wish all the people of the Norfolk Coast Area a very happy Christmas and a great 2008. We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of you that have cared for this special area in so many different ways through 2007. For many Christmas is a time for joy and giving and for celebrating the wonderful gifts that surround us. However it can also be a time of stress, consumerism and waste. So, following are some fun ideas to help reduce these and make our

Christmases a little easier on ourselves and our earth.

1) Bundle up warm and go for a walk it clears the mind and as science has now proven, when done in a place of natural beauty it really DOES reduce stress. It can also ease the bulge (and guilt) of any over eating! If stuck for idea check out our website or www.countrysideaccess.norfolk.gov.uk

2) Make bread dough Christmas decorations (recipe following) These are great – use all natural ingredients, are fun and easy to make and great as gifts, or for your own home. When they are finished with, either pack them away somewhere dry or put them in your compost bin – perfect! Check out our website for the recipe and other ideas.

3) Buy locally made products as gifts – these have a very personal touch coming from where you live, help keep local people employed and have a lower carbon footprint than imported products. There are all sorts of things ranging from intriguing beers, delicious ciders and juices, cheeses, chutneys, artworks and sweets. If stuck for ideas check out our Local Products Guide on the web.

4) Rather than a 'something' how about an 'experience' gift that will live in the memory for ever. You could make a gift voucher for a picnic in your favourite wood. What about a stress free day travelling the coastal road on the CoastHopper Bus? Just enjoying the beauty flowing past and thinking about the special lunch planned, or the sounds of nature as you wander along a beach, down a country lane or travel out to see the seals.

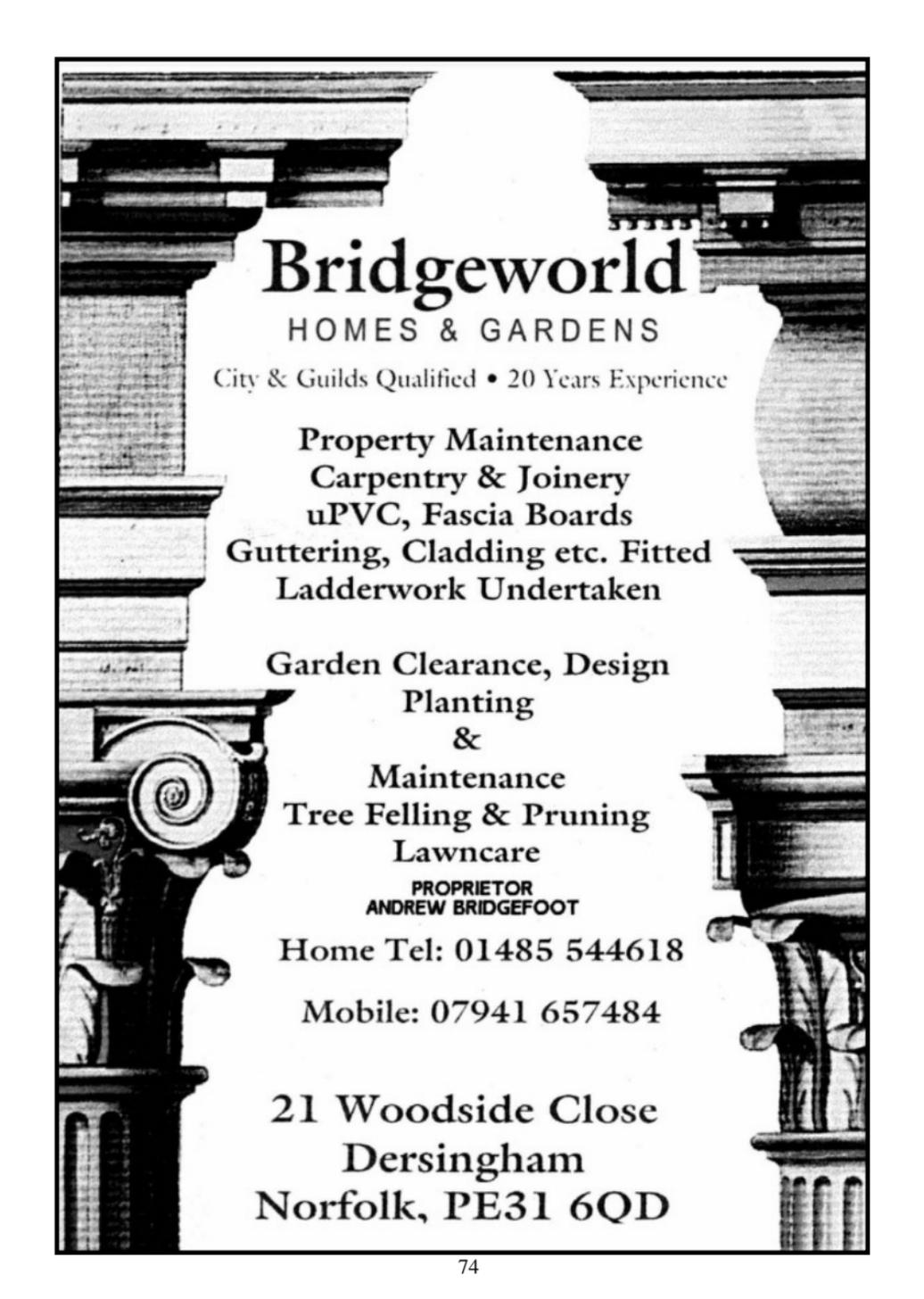
Got a great idea? If you've been dreaming up a project that is easy on the environment, supports local people in some way, and 2008 is the year to make it happen, we would love to hear from you. Check out our Sustainable Development Fund and we could be giving you money to make it a reality.

For more details on the Norfolk Coast Partnership and the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty please check out the website on www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk, email us at aonb@norfolk.gov.uk or phone the Staff team on 01328 850530.

Bread/Salt Dough Recipe - Check out the web and craft books for more ideas and details, but here are the basics: 2 cups of plain flour - 1 cup of salt - 1 cup of slightly warm water (you may not need all of this);

Mix the flour and salt together and then add about half the water into the middle. Mix using a knife and then add the rest of the water a spoonful at a time until you have good stiff dough. Now roll up your sleeves and relax into kneading it - for 10 minutes. When the dough is smooth, warm and pliable you are ready to go! Warm the oven to 100 degrees Centigrade and line a baking tray with tinfoil or silicone paper.

Helpful hints. Plan what you want to make first as the dough is best in its first few hours. You can bake your pieces for 3-4 hours in the oven or put them in a dry place to dry naturally over about 48 hours. Make sure both sides are dried – turning the pieces once one side is done. You can add food colouring when kneading, or paint your creations when finished. If you want your pieces to last for years, varnish them with several coats.



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News in brief

More credit is due to the Sandringham Detachment of the Army Cadet Force as Sergeant Lorraine Hartog-Davison, who has assisted in the running of the detachment for 12 years, has been presented with the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for her commitment and dedication to The Army Cadet Force. The award was presented by Colonel Howard Gill, who is the commandant of Norfolk Army Cadet Force.

Jacob Fletcher of Dersingham was one of ten Army Cadets from the Lynn area who took part in a two-week adventure holiday, camping in a tent at the Warcop Army Training Camp in Yorkshire and taking part in many and varied activities.

Ex-pat Ken Thornton, now living in Perth, Western Australia has been appointed State Vice President of the Royal Australian Air Force Association (WA Division Inc) Ken is known to many people in Dersingham from his time spent in the village up to and following the death of his sister-in-law, Ivy Payne of Queen Elizabeth Drive, The RAAFA was formed after the First World War by returning members of the Australian Flying Corp and gained strength after the Second World War when returning members of the Royal Australian Air Force joined the association. The WA Division has the largest state membership of the national body having a membership of around 5,000. About twenty five years ago the state organisation decided it would build retirement villages for former air force members of the association, this has been an ongoing project and currently has six villages with a total of approximately two thousand four hundred residents, four of the estates have low care lodges for people who are not able to look after themselves. The organisation attends ceremonial services, lobbies the Government on ex-service people's concerns and complaints, and acts on behalf of members with the Department of Veterans Affairs etc.

Hunstanton & District Lions

The Club is holding a Christmas Antique and Collectors Fair over two weekends, the 8-9th and 15th-16th December at Searles Indoor Plaza, Hunstanton.

Admission is Free. On Sunday 9th the Cocktail Jazz Band are playing (12 noon-2.30 pm) and there will be Bangers n' Mash and a range of special beers. In addition, on Sunday 16th, the Hunstanton Concert Band will be playing (12 noon - 2.30pm.) The Fair has stall holders from throughout East Anglia who specialize in Pottery, Porcelain, Glass, Custom Jewelry, Fine Jewelry, Records, Silver, Old Toys and Dolls Militaria, Stamps, Memorabilia plus more. Just the place to get a unique Christmas present.

The Club is also holding, at the Searles Plaza, their famous and much loved Father Christmas Grotto. This event has gone from strength to strength over the years. The intention is not to make money, but to bring delight to the faces of children and their parents. The cost is therefore only £3.50 for the cost of a present.

It will be open on two weekends, 15-16th December and 22-23-24th December. Opening times are 2-5pm.

The both these events have been sponsored by the Saffron Building Society and Fleming Bros Ltd. We would also like to thank Searles Leisure Ltd for freely donating their venue and services. The Club was very impressed by the presentation, put on by Snettisham Scouts. They described their Trip to Switzerland which the Lions donated £500 towards.

200 Club:

At the last draw the following members of the Friends of Lions won

£200 S Desroches (Hunstanton) - £50 J Schoran (Dersingham) - £25 A Whilie (Hunstanton)
£25 S Ryback

Secretary Adrian Hood 01485 571529

DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Day	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Fri 30 Nov to Sun 2 Dec	10.00 am to 4.00 pm	St Nicholas Church	Christmas Tree Festival	St Nicholas Church
Fri 30 Nov	3.00 pm	St George's Junior Schod	Christmas Fair	St George's Junior Schod
Sun 2 Dec	2.30 pm	Park House Hotel	Seasonal Concert	Park House Hotel
Mon 3 Dec and Thu 6 Dec	Mon 1.30pm Thu 6.00 pm	St George's Junior Schod	A performance of 'Christmas Cracker'	St George's Junior Schod
Fri 7 Dec	10.00 am to 12 noon	St Nicholas Church	Christmas Tree Festival	St Nicholas Church
Fri 7 Dec	1.00 to 3.00 pm	Dersingham Library	Ancestry Website Taster	Dersingham Library
Fri 7 Dec	5.30 pm	Infant and Nursery School	Christmas Fair	Infant and Nursery School
Sat 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 Dec	12.00 noon to 4.00 pm	St Nicholas Church	Christmas Tree Festival	St Nicholas Church and Church Hall
8 to 9 Dec		Hunstanton and District Lions	Christmas Antiques and Collectors Fair	Searle's Indoor Plaza
Various Dates from Sun 9 Dec		The Norfolk Hospice	Light up a Life Services	See article elsewhere in this magazine for venues
Sat 15 Dec	10 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Christmas Coffee Morning	Dersingham Methodist Church
Sun 16 Dec	10.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Christmas Family Carol Service	Dersingham Methodist Church
Sun 16 Dec	8.00 pm	Park House Hotel	A Christmas Extravaganza	Park House Hotel
15 to 16 and 22 to 24 Dec	2.00 to 5.00 pm	Hunstanton and District Lions	Father Christmas Grotto	Searle's Indoor Plaza
Mon 17 Dec	2.30 pm	Dersingham Library	Family History Forum	Dersingham Library
Tue 18 Dec		Budgens	Deadline for Community Chest Award Applications	Budgens
Tue 18 Dec	8.00 pm	Park House Hotel	A Partridge in a Pear Tree	Park House Hotel
Thu 20 Dec	2.30 to 3.30	Dersingham Library	Christmas Story Time	Dersingham Library
Sun 23 Dec	6.30 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Carols by Candlelight	Dersingham Methodist Church
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Christmas Day Service	Dersingham Methodist Church

DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS

Occasional Sundays		Dersingham Walking Group	Circular Walk	See programme for details or Contact Keith Starks 542268
Every Monday	2.00 pm	St. Cecilia's Church	Rosary Group	St. Cecilia's Church
Every Mon, Tues, Thur & Fri	9.00 to 11.30 am	Dersingham Playgroup	Playgroup Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Mon & Fri in Term Time	9.30 to 11.00 am	Puddleducks Toddler Group	Toddler Group Meeting	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Last Monday in the Month	7.15 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Council Meeting	Infant and Nursery School, Saxon Way
Every Tuesday	5.30 to 7 pm	2nd Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7 - 10 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road

Every Tuesday in Term Time	8.30 to 11.15 am	Parent & Toddler Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church hall	St Nicholas Parent & Toddler Group
Every Tuesday	8 pm	Royal Anediluvian Order of Buffaloes	Sandringham Lodge Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
1st or 2nd Tuesday in the Month	2.15 pm	Royal British Legion Women's Section	Dersingham & Sandringham Branch Meeting	Orchard Close Community Room
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Village Voice 'Live'	Presentations by Guest Speakers/Groups	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Art Club	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
2nd Tuesday in the Month	7.30 pm	Royal British Legion	Branch Meeting	Feathers Hotel
Every Wednesday	10.00 am to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly	Recreation & Leisure Activities and Mid-day Meal	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Wednesday	10.00 to 11.00 am	Music+Movement	Pre-school Music, Dance & Drama	Dersingham Scout & Guide HQ
Every Wednesday	2.00 to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Carpet Bowls	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Wednesday	6.00 to 7.15 pm	Beavers	Meeting for children aged 6 - 8	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every 2nd Weds of the Month	10.30 am	St Nicholas Men's Group	Men's Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every 2nd Weds of the Month Sept to April	7.30 pm	Albert Victor Bowls Club	Prize Bingo	Albert Victor Bowls Club, Manor Road
Every 2nd Weds of the Month		Dersingham Walking Group	Circular Walk	See programme for details or Contact Keith Starks 542268
3rd Wednesday of the Month	7.15 to 10.00 pm	Dersingham Evening Women's Institute	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
Every Thursday	10.30 am to 3.00 pm	North West Norfolk Phobbies Club	Meeting	St. Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thursday	4.00 to 5.15 pm	1st Dersingham Rainbow Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 5-7 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Thursday	5.30 to 7.00 pm	1st Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7-10 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.00 pm	1st Sandringham Guide Unit	Unit Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.00 pm	1st Dersingham Scout Group	Group Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.30 pm	Norfolk Army Cadet Force	Sandringham Detachment Meeting	The Drill Hall, Dodds Hill
Every Thursday	7.15 pm	Hanover Housing Association	Bingo	Hanover Housing Association Common Room
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Badminton Club	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thursday Sept to June	2 pm	Park House Hotel	Rubber Bridge	Park House Hotel
1st Thursday of the Month		Dersingham Flower Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
2nd Thursday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Horticultural Society	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
3rd Thursday of the Month	9.30 to 10.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church Jigsaw Club	Meeting	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Friday	6.30 to 8 pm	1st Dersingham Guide Unit	Unit Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every Friday	6.45 to 9.15 pm	Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club	Club Meeting	St George's Middle School
Alternate Fridays	2.15 to 4.30 pm	Dersingham Seniors Club	Entertainment and Outings for the over-60s	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Friday of the month	10.00 am to 12 noon	St Nicholas Church	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas Church Hall

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Norfolk Constabulary Western Mobile Police Station

West Norfolk Constabulary advise us that the Mobile Police Station will be open in Budgen's car park as follows; Wednesday 19 December 2007 and 16 January 2008 - when Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forde and Pete Shaw will be in attendance along with P.C. 240 Stan Cobon. Services which include; Advice, Crime recording, Information, Lost and found property, Crime prevention advice and literature. Useful contact telephone numbers are; Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111 and Norfolk Constabulary: 01953 424242

Please also note a new number on which to report crime which does not require the urgency of 999, this being 0845 4564567.

Advertising in Village Voice



The Editorial Team would like to thank all of those who so generously support our magazine by placing advertisements in it, for without the income so generated there would be a possibility of the publication ceasing to exist. With this in mind it would be helpful if you were to support those who do advertise, and to then let them know that you used their services because you saw their promotion in our magazine. For those readers who perhaps provide a local service but who do not currently advertise with us, you may consider a fee of from £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 Wednesday 16 January 2008 for publication on Thursday 7 February**. Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

Articles for publication in the February 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 16 January 2008 for publication on Thursday 7 February**. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication). Should you be providing graphics to accompany advertisements or articles, it would be appreciated if these could be in JPEG format.

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

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

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

The Production Team consists of

Editor: - Bob Tipling

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

Lay out Artists - Tony Bubb & Rob Smyth

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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday December 4th

MADE IN HEAVEN

NEPAL & THE HIMALAYAS
IN WORDS & PICTURES
FROM CHRIS HOLT



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

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday January 8th

The North Norfolk Railway



The Poppy Line in words and pictures from it's curator
Dave King

The North Norfolk Railway offers a 10.5 mile round trip by steam train (vintage diesel trains on some journeys) through a delightful area of North Norfolk designated as being of outstanding natural beauty.



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