

Dersingham Village Voice

Issue 50

February 2008



**YOUR REGULAR POT OF GOLD
AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW**

Parish Council Reports

The meeting of the Parish Council held on 26 November was told that Norfolk County Council has responded to the concerns expressed earlier in the year about the visibility of the pedestrian crossing adjacent to Budgens. The County has agreed to install a new style of flashing light that will be more visible. Dersingham had also been added to the list of villages where trial electronic signs warning motorists of their actual speed would be installed on a rotating basis to judge their effectiveness in reducing speeding. The police had also agreed to monitor motorists' speed in the village.

The Council heard a complaint about the size of the new Library sign erected in Chapel Road and agreed that this was out of character for a village situation. The Council would request its removal and replacement by a more suitable sign.

Several street lights had been notified as either not working or being faulty in some way. The Council urged anyone seeing a faulty light to report its location and number (which is usually painted on the lamp post) to the Council.

There were various complaints about the emptying of waste bins, with spillages that were not cleared up and bins not being returned to the correct place and being left blocking footpaths. The Borough Council would be asked to look into this.

The Council passed a formal resolution thanking Bob Tipling for his excellent work in establishing *Village Voice* during the last four years as one of the best village magazines in the country.

The meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 December heard a report on the current state of a possible re-organisation of local government in Norfolk. Although the main Norfolk Councils had been asked to submit proposals by the end of November, the situation was extremely confused as the Government had since changed the brief to allow possible new cross-border authorities with Suffolk. Any changes would not alter Parish Council boundaries. The remainder of the comparatively brief meeting was devoted mainly to hearing reports on crime statistics for the village and hearing reports from the County and Borough Councils.

**Please note that we now have a new e-mail address
for the Parish Council office. It is :-
dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk**

Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

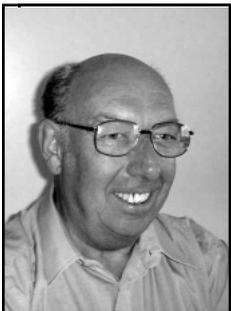
Monday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm Tuesday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm
Wednesday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm Thursday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

The Dersingham Parish Council Office is at

The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE31 6LH
Tel: 01485 541465 E-mail: dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk

Orange Trade Refuse Sacks - £34.08 incl. VAT per roll of 24
Green Garden Sacks – no longer available
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

Editor's Notes



Well, this is it then! Issue 50 of the Dersingham Village Voice, at which point I am to take leave of you. I have taken a great deal of pleasure over the past four and a half years or so in receiving and reading all the many interesting articles which have been placed in my post box or have been sent by e-mail, it has led me through a constant learning curve, and has taught me more about Dersingham than I believe I could have achieved by any other source. This village is very fortunate in that it has so many people who, having experienced life in the area, have been able to relate their anecdotes to you, the reader. Others have done major research in order to look at the village as it was in earlier centuries. I do think that this magazine has been developing into a history of the village, from the far distant past up to the present day, and wonder if it may be that, some day, somebody will use the material presented so far, and that which will surely come in the future, in order to produce a definitive 'History of the Village of Dersingham' for the benefit of new arrivals, visitors and future generations. This would so nicely complement the previous publication of post cards and photographs, entitled 'Dersingham - Then and Now - Portrait of a Village' which was produced some years ago by Simon Massen and Walter Blaney, the proceeds of which were donated to Campaign Care '94 which supported Tapping House Hospice and The Bob Champion Cancer Trust. At a cost of £5.00 this booklet could be obtained at Ottaker's Bookshop in Norfolk Street or by calling 01485 544733. I wonder if copies are still available?

Having only lived in the village for ten years I am certain that I will forever be looked upon as 'an incomer' but can assure other newcomers that the local inhabitants do not bite, particularly if you get involved in what is happening. I myself no longer feel as though I am a stranger, having made many friends in the area, partly through my involvement with this magazine. It is never easy to settle into a new environment, but my belief is that there is no place as welcoming as Dersingham, for one only has to walk along the street to be greeted by smiles and a cheerful 'Good Morning!' (or Afternoon, Evening, etc.), and the traders in the many outlets will go out of their way to be helpful, and boy, there is little in the way of retail outlets that is missing!

Two supermarkets, a hairdressers, at least two carpet suppliers, a garden centre, a coffee shop, a building society, an estate agent, four motor dealers, a pharmacy, an optician, an accountancy, a shoe repairer, a pet shop, a fish shop, a Chinese takeaway, a kebab shop, fabric suppliers, electricians and electrical suppliers, builders merchants, refrigeration engineers, an osteopath, architectural designers, gardeners, handymen, a florist, a picture framer, a bed supplier, window cleaners, computer services, fuel merchants - the list goes on - we are even fortunate in that we still have the services of a post office! Some towns would be proud to have the facilities which we enjoy which also include three churches of different denominations, a health centre with a new one in the making, a library, a community centre, a church hall, an hotel, a public house, a social club, many bed and breakfast units, residential homes, etc.

In closing I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have been most closely associated with this magazine during my time as Editor, the members of the Communications Committee, and my production colleagues who include Tony Bubb, the late Stella Caunt and Rob Smyth -, also Sarah and Anita in the Parish Council office who have dealt with the promotion and receipt of advertising to keep us afloat, and, just as importantly I would like to thank you, the readers, for your loyal support.

Bob Tipling

Attention all contributors and advertisers!

Please send any correspondence, articles, adverts or anything else relating to, or for inclusion in, this magazine to the Parish Council Office or the attention of Anita Moore or e-mail to anita.dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk

Letters to the Editor

Sergeant Andy Crown of the Safer Neighbourhood Team writes: Dear All, I would like to share this with you. I have been made aware of a new website called www.fixmystreet.com. This has been used successfully as a means to report broken street lamps/ cracked pavements/ parking problems/graffiti etc the list is endless. Once you open the website, you enter a post code related to the affected area, enter what the problem is in a text box and you can even attach digital photographs. There is also a feature similar to Google Earth which allows you to pin point exactly where the problem is. These problems are then referred to the appropriate agency for action! How good is this! I was impressed and we intend to make good use of this facility. Hope this helps... Please let me know how you get on with issues that you bring to the attention of "Fix My Street".

J Greenhalgh (WNAC Club Coach) writes; I thought readers might be interested to know that there are two talented athletes from Dersingham. Tom Middleton and James Greenhalgh (both aged 9) have both been selected to represent Norfolk in a regional athletics competition (on 17th November in Norwich). The two WNAC (West Norfolk Athletics Club) members have been competing in the Norfolk Sportshall league and have been picked with the best athletes in the County to take on Suffolk, Essex and the like. The achievement is even more remarkable because Tom and James are competing as Under 11s when in fact they are both only Under 10s. Tom is not only a dynamic sprinter, but also excels at cross country and other longer distance running. He is currently WNAC's fastest U11 cross country runner in the Shouldham XCountry Grand Prix series. James is a terrific all round athlete, who can sprint, run Cross Country, and despite his small frame is a top class long jumper and very powerful thrower. James recently won the WNAC Club Championships which is a multi-event competition.

Mike Smith of 2 Birkdale Close, Macdesfield, Cheshire SK10 4HG writes; An exploration into Family History - The small village of Anmer is not far away from Dersingham and it is in that village that an important family in my background has its roots. That family is now known as "Dyble" but in the early 1800's could have been "Dibel" or "Dibell". John and Martha Dyble had 6 children between 1861 and 1872. We know that two of the four brothers in the family went off to London after joining the Coldstream Guards. Both probably were in the cadets of the 3rd Norfolk Regiment before they took this major step in their lives. Walter signed up in May 1883 at the age of nineteen and had an outstanding career over 25 years serving in the Sudan and South Africa and was mentioned in despatches on two occasions. He married in 1888 and his wife, Isabella, was appointed to be the first curator of the house of Dr. Johnson in London. One of the other brothers, Mark, had a son, Walter William, and he sought his fame and fortune in London by taking a position as a footman in the service of Lord Ludlow. When he was 20 he joined the Metropolitan

Police force where he served for 25 years. He then spent some years working for the Court Service and retired to Dersingham afterwards. Anybody that looks into family history will know that for every piece of information found many other questions arise. I shall be grateful, therefore, if any reader can let me have any background information about the "Dybles" or the surrounding area.

Mr Brent Johnson of 71 The Street, Ingworth, Norwich, Norfolk NR11-6A6 writes; I am in the process of writing a book on Norfolk gun-makers,

Steve Davis

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and, like any historical subject, first hand information is hard to come by. Luckily I have been able to trace some pre and post war employees of some gun-makers which either no longer exist or have changed beyond what our forefathers would have known. One of the gun-makers I hope to compile the history of during 2008 is Gallyon & Sons Ltd. Gallyon & Sons was established at Cambridge in 1784 but took over established gun-makers businesses at King's Lynn in 1830 and Norwich in 1965. Regarding the King's Lynn business one of the early employees at Gallyon's of Kings Lynn was a Mr Victor Grange, and it is this gentleman I would like to trace if he is still alive as the shop closed in 1982. Information I have strongly suggests that he moved to Dersingham some 8-10 years ago with his wife. I have contacted all those with a Grange surname in the King's Lynn area phone book but none are relatives of Mr Victor Grange unfortunately. I would like to use the medium of the Dersingham Village Voice to try to trace Mr Grange so that I can interview him for the chapter on Gallyon & Sons of King's Lynn and your help would be most appreciated. Obviously if other readers have information or Gallyon related artefacts then I would like to talk to these also. E-mail: brent@johnsonb8.fsnet.co.uk

Neil Adams (Church Warden) writes; Photograph of Bellringers in "Village Voice", Issue 49, December 2007 - There is a copy of this picture in the Parish Church archives. The photograph was taken in 1946 in the ringing chamber of the church tower. The Ringers are (from left to right): Ron Thaxter, (I am informed that it was his Mother who started the Thaxters Stores). Second in the row is George Batterbee, who was a Sexton and Verger at the church for many years. There is a Communion Cup that was donated by his family in his memory and it is in regular use. Next is Cecil Ebbeson, a Jeweller in Snettisham. There is a stone tablet memorial in his memory by the tower arch in the church. The fourth in the row is Fred Rix, then Jack Bunn. Finally, there is Alec Nuse, who was the cross-bearer and a member of the choir for many years.

Richard Ringer richardringer_8@hotmail.co.uk writes by e-mail; I recently received Oct and Dec 2007 copies of the Village Voice from Mr K Basham and I would be interested in receiving future copies on a regular basis - can you tell me how I can do this? My interest in Dersingham is as follows - My grandfather and grandmother used to live in Dun Cow cottages and I used to visit them when I was a schoolboy in King's Lynn. I went to South Africa in 1968 and my mother and father lived in Bank Road - sometime after my mother passed away my father moved into sheltered housing behind what was the Dun Cow. Both my grandparents and parents are buried at St Nicholas along with, no doubt, other relatives, e.g. The Minns family and the Daw family. I have managed to trace family roots to Dodds Hill in the 1850's. (*Editor's note; If anyone has any details of Richard's family it is certain that he would appreciate them being passed on to him. If you are not able to do this by e-mail please send this to the address given for the new Editor who will see that he receives it.*)



RECORD ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

This year we have broken our record for the amount collected from Dersingham, Sandingham, West Newton, and Wolferton. The grand total of £5235.35 shows the dedication of all those who so generously gave their time to collect from house to house, on the streets and in the shops. It also shows the generosity of everyone who gave to this year's Appeal; the public seem to have responded to the situation facing the troops both in Iraq and Afghanistan for it must be remembered that money raised goes to caring for those members of the armed forces, ex-servicemen and/or their dependents who find themselves in need. Thanks go to all who gave their time and money. Volunteers are always needed, anyone willing to give just two hours a year of their time would be very welcome. Please contact Mrs Dee Morris 01485 541450.

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50 Not Out!

We celebrate the publication of Issue Number 50 of Dersingham Village Voice 1999 to 2008

Who would have believed that when a small number of Members of the Parish Council got together in 1999 to produce the very first issue of this newsletter, the front cover of which is shown here, that it would have gone from strength to strength to become the magazine which it is today! When asked in July 2006 to give his account of how the magazine first started Edgar Cooper said “The first Village Voice committee being part of the Parish Council was formed after suggestions were made of having a village magazine. The committee was Stella Caunt, Teresa Southam, Peter Mirich and Edgar Cooper with meetings at each other's homes with coffee and biscuits. On the final meeting of the first edition Peter

informed us that he was changing his job and would be moving to Kent, so was unable to carry on as chairman, this is when Edgar Cooper became chairman. This team carried on until the end of their time as Councillors. Teresa was the editor, and Stella was the secretary doing all the typing, my job was scanning all pictures and taking the finished article to the printers and arranging for delivery. When the first edition was ready for printing, it was printed on Len Matthews' office machine, collated by the team, and delivered by hand, it was later printed in King's Lynn and remained with this company for twelve months, when it was transferred to Hunstanton. Only our limited finances controlled the cost of each edition, a limited number of pages were printed. To enable us to increase the size it was decided to have adverts to cover the cost of extra pages. Many evenings were spent trying to decide which items could go in which edition and how to ask the Parish Council for more money to make extra pages.”



Some of the founder members of the Dersingham Village Voice team – from the left: Teresa Southam (Editor until Issue 23), Edgar Cooper and the late Stella Caunt



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Saint Bob?

Hugh Mullarkey © 30/12/07



Saint Valentine was martyred in the days of Ancient Rome

He also figures somewhere in the tales of Al Capone
And yet he's best remembered for his hearts and many flowers

He must have been a man of many parts and many powers



As his Feast Day approaches and we await our billets doux
May I suggest a message from the likes of me and you
A message to our Editor who has sadly now retired
A message of gratitude from all that he inspired

To tap into their keyboards or to flourish with their pens
And to take a pride as they describe our nows and village thens
As we struggled with our deadline, Bob struggled with them all
He struggled and he juggled with our pieces large and small



But maybe this is martyrdom and maybe Bob's a saint

Or better still an Al Capone with better self-restraint!

We must thank him for his sheer hard work with the splendid Village Voice

Not a journalistic Mini but our Dersingham Rolls Royce.

Thank you Bob. Have a Happy 2nd (?) Retirement!



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Unexpected visitors



It was about this time last year when eight waxwings landed on the rowan tree in our front garden and began to strip it of its bright pink berries. What we gained was far more than what we lost because waxwings are fantastic birds. They are approximately starling sized and have soft brown plumage with bright yellow markings on their tail and wings, rich chestnut undertail coverts and a grey rump. They get their name from the red tipped spikes protruding from their wing feathers that resemble drops of sealing wax. Perhaps the most striking thing about them is their crest. This, together with the well-defined black bib and eye markings, gives them a rather haughty look like a Chinese emperor. Waxwings don't actually come from China, they breed in the forests in the far north of Scandinavia and Russia – spending half of the year in these remote landscapes and the other half in our

ordinary suburban and urban world. I'd been told that eight waxwings had been seen somewhere off Mountbatten Road immediately prior to their visit and after spending a week stripping the berries off our tree this same flock pitched up at the Rainbow Superstore car park in South Wooton. This is typical waxing behaviour and if you want to see them; a visit to a supermarket is more likely to produce the goods than a visit to a nature reserve. I've come across flocks of waxwings in a Tesco Extra car park near Basildon and the Asda in Norwich, where the other shoppers seemed completely oblivious to their presence. Waxwings are attracted to the ornamental berry bearing shrubs that developers tend to plant to soften the edges of ugly buildings.

It was interesting to watch the behaviour of the waxwings on our rowan. They were almost tame allowing very close views but constantly cocked their heads skywards. In their northern home, waxwings have no reason to fear people but face a real threat from above in the form of various birds of prey including massive goshawks and gyrfalcons. Their instincts probably serve them well in Dersingham because our local sparrowhawks are a smaller but equally deadly adversary.

Our waxwings have a closely related cousin in North America, the slightly less colourful cedar waxwing. I've seen summer flocks of cedar waxwings in the sparse boreal forests of northern Canada, near the rather indecorously named Innu township of Sheshatshit. Knowing this name derives from the Innu for 'The Great Opening' does nothing to improve the imagery (look it up on Google if you don't believe there is such a place!). I have also been startled by the high-pitched bell like calls coming from a flock of cedar waxwings that landed in a tree directly above me while I was sitting next to a motel swimming pool in Hoboken, Georgia on a mild winter afternoon. Hoboken is another typical winter hangout for waxwings – an ordinary place with a motel, diner, gas station, bar and not much else. The third member of the family is the Japanese waxwing. These birds spend the summer in the conifer forests of northern Russia and winter amongst the ornamental shrubs of suburban Japan and surrounding countries. The three species of waxwing belong to the northern hemisphere and lead parallel lives. They breed in the remote conifer forests that girdle the arctic tundra and join us to brighten up our modern European, North American and east Asian towns and villages during the winter.

Waxwing numbers vary from year to year but they can be locally common in what are known as waxwing 'eruptions'. Dersingham usually does quite well for them at such times and if you want to attract waxwings to your garden try planting shrubs and small trees that have plenty of berries - particularly large bright berries that last late into the winter. I'm not an expert on garden plants but I'm sure the garden centre will be able to help you with a selection.



Goose News

The highest pink-footed goose count at the Snettisham RSPB reserve this winter was 47,240 on the morning of the 17th of December. Chris Pakham was on the reserve that morning with a film crew so this is one to watch out for.

This year the geese at Snettisham have been joined by a snow goose. Snow geese are kept in wildfowl collections but this individual arrived with the pinkies and is therefore probably a genuine North American vagrant rather than an

'escapee'. It probably got on the wrong train in Greenland and should have followed its own kind on migration from their arctic breeding grounds to their regular winter quarters - such as the United States National Wildlife Refuge at Bosque del Apache in New Mexico. With luck, it will follow the pink-footed geese back across the Atlantic and rejoin its family this summer. Just to confuse matters another white goose, the slightly smaller Ross's goose, also joined the pink feet this year. This individual was certainly an escape from a wildfowl collection.

The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House Sponsored Events for 2008

There's something for everyone and now is the time to get involved!!

London Marathon – Sunday 13 April

Always fancied taking on the ultimate road race? The Hospice has guaranteed Golden Bond Places and you may be able to run for us!

We also have guaranteed places in the **2009 Marathon**. Interested? Why not give us a call for an informal chat?

Great East Anglia Run – Sunday 4 May

10k Road Race through the centre of King's Lynn. The Hospice is pleased to be able to offer our first 100 runners a free 8 week gym membership to kick-start their training!

Sandringham Stroll – Sunday 18 May

Join us for a sponsored scenic saunter in the beautiful setting of Sandringham Country Park. Various walks available varying from the 2m nature trail to more energetic walks around the park.

The Great Norfolk Skydive – Sunday 15 June

Experience the ultimate thrill as part of a tandem or a solo skydive. Raise £300 and you jump for free (based on a tandem jump). The experience of a lifetime and a great idea for a Father's Day! The Norfolk Hospice also has a range of exciting **Overseas Challenges** including Dog Sledding in Lapland, trekking the Inca Trail and a Vietnam to Cambodia Bike Ride to name but a few!

To find out more about any of these events, please call us on **01485 542891** or visit our website at **www.norfolkhospice.org.uk**

Everyone here at The Norfolk Hospice would like to congratulate the Dersingham Village Voice team on their 50th edition and express our gratitude for your kind and continued support.

Budgens

James Graven
Established 1860

Community Giveaway

Local retailer Jonathan James has given away in excess of £1,000 to six worthwhile community projects in Dersingham. Applications for the James Graven Community Chest Awards were received from numerous charities, groups and organisations, all of which benefit the people of Dersingham.

The Community Chest scheme enables James Graven to provide funding to some small but incredibly important local community activities. Grants this year have been awarded to a wide and varied range of projects including Dersingham Community Centre, 1st Sandringham Guides, 1st Dersingham Scout Group, 1st Dersingham Guides, Phobbies North West Norfolk and the Puddleducks Mother and Toddler Group.

Jonathan, owner of the Budgens store, says "As a local family business, we wanted to give something back to the community on a regular basis. The Community Chest Awards allows us to do just that, helping some very worthwhile organisations improve both facilities and the lives of residents in the community. We hope that these awards allow local groups and organisations the chance to access funding which would otherwise be difficult to obtain."



The Community Chest Awards for 2008 will run from 1st January until 31st August 2008. Local charities, groups and organisations can apply for up to £1,000 from the Community Chest. For further details please pick up an information pack and application form from the customer services desk at Budgens, Lynn Road, Dersingham. Awards have been given to the following organisations:

- **Dersingham Community Centre.** The Community Centre provides accommodation for various village groups and booking availability for parties, exhibitions etc.
- **1st Sandringham Guides.** 1st Sandringham Guides promote opportunities for Guides that are fun, challenging and stimulating. The Guides are involved in activities that encourage development, citizenship, their local community and the wider world. The grant will be used to help replace tents for the 2008 Summer Camp.
- **1st Dersingham Scout Group.** The group aims to develop Scouts' social skills, team work and leadership.
- **1st Dersingham Guides.** Girl Guides is an organisation dedicated to girls aged 10-14,

aiming to provide fun, friendship and new experiences in a safe happy environment. Money from the Community Chest Awards will go to redecorating the Guides headquarters in Manor Road.

- **Phobbies North West Norfolk.** A hobby club for physically handicapped people.
- **Puddleducks Mother & Toddler Group.** A local mother and toddler group which is held twice a week in the Methodist Church for babies and children aged 0-4 years. The Community Chest Award will be used to update equipment in order to provide the local children with an educationally stimulating environment.

For further information please contact Sarah Stevens, Budgens Dersingham on 07884 282869 or sarahs@jamesgraven-retail.co.uk



Presentations are made to prize-winners of the colouring competition (See next page)

Colourful Creations for Christmas

Jonathan James' Budgens store in Lynn Road Dersingham invited children from Dersingham Infant & Nursery School along with St George's Junior School to take part in a Christmas colouring competition. Children were asked to colour in a typical Christmas scene, using whatever materials they liked.

Prizes were awarded in the following three age categories; 4-6 years, 7-8 years and 9-11 years. Winners collected their prizes at a special presentation held at Budgens on Wednesday 19 December by Jonathan James. Michael Brock together with Tony Bubb and Bob Tipling judged the 82 entries.

Jonathan said "The standard of entries was extremely high, making it a very difficult job for the three judges. The children had clearly given a great deal of thought to their pictures with an amazing attention to detail, even in the younger age categories".

Rianna Heath (4-6 years), Adele Fleming (7-8 years) and Joshua Butcher (9-11 years) took first prize in their respective categories. Second prize was awarded to William Woodhouse in the 4-6 year category, Ocea Gray in the 7-8 year category and Bethany Anthony for age 9-11 years. Third prize was awarded to Abigail Rice (4-6 years), Holly Wagg (7-8 years) and Emily Rice & Daniel Bunton (9-11 years).

For further information please contact Sarah Stevens, Budgens Dersingham on 07884 282869 or sarahs@jamesgraven-retail.co.uk

Budgens in Dersingham are offering the community the use of its car park on Easter Sunday for fundraising activity. If you are looking to hold an event, whether it be a car boot sale or Easter fair, and would like to use this space on 23rd March please speak to Karl at the store or email sarahs@jamesgraven-retail.co.uk.

Calling all dog lovers



Budgens
James Graven
Established 1960

WOOD GREEN
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Registered Charity Number 29834

Budgens in Dersingham, in association with Wood Green Animal Shelter at Godmanchester, are holding a community walk on Friday 15 February 2008 to help raise money for the shelter and raise awareness of re-homing dogs in the region. The walk is supported by Pedigree's Adoption Drive campaign which is a national initiative aimed at raising the awareness of homeless dogs in the UK.

For a small entry fee, walkers are invited, with or without dogs, to join a short walk around the village starting at Budgens car park at 1030. Come and enjoy a fun filled morning with goody bags for every entry, giveaways and prize draws on offer. Any money raised will go directly to the animals in Wood Green Animal Shelters care.

As part of the Pedigree Adoption Drive, a food collection bin has also been placed in the Budgens store for any customers who wish to make food donations to help homeless dogs. All donations will go directly to the Dogs Trust at Snetterton and Wood Green Animal Shelter at Godmanchester.

For further information please contact Sarah Stevens on 07884 282869 or alternatively by email sarahs@jamesgraven-retail.co.uk.

Our Questions in Issue 49 are Answered

Bellringers Named



Following a telephone call from Mr Alan Goff, a one-time member of the bellringers at St Nicholas Church, it has been determined that the group shown in the picture were (from the left); Ron Thaxter, George Batterbee, C. Ibbotson (a watchmaker from Snettisham), Fred Rix, Jack Bunn and Alec Nurse. The photo would be dated in the late 1940s to the early 1950s. A phone call from Peter Thaxter established that Ron was a first class bellringer who

could carry out complicated changes using both hands, the right ringing bell number four while the left operated number five! George Batterbee was the gravedigger, Fred Rix worked on the Sandringham Estate and lived at the house to the Hunstanton side of the newsagency, Jack Bunn (father of John Bunn) lived in Manor Road. Peter also disclosed that he himself is a bellringer having practised this since he was ten or eleven years old, he believes that the picture was almost certainly taken in the late forties. Mrs Joan Perrin agreed with all of the above adding the information that, as Fred Rix would have been 105 years of age had he lived, the picture is 60 to 65 years old.

Reg Houchen's Garage

The picture taken at Reg Houchen's Garage has been identified by Reg's daughter, Mrs Gill Griffin, as being of Reg Houchen himself (centre with his dog Beauty), to the left is Reg's brother Tim, and the vehicles are an Austin, an Armstrong Siddeley, and the coach is a 'Star.' The models were not given.



Church Choir



Derek Asker wrote to inform us that "I can give you the names of everyone except the 1st boy in the front row as I was in the choir then. The picture was taken in 1946/47 I think. Sadly, all the men in the back row are dead now. From left to right they are Organist, Teddy Rye, Mr Riddle, Billy Andrews, Bernard Riches (killed in a road accident) John Playford, Billy Playford, Wallace Twite, Roly Linford. Front row, I cannot remember this choirboy's name, Dennis Back, Michael Whitty, John Asker, Derek Asker, Tony Ridley, Tom

Ebert (now living in New Zealand). There was also a photo of the Ladies Choir but I do not have a copy of that."



The Christmas Teaser

There were 25 snowmen lurking in the last edition. The winning entry pulled out of the hat belonged to :-

Peggy Tomkins of Hanover Court.

Well counted.

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Oh Look!

Copyright: Hugh Mullarkey - 14-12-07

Oh Look!

There's a penny in the gutter
No one's noticed no one's found
Is there anybody watching
Tiemy lace up, look around
No! That's good I've got it
In my pocket safe and sound
If I put it in my piggy bank
Will it grow into a pound?

Or shall I blow the bloomin' lot
On a couple o' ha'penny chews
After all I found it
So now it's mine to lose
And isn't that the sweet shop
The one my friends all use
Will it offer me some tasty treats
I really can't refuse?

A penny! A penny!
Two thirty nine to go
Then I will swap them for a one pound note
That'll crisp and crinkle so
To spend it or to save it
Will it vanish will it grow
I could add my weekly threepenny bit
Good idea but mighty slow!

A moment of decision
Now I'm at the sweet shop door
Shall I spend this sudden windfall
Or my pocket fire ignore?
Maybe if I flipped the penny
It would make me sure
It would help me make my mind up
Penny rich or penny poor?

Of course I could always put it back!

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Dersingham gains an artist

Recently moved to Dersingham is well known local artist Jill Ilett. Many of you will have seen, or even own, her work so we asked her to tell us about herself.

Jill writes :-

I was born in Hertfordshire in the 1930's and I had a wonderful childhood. My parents, George and Joan, encouraged me to be creative, and being the eldest of four children, share my enthusiasm with my brother and two sisters. I was fortunate to have a talented maternal grandfather whom I watched painting when visiting him.

I spent holidays in Norfolk as a child staying with my uncle, Ernest "Nobby" Nobbs, who was a local bobby at Hillington and Snettisham. Bicycle rides to local beaches were a joy and pencils and sketchbooks recorded special days.

After completing my education in Hertfordshire and working for the Ministry of Agriculture I married Michael, settled in a small village, raised two daughters and became a teacher at the local village school at Great Horstead.

I started to paint seriously when I had more time and first exhibited in a local exhibition in 1976.

Since then I became an adult education tutor in art and when we moved to Ashwicken, Norfolk in 1983 I continued to teach with Norfolk C.C.

Now resident in Dersingham I feel I have come home to the area I loved as a child and hope to continue to paint the lovely local scenes as well as my colourful still lifes.

I love painting in all media and feel that each picture should be able to tell a story to the viewer. My paintings have been exhibited widely in local exhibitions and galleries including The British Watercolour Society, Hertford Art Society, Society of Women Artists and the Eastern Open in

King's Lynn. I have also had summer shows in Brancaster Staithe, with friends, for the last few years.

I look forward to making new friends in Dersingham and hope to be able to show my work or perhaps demonstrate locally.

* * * * *

Jill had a successful solo exhibition at the Carter Gallery in Great Bircham last November and will be there again in 2008. Watch Village voice for details.



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Reminders of a Time Long Past

Your Editor has, for some time, attempted to obtain pictures of two public houses in Dersingham. The first is one of which, it appears, nobody has any photographs - for, even through the facility of the global internet, no picture has been found of the Alexandra Hotel (at the former railway station) in its heyday, nor has a *full frontal* of the White Horse Inn (site of the present pharmacy) been forthcoming, although we were able to publish the picture on the left of A merican serviceman Captain Phil Tooley proudly displaying his pride and joy, a Penny-Farthing bicycle, to some Dersingham residents. The photo was taken outside the



White Horse Public House, Captain Tooley was living in the village at the time whilst serving in the U.S. forces at Sculthope. One of our regular contributors, Dick Melton, has previously reported that "Before the Second World War there were six pubs in the village of Dersingham, but the railway hotel, or the Alexandra Hotel as it was better known, closed down in 1937. The building, the last big house on the left hand side as you get to the bypass in Station Road, is still there. The White Horse stood where Jubilee Court now is, it closed down in May 1973, the last



licenseses, Harry and Mabel Chester having been associated with it since 1933. Right up to the time it was closed down it never had a bar; the beer was brought up straight from the cellar!" It was, therefore, by some good fortune that the picture shown left arrived on the Editor's desk, showing Harry Chester, Landlord of the White Horse from 1933 to 1937, drawing beer from one of his casks. (This picture is another one of those provided by former village resident, Bernie Twite.) The Editor is hoping that, notwithstanding his decision to give up the editorship of this magazine, someone may come up with the missing links and supply them to his successor for publication in a future issue.



Thursday 28 February – 7.30pm

The West Norfolk branch invites you to
AGM and A Year at Holme

A short AGM followed by an illustrated talk
by NWT Holme Dunes warden, Gary Hibberd

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Irene's Piece

Hello I'd like to introduce myself. I am Irene Woods and I am helping out as Acting Clerk for the next few months while Sarah is on maternity leave. I will be in the office with Anita Mondays to Thursdays at the usual opening hours. If you have any problems/queries do please call in or phone us on 01485 541465.

We are happy to help with any general enquiries, but if you have any non-urgent police-related problems the Safer Neighbourhood Team surgeries are now held at St Cecilia's Church. The Team will be available from 5.00pm to 7.00pm on Thursday 21st February, Monday 17th March and Thursday 17th April. There's no need to make an appointment.



Irene Woods(standing) & Anita Moore—the office team.

Revolution

Possibly the biggest flop of cinema history was filmed in King's Lynn. Hundreds of extras were hired from the area, the town was transformed to look like 18th century America and local businesses prospered. However it bombed at the cinema and has almost sunk without trace. Were you an extra, do you have a tale to tell, did you enjoy the film (somebody had to)? Most traces of the filming have now been erased but is there anything left?





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Christmas Entertainment at Park House Hotel

'A CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA'

Presented by ClearerProductions. 16 December 2007

The poster described it as 'A Celebration of Music and Songs from your Favourite Christmas Shows and Films' And what a celebration this was!

Clearer Productions (see footnote for more about this remarkable touring production company) fielded a strong trio of professional talent to entertain us with a wide variety of Christmas favourites. The Conservatory here at Park House is an ideal venue, and we had a full house of visitors, guests, volunteers, and friends.

Nicky Readersang beautifully and danced, with a dazzling variety of rapid costume changes, on stage and among the audience. Neil Cleary, the music director, led strongly on the keyboard and provided wonderful arrangements for many of the well-known Christmas classics. And Neil Pennock showed off his multi-instrumental skills with some lovely solos and accompaniments on baritone saxophone, flute, oboe and – a most gorgeous and rarely heard sound – bass clarinet.

There was music and song for just about every taste – from 'Let it Snow', 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer', 'Frosty the Snowman' 'I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus', 'Walking in the Air' to – inevitably – 'I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas', a fitting finale which we all joined in, and which sent us home still singing. A great start to our Christmas programme at Park House, and as always a happy way of fund-raising.

(Clearer Productions are a group of fully trained professional performers with a strong commitment to take their productions to those who cannot easily get to the theatre. As individuals they have all performed quite extensively in the West End and in many touring productions of shows and musicals, and also in drama, including Shakespeare. In the words of Nicky Reader 'As a team we do a lot of work for adults and children with special needs, and in the community for Care Homes and the elderly. All of us in the company believe passionately that no-one in society should be excluded from enjoying the performing arts. We work right across the country, sometimes in small groups, and go wherever we're wanted. If people can't get to us, we go to them. That's why we're here!)



Photo: Nigel Sisson

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Presented by The Magdalene Singers, 18 December 2007

C..S.Lewis entitled a book about his life 'Surprised by Joy' and that was my reaction to a concert of music, readings and carols by the Magdalene Singers (a selected and augmented choir from Park House's local church, St Mary Magdalene.)

Surprised? Yes, at the high standards of solo and ensemble singing from what is basically a village choir - even if Sandringham is a very special village! There were a few rough edges but many delights such as the sincere performance of Walford Davies' setting of 'O little town of: Bethlehem'.

Joy? I would stress the welcome variety of the carols, ranging from Berlioz' superb (and



Photo: Nigel Sisson

chorally testing) 'Shepherds farewell' to 'Jingle Bells' and including two modern carols 'The Calypso Carol' and 'The Snowman' - both tastefully arranged by Peter Hook who conducted from the keyboard with skill and sensitivity throughout the concert.

As added bonuses to the choral singing, Pat Knight read some poems and paragraphs by Dickens, Joyce Grenfell and others in a delightful way and Alex Isaac (a talented 14 year old pianist from Australia) plunged with enthusiasm into a Liszt Scherzoso and a powerful

Rachmaninov Prelude. There was also real warmth and not too many wrong notes in the audience's singing of 'Good King Wenceslas.'

The Magdalene Singers clearly enjoyed performing at Park House and the audience equally clearly shared that enjoyment. Tess, the Manager, said, "A wonderful start to our Christmas."

The Very Reverend Alan Warren – 31 December 2007

Dersingham Evening Women's Institute



Women's
Institute

The Annual Meeting of Dersingham Evening W.I. in November was well attended. Thirteen members had been nominated and now form the new committee for the coming year. Dianne Neeve agreed to be President for a further term. A comprehensive report of the past year's activities was given by Secretary Lesley Geer - we seem to be busier than ever - and Treasurer Betsy Gallants Financial Statement told us we are solvent but will need to raise funds for 2008.

Speaker for the evening was Helen Welch, Public Enterprises Manager at Sandringham. She entertained us with details of her very varied life, then went on to explain her extensive duties at Sandringham House, ranging from checking the loos were kept in spotless condition, making sure the verges round the estate were kept tidy, to planning and organising the exhibitions held

in the house when it was open to the public.

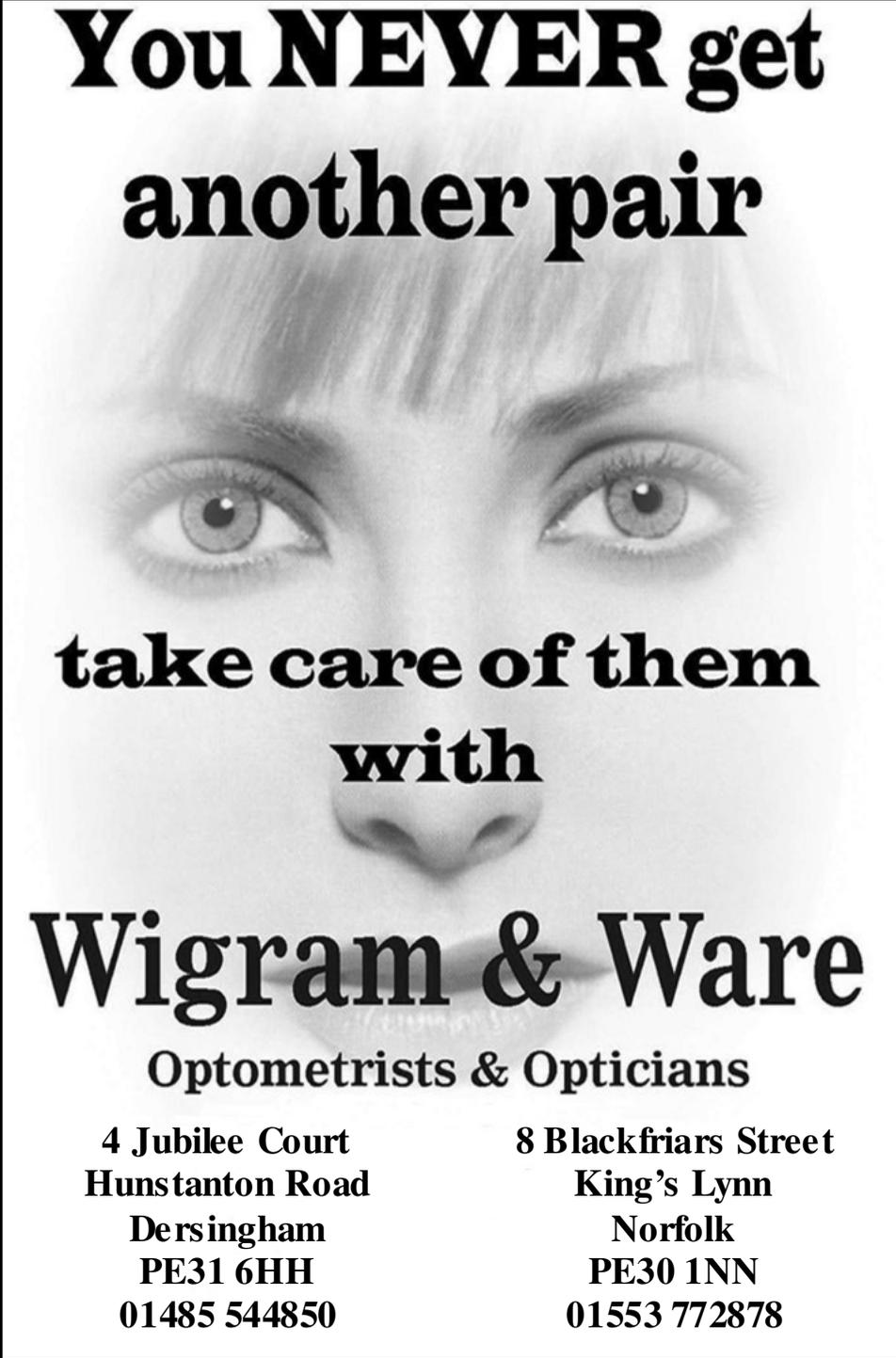
In December we tucked into a buffet meal, comprising a delicious range of food contributed by the members.

Everyone enjoyed listening to, and on occasions accompanying the entertainers, 'Informality' - a group of four close harmony singers, who sang a variety of songs and told us a little of the history of the style of singing which originated in America.

A Gift Stall proved very interesting when members were able to purchase previously wrapped parcels without knowing the contents, and it provided a lot of fun as well as funds for our institute.

We have a very interesting and informative year ahead of us judging by the varied programme which was ready for members to collect and we look forward to meeting and celebrating the New Year at our next meeting on January 16th.

Phyl Jones



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Things Don't Change Much, Do They?

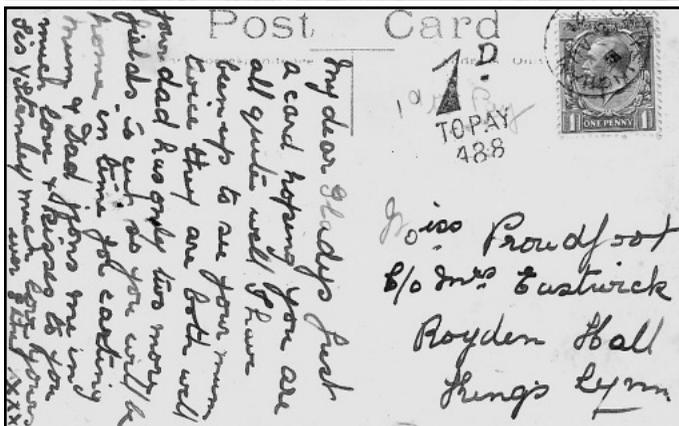


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Have you noticed how many complaints have been directed at the Post Office recently for charging extra when an item has been sent which did not satisfy this illustrious body's newly devised demands on size, weight and structure of a piece of correspondence. Many people have been required to go to the Post Office, regardless of its distance from their home, in order to retrieve what may have been a simple Christmas Card, the cost of which could well have been far less than the price asked in order to reclaim it!

Well, don't consider this to be a new form of reaping profits, for, as can be seen by this postcard, apparently sent in August 1921, for which a charge appears to have been made which is equivalent to the original cost of postage!

(Thanks go to Bernie Twite for allowing us to use this!)



By the way, did you notice that the tennis court at the Church Hall was originally sited where the car park is now?

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Neil Adams



Hunstanton and District Lions Club



December was a busy month for the Club, with a number of events organised. The Club invited the town Mayor to talk about his plans to raise £30000 for a Youth Centre in the town Hall. The Club were impressed and pledged their support. On the first weekend in

December a collection was made at Tesco's. This raised £578.15. Our thanks go to Tesco's for allowing us to collect and all those who gave so generously. The Antique Fair held over two weekends, at Searles, raised about £1200. From this the following organisations received donations for their help in the event. Heacham Junior and Hunstanton Infant Schools, Hunstanton Concert Band and the Hunstanton Brownies for being 'Elves' at Santa's Grotto. Our next event will be a Race Night on Friday 22nd Febuary at Searles Club House. £14.50 to include a Quality Sausage Supper and Dessert. Tickets are available from

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Dick Melton's Column



In answer to George Rowland from Illinois concerning the death of a WW1 soldier from Dersingham by the name of Ernest James Howell, the only person with that surname that I can remember living in Dersingham was Mr David Howell who lived in a bungalow that was called "St Anne's," and it was situated at the top of Lynn Road, right next to the Social Club. David lived there with his wife in the fifties and sixties, and, I think I am correct in saying, he worked on the Sandingham Estate as a gardener. I do remember he had a very nice garden himself.

Jacky Frusher (Bush) is like me, she has a good memory. I remember her living with her mother and father in the cottage opposite the boot-menders, and, as she said, Mr Fred Easton Senior was her neighbour. In the other four cottages lived Mr and Mrs Soanes, Ivy Ringer, Mrs Evans and Fred Burton. Their outhouses were across the other side of the main road, right next to Garden Cottages, before they were pulled down and the Garden Bungalows were built. I remember her grandmother and grandfather very well as I used to deliver their meat from Mr Milton's Butchers in Manor Road. I remember one of their grandchildren was in my class at school, I think his name was Tony O' Connor. After the grandchildren grew up Mr and Mrs Bush moved to a smaller house, No. 3 Malthouse Cottages in Chapel Road.

How many people can remember Garden Cottages? They stood on the site where Garden Cottages are now, I think I am right in saying there were two rows of four and they stood gable end onto the road facing each other. Right next door were Dun Cow Cottages, some of which are still there. There were a lot of these small cottages around the village, like Senters Row in Manor Road, and Albert Victor Cottages, or, as it used to be known, Wash-house Yard in Manor Road. It was called this as the lady who lived in the first one, Mrs Sayer, was a washer-woman who did a lot of laundry for Sandringham House.

At one time there was a row of cottages at the top of the school yard, community centre, they were there when my father was at school but I think they were demolished in the thirties and then of course there were several rows of small cottages in Chapel Road, then there were railway cottages just at the bottom of Station Hill these cottages were originally built for the railway workers, a lot of these small cottages can still be seen in and around Dersingham but most of them have been altered or had extensions built onto them, I don't think there are any left that are one up and one down with a scullery, a Dutch oven and an outside toilet, if there is no doubt some one will tell us.

Christmas Trees

Some one said to me the other day "Do you still have a real Christmas tree Dick?" I said "No' but we always did when we lived in Dersingham!" It used to be quite an adventure getting our tree for Christmas, my father and my uncle Sid would pick a nice dark night and then with me tagging along we would go down the path at the side of Dersingham Fen over the rail way line and as far as the cutting at Wolferton, cross over the rail way line again, and there, on the side of the hill, some very nice Christmas trees grew, but of course we were over the Dersingham boundary and on Sandingham Estate land. We would dig up half a dozen trees, no chopping as it made too much noise, we tied them in pairs and carried them all the way back on our shoulders to Dersingham, the ones that we did not want we gave to our neighbours. Mistletoe and holly were in abundance also, for this we went up the middle path on the Shut Up Common over the dyke and into the woods near the nursery, things like this are not available today, instead you have to pay for them, it was not thought of as stealing, it was a way of life!

Hunstanton Christmas Day Swim

A lot of people who live by the sea swim in it every day all the year round never mind what the weather is like, but it seems a much greater attraction to swim in the sea on Christmas Day. People have been swimming in the sea at Hunstanton on Christmas Day in my memory since the

end of the Second World War and no doubt way before that, the late George Raines and the late Tom Drew were swimming off Hunstanton beach in the fifties and they both continued doing so for many years. In 1957 the first organised swim by the Hunstanton Seagulls Swimming Club took place (fifty years ago) this swim was just for the fun of it! It was not until 1971 that the first sponsored swim took place, and then there were not a lot of people in fancy dress, but this swim was the largest Christmas Day swim in the country with well over one hundred people going into



the sea. After this first swim more and more people would go in, in fancy dress, the most popular being of course Santa or a snowman, with others dressed as elves, teddy bears, reindeer, fairies, clowns, and all things that you can imagine.

The Round Table has been responsible for organising the swim for many years now and they always have plenty of helpers walking up and down the promenade with their collecting buckets, one person who always collects money on Christmas Day is Mr Peter Brooke who goes up and down the promenade in his little replica vintage car. This swim of course attracts a lot of spectators it is a job to say how many but I would say for the last twenty years it has been over two thousand people each Christmas Day, at one time the Duke's Head Hotel in King's Lynn would lay on a



coach for their guests to come to Hunstanton to watch the swim I well remember a swim in the seventies when we had torrential rain so there were a lot of swimmers but very few spectators, I can not remember it ever snowing while the swim was on, though there was snow laying on the beach and promenade in 1970 and 1981. The sea froze over in 1963 but not on Christmas Day. At one time some people would just run down to the water, dip their toe in and run out again, but the organisers put a stop to this when they positioned two of their helpers about twenty metres out to sea, and every one had to go around them to qualify. What with each swimmer being

sponsored and all the money that is collected in the buckets on the day a lot of cash has been raised by this swim over the years, and all of it goes to charity, though this is now not the largest swim in the country on Christmas Day we still get between 60 and 80 people taking part.

The Christmas Day swim at Hunstanton always brings in a lot of people from far and near, and it is like a meeting place with a lot of people seeing each other year after year.

It is not only people from Hunstanton that go in for a swim, people come from near and far to participate and raise money for charity, my own daughter Tracey, who lives up Dodds Hill has been in the swim as have some of my grand children. I have never been brave enough to go in but I have stood on the promenade and watched it every Christmas Day since 1968.

Hunstanton to King's Lynn Railway

Hunstanton station and the Sandringham Hotel were built in 1862, as was the railway line to King's Lynn, with stations at Heacham, Snettisham, Dersingham, Wolferton and North Wooton. The first trains began to run from King's Lynn to Hunstanton in 1863 and the line was operated and owned by the King's Lynn and Hunstanton Railway Company. After two years it was taken over by the Great Eastern Railway (G.E.R.), then, in 1920, it changed hands again and was operated by the London and North Eastern Railway (L.N.E.R.) who operated it until it closed.



The chief engineer responsible for the construction of the line was John Sutherland Valentine, and in recognition of his work a road was named after him in Hunstanton. The first station master at Hunstanton was a Mr Reeves. To start with there were no roofs over the platforms or waiting rooms at any of the stations. H.R.H. Prince Edward complained about this after having to stand on Wolferton station platform in the rain, so then platform roofs and waiting rooms were added to all the stations along the line.

On the 17th of August 1866 a branch line was opened from Heacham to Wells-on-sea with stations at Sedgeford, Docking, Stanhoe, Burnham Market and Holkam. In 1863, after the line from King's Lynn to Hunstanton had only been opened for a few months, a train was de-railed after hitting a bullock about half a mile on the Hunstanton side of North Wooton station, early reports stated that five people were killed in the crash and this was so, but another two died later and 20 people were injured. The whole area of the station yard at Hunstanton covered 20 acres and it stretched right down to South Beach Road. In the yard were sidings, engine sheds and a turntable for the engines so they could be turned around to go back to King's Lynn. At the entrance to the station yard in Le-Strange Terrace were some shops including a fishmonger's and a greengrocer's, and in the station building itself was a newsagent's, the station master lived in the first large house on the right down Southend Road, and the railway company built three rows of houses on the left further down Southend Road for the rest of its workers.

When the line was first built there was only one crossing and this was from Park Road into Seagate. In 1902 this crossing was moved down to South Beach Road and an iron footbridge was erected in its place, there was also a crossing from the station yard into the gas works (Tesco) so that the train loads of coal could be taken in to make the gas. Around about this time, 1902, there were six trains running daily from Hunstanton to Liverpool Street Station (London) and their journey time was 3 hours and 7 minutes.

In 1912 there was another crash on the line. A train went straight through the buffers at Hunstanton station and crashed into the wall of the Sandringham Hotel, no one was hurt in this crash. Hunstanton was getting to be a very popular place to visit so the railway station was very busy in the 1920s, during the summer months there were fourteen trains coming in from London every day. Hunstanton station kept busy right up to and after the Second World War, the busiest time for the station was from 1945 until 1960, when the steam trains were done away with and were replaced with diesel rail-cars. On August Bank Holiday Monday in 1945, 10,135 people arrived in Hunstanton on that one day by train. In Beach Terrace Road there was an exit from the station through some large iron sliding gates, and on a Sunday in the summertime, when all the excursion trains would arrive between 10 and noon, all of the people would rush out of these gates to get to the beach. The road would be so jam-packed with people that you could not drive a car along it. In 1958 the Fenman a train that went to London from Hunstanton every morning and

came back in the evening took 3 hours and 11 minutes to get to London, that was 4 minutes longer than in 1900!

On the Saturday night of the 31st of January 1953, when we had the great flood, the 7.27 pm train left Hunstanton station for King's Lynn, five hundred yards from the station it hit water and then about another three quarters of a mile down the line it hit a bungalow that had floated across the line, and that stopped it dead! Some pipes had broken on the front of the engine so the fireman got out of his cab and wrapped some old rags around them and then the engine driver decided to reverse the train back to Hunstanton station which he did. When the water went back the next day it was found that the track in front of the train had been washed away by the sea, so by going back to the station it had saved the people on the train from no doubt getting drowned.

By now, in the 50s and 60s, there were a lot more people coming into Hunstanton by car and on the buses so the train was not being used so much, on the 5th of October 1964 the last train ran on the line from Heacham to Wells-next-the-sea, and then every one said it will not belong before they close the Hunstanton to King's Lynn line, but it went on for another five years, and then, at 10.29 pm on Saturday the 3rd of May 1969, after 101 years of service, the Lynn - Hunstanton railway line came to an end when the last train pulled into King's Lynn railway station. The train was normally a nearly empty two coach train but this night it was a eight coach train packed with over 250 people!

After lots of petitions and demonstrations the line had at last closed. There have been many attempts to try to open it up again, but now that it has been closed for nearly forty years, I have my doubts if it ever will. Most of the land that the track ran over has been sold off and all the people that visit Hunstanton today do so by car or bus.

One thing that I forgot to mention was all the goods traffic that used to come into and out of Hunstanton station, apart from all the coal trucks that would come in a lot of local farmers would send their sugar beet and grain away in trucks on the railway, and also, a few years back, you would always see bags of cockles and mussels standing on the platform awaiting to be taken to Billingsgate Fish Market in London, also, when the holiday makers used to come by train there would be a small gang of local lads with a hand cart each who would meet the holiday makers in the station yard, and, for a small fee, would take their baggage down to the caravans.

Councillor Keith Manship asks for your help....



Due to lack of members on the full Parish Council we are asking residents of the village to notify the office on 541465 of any faults on the street lighting.

This would include those burning during daylight hours (daytime burners) and those not working at all. At this time of year it is important to have the street lights working correctly. If any fault is seen please note the number of the street light either from the top fixing or from the lamppost itself and inform the office. If unable to read the numbers please indicate the position of the faulty lamp i.e. which house it is outside or the junction it is near then it can be checked out and reported to the necessary contractors. Your help in the matter will be appreciated and save a lot of worry to the elderly residents.

Sarah's Page



Hi - Happy New Year to you all and hope that you had a good Christmas. The weather is being kind to us at present long may it continue. I trust that you found all the snowmen in the last issue and entered in the competition.

I hope that you are all using the bottle bank at Budgens it is so good for them to allow the village this convenience. The suggestion box has also been placed at Budgens as it may be more convenient for Parishioners I hope you have seen it and will pass on your suggestions so that we can address your issues. Budgens are also prepared to sell tickets for local organisation eg plays, events etc acting like a box office, may be useful.

It is coming to that time of year again when advertising subscriptions and postage requirements for the next financial year's Village Voice is upon us. Letters for both will be arriving shortly.

If you do not advertise at present but would like to please contact the office. If you would like your Village Voice posted to you or another copy sent to someone else this can also be arranged. At the moment we send to all over the country and even abroad. Please contact the office. **Please note the change to our email address.** Unfortunately at the time of writing this our web page is down whilst we find a suitable host, more on this soon.

It is with great sadness that I personally say a farewell to Bob Tipling as Editor. I have worked with Bob as a Councillor, as an Assistant and as Editor and he has shown great support to me in every position. I know he will be greatly missed, but I am sure he will be something rewarding in the village again soon. Keep in touch with lots of articles for the magazine?

As some of you may be aware I am not in the office at present, though I am keeping in touch and doing the accounts, a friend and fellow Clerk, Irene Woods, is covering me at present. Irene is very experienced and I am fully confident that she will be able to cover any of your needs. My trusty Assistant Anita is as always on hand to assist Irene in the more local knowledge.

Have you checked the streetlights around you recently, if they are not working properly please contact the office and they will report to whoever is responsible. Remember that we pay even if the light is not working!

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 the office, and they will do their best to help.

Sarah

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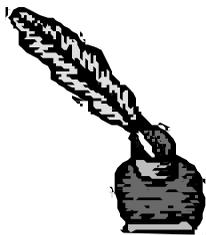
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A question of forgery

By Richard Barr, partner in Fraser Dawbarns solicitors King's Lynn and a "legal eagle" on BBC Radio Norfolk.



I once met a bank manager who showed me a simple way of forging a signature. Some years later I heard that he was sent to prison for - forgery of his wife's signature!

No one will have sympathy for the wayward bank manager but he was not the first or the last to forge his wife's signature. And there can be some pretty unpleasant consequences - as Julie (none of the names here are real) was to find out.

Jack and Julie owned their own home. It was in joint names. Julie moved out because she could no longer stand her husband. Jack (who was not the sort of person you or I want as a friend) agreed to sell the house to Tom, but he wanted to keep the sale secret from Julie.

To achieve his nefarious intentions Jack forged Julie's signature on the transfer document. The sale went ahead and Tom moved in, unaware of the forgery. Jack pocketed all the proceeds of sale.

Sometime later Julie found out about the sale. Not surprisingly she wanted her share of the money. She could have claimed against her husband Jack, but by this time he had invested it all in lame horses; only the bookies had grown fat!

So Julie sued Tom for the share of the house, half of which, so far as she was concerned, she still owned. She could hardly move in with Tom, but something had to be done.

Signing on behalf of the other party to a marriage is not always forgery. Husbands and wives do have implicit authority to act on each others' behalf in many circumstances. That makes sense, imagine what would happen if the milkman always wanted legal documents signed before allowing the week's bill to be run up!

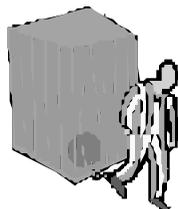
But a wife (or a husband) can go too far. In another court case, a wife had been happily forging her husband's signature on his cheques for many months. The husband knew about it but did not alert the bank, which continued to cash the forged cheques. Later the wife died and the husband tried to recoup his lost fortunes by suing the bank.

The court told the husband to get lost (they probably dressed it up in a legal expression to make it sound more dignified - but that is what they meant). They said that the husband had acquiesced in the forgery. The same would apply now if you have a bank card and you gave your PIN number to a member of your family who then drained the account. You would not be able to demand the money back from the bank.

No such easy answer was found to Julie and Tom's problem. The courts have decided different ways in similar cases. Inevitably there is a loser. Sometimes they will favour the innocent buyer, and sometimes the wronged spouse. Unfortunately in this case the Court of Appeal decided that even though he was innocent, Tom still had to pay Julie half the value of the house.

WHAT ARE THE LESSONS?

- 1 It is not always possible to guard completely against forgery or dishonesty. If you are buying a house and think something fishy is going on, make sure your solicitor is fully aware.
- 2 It is good practice for ALL documents to be witnessed by a solicitor.
- 3 When in doubt DON'T sign in anybody's name other than your own, even if you think you have authority to do so. You could end up in big trouble.
- 4 No I am not going to tell you how the bank manager did his forgeries!





Dersingham Infant and Nursery School

Key Stage 1 children have been enjoying a topic on 'Hight'. As part of this they have been learning about birds and so a visit by CJBirds of Prey to our school.

"Today some birds of prey visited our school. I liked it when the Eagle gave us some fresh air. The best part was when we got to stroke the baby owl. His head was like cotton wool. Then the Kestrel came in and he flew. It was fascinating and I didn't know that Kestrels have triangular wings to help them fly. Next the Hawk came in and wanted to marry me and Emelia. Finally the Tawny Owl came in and flew across the hall and ate some chicken. The eagle came from Africa. The Hawk eats frog's legs and lizards. An Eagle Owl came in. Eagle Owls have one little tiny ear and one

huge, enormous ear. Instead of ears they have holes. The kestrel flew over to Vlad and hovered and then landed on Vlad's knees. The Eagle uses his beak as a fork and his sharp claws as a knife. On the tip of owl's feathers, it's like they've got a comb to help them fly quietly so the don't frighten little mammals." *By Emily Humphries*

"I liked the baby owl because he done a poo! But I think the best bit was when the Kestrel landed on Kaci, Alex, Kelsey and Bethany. They took the African Eagles hood off. Also they tried to make them fly across the hall, it was amazing. The Kestrel eats lizards and insects. The Eagle Owl hunts with his ears. If an owl's eye is yellow it means it hunts in the day, orange day and night, black or brown means it hunts a night. A Kestrel's wings are triangle because it makes the Kestrel faster." *By Scott Kimber*

St George's Junior School – 'The Ride'

This story came as a result of a visit to Sandringham recently as part of the Victorian work Koala class has been doing.

I was sitting on my silk chair in the golden sunshine, talking to my friend beside me. The birds were chirping softly; I smelt the sweet-smelling flowers, swaying gently in the breeze. My friend was drawing a portrait of me. "How does it look so far Martha?" she said softly.

"Great," I replied happily. My small dog was running at my feet. I watched the trees sway gently from side to side. My body was bathed in sunlight. I thought of my future, and if something amazing would happen soon, but my thoughts were interrupted by a strange noise. A kind of honking noise I'd say. Then King Edward appeared by magic, sat in a strange thing.

"Come and try this wonderful thing!" he cried and I nodded, of course. I climbed in the back of the strange thing, through a little door. It was very strange to be sitting on a seat of a strange mode of transport. The ride was very bumpy and it went very slowly. Every time we passed an animal, it ran away in surprise. We passed a gardener who backed away in horror. I wondered what on earth this thing was, I couldn't make myself heard! When I got back home, I ran up the stony path. I got out my diary and wrote about what had happened. After, I sat down quietly, considering what I should do. I was speechless of course and told all my friends what I did. I couldn't believe I rode in the first ever motor car. I rushed to tell my mother. "Mother! MOTHER! Come here quickly, I have something amazing to tell you!" I exclaimed.

"What ever is the matter Martha, are you sick?" my mother replied worriedly. "Of course not, I went on a ride with King Edward," I told her the story, "and we went in something called a motor car!" "A motor car, whatever is that?" "A kind of coach with no horses pulling it, and you can drive it!" My mother could not believe it and neither could I! Every time I see somebody in a motor car, I smile and think, I drove in the first one to be made.



News from Dersingham Infant and Nursery School

Once again our children were out and about in the community in the lead up to Christmas. Our Year 2 children sang Christmas songs at The Gables Nursing Home and also at the community room at Orchard Close. In addition our joint choir with St George's sang at the village Christmas event at Thaxters, the Christingle at St Nicholas' Church and at both Christmas Fairs. The children's musical abilities were very well received. In addition we held three performances of 'It's a Baby' and raised £179 towards a new incubator at the Special Care baby unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Congratulations to our staff and children for once again achieving the Sportsmark for 2007 for our PE provision both within the school day and through our Extended Schools Agenda. PE continues to be a strength of our school and once again we have after school sports clubs on offer this term.

Looking ahead our Year 2 children will be enjoying a 'Circus Skills Day' at Heacham Infant and Nursery School when we join with them for our annual partnership day. The children hope to learn juggling, balancing skills and enjoy 'downing around'! Our children will be using the village environment to support their work for their 'Houses and Homes' topic.

And finally, the post of Headteacher for September has now been advertised and interviews will take place at the end of February.

News from St George's Church of England Junior School

We were delighted to be able to join with the Infant and Nursery school to sing carols with them over the run up to Christmas. Each class in school also performed to parents their version of the Nativity followed by poetry, pantomime, and a mini musical. These were well received.

We are very proud of the fact that the 'Campaign to Protect Rural England' has given the school an award for its 'wildlife area with disabled access'. Mrs Keeley who masterminded the creation of the area was thoroughly delighted and was also featured on Anglia TV recently along with some of the Wildlife Club members.

At the awards ceremony we were delighted to receive an award from The Campaign to Protect Rural England for our wildlife area with access for the disabled.

From left to right: Martin Walton, judge, David Yates, landscape designer, Ann Pope, head teacher, Annette Keeley, project manager; Joann Bullen, parent helper; Julian Wells Target follow Group Ltd, sponsor.

The PE provision in school has also been recognised as a strength of the school as we have again achieved the Sportsmark for 2007. Our thanks go to Mrs Bryan and Mr Rudd for making this possible.





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Bernie's Bytes

I could not recognise anyone on **the Nativity picture**. **Toc H picture**, this was taken outside the post office before it was extended. From left, Gladys Twite?, Mrs Linford, Elizabeth Neale (Flegg), Judith Nurse, Aubrey Bell, Violet Wardale, Nurse Earle, Nora Nurse, Evaline Houchen, Edna Walden, ?, ?, Roly Linford. The Toc H sang at various places round the village collecting money for charity, on the last night visiting Sandingham House. After one carol outside they would be invited inside where the royals would gather and further carols would be sung, at the finish refreshments would be provided. **Mothers' Union dinner**, from right. Mrs Glass, Edna Walden, Mrs Barrett, Mrs Bolton, Mrs Winterton, Nora Nurse, Mrs Meek. **Bellringers** - Ron Thaxter, George Batterbee, Cecil Ebbeson, Fred Rix, John Bunn, Alec Nurse. George Batterbee was the vergier, also known by the name of Croply. Cecil Ebbeson was the ringing captain, he was a watch repairer, and had a shop at Snettisham next to what is now a frame shop. **Choir** - Back row from left, Teddy Rye the choirmaster, Ridley ?, Billy Andrews, Bernard Riches, John Playford, Bill Playford, Wallace Twite, Roly Linford, the only one I can name on the front row is second left Dennis Back. Teddy Rye reached sixty years service with the choir. Billy Andrews had the greengrocers, Bernard Riches sadly died in a car crash in his twenties. The Playfords owned the bakers, from the dress it looks like a choir practice. **The Houchen photo**. I think it was probably taken around 1947, possibly to record the finishing of the new garage. The man on the left would have been Tom Houchen and the one on the right, with the dog, Reg, his brother. The cars, guessing here, but the one on left I think was a Humber, and the one on right an Austin. These were used as taxis. The chara, I don't know the make, another guess, a Dennis or Gifford. The colour, the bottom half black the top half red. I can remember riding in the chara. One occasion was when Bob Bowman from West Newton got married, the reception was at Chosely, and the chara was used to carry guests. On the way home bumping over Docking railway crossing the lights went out, after creeping along for a little way another bump brought them back on and we got home with no more trouble. After the war Houchens purchased new buses on a regular basis. The first one being around 1947 a twenty-seven seat Bedford, number HNG 953 (see photo below). This was the first bus I



drove. In 1949 the next one had twenty nine seats number KAH???. In the early fifties a new model Bedford with thirty-three seats was bought, number NNG? followed by a thirty-five seater, I passed my PSV test with this one. These with some second hand buys and two mini coaches made up the fleet for a number of years. The drivers were a mix of full and part time. Some names that come to mind were Eric Archer, George Smith, Joe Pinder. The work done included school contracts, excursions, and, in later years, holidays. They were a big part of the village, and people had a lot of enjoyment from trips they went on. The photo of Houchens stirred up memories, besides their normal day to day work in the fifties they started coach holidays. I think the first one was to Lynnmouth in Devon, this was in the summer after the flood, and although the hotels were open and the area cleaned up the damage done could still be seen. The party consisted of friends and people from the village so everybody on the bus knew each other. During their stay there would be day trips to different places in Devon. Later holidays included Llandudno in Wales, Morecombe and the Lake District, Northern Ireland, and Dunoon in Scotland, on this trip two coaches went. (If you read this Eric, remember the bus ride was better than the boat trip!) Later holidays were organised by George Harrison a teacher at Gaywood Park, who on leaving teaching started Harrison Holidays, so if anyone reading this has had a holiday with Harrison's this is where it all began. Another trip every year was to Blackpool to see the lights. The bus would leave on Friday morning, get to Blackpool by late afternoon, in the evening go to a show. Saturday, in the morning perhaps go to the shops, in the afternoon the Tower or a football match, this was when Blackpool were in the old first division and Matthews, etc. were playing. In the evening another show then on to the bus for a tour of the lights. Sunday home, a tiring weekend but a good one. All this was done in the days before motorways and although the buses and hotels were as good as you could get, it seems a lot different to what is expected today. There were a lot of coach firms in the area and like Houchen's a lot have gone, but Reg and Dora led the way with holidays .

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Greetings from the manse



I read recently a little article about a school motto that was worn on pupils' clothing, on the school's letter headings and, of course, carved above the main door. The motto was in Latin and translated meant, 'I listen, I look, I learn'. A very impressive appropriate message for a school but when it was selected many years ago no one had any idea what the words AUDIO, VIDEO, DISCO would one day mean in English, but we do today! These words are deeply embedded in popular culture through technology and recreation, and if I'm not really a disco person I marvel at the pleasure and entertainment level (if not always the quality and suitability) of the ever developing communication media.

This motto serves very well to remind us about Lent, the fast of forty days before Easter. Today we do not strictly observe the fasting requirements traditionally associated with keeping Lent. Generally this meant only one small meal a day with meat, fish and eggs being absolutely forbidden. Instead we try to give up something or other for this period to commune with Jesus who fasted in the wilderness for forty nights and days. Be warned however, some years ago I gave up tea and coffee and have never really taken them up again! For a Methodist that's willpower!

In this sense there is a sacramental dimension to what we do, in that outward and visible actions express inner invisible changes. Our Lent activities of prayer, study, reflection, fellowship and worship combine the outward and inward, the visible and invisible, as preparation for Holy week and the joyful celebration that Christ is Risen, and meets us in the risen life that is the heavenly Father's gift to us. Yes, LOOKING, LISTENING, LEARNING is a good motto and reminder for private and public devotion. It is our motto as Christ's people for Lent and beyond.

Why not make an effort to join a Lent Group to do some Disco! It will do your "street cred" and souls a power of good! There is an ecumenical group meeting on Wednesdays at 7.00pm during Lent.

With every blessing, KimNally.

The Ecumenical Group meetings are held on Wednesdays at 7pm The theme this year is Easter Hymns. The venues are the Parish Churches as follows:

- Feb 13 - Heacham - Michael Brock
- Feb 20 - Dersingham - Bp James Langstaff
- Feb 27 - Hunstanton - KimNally
- Mar 5 - Sandringham - John Bloomfield
- Mar 12 - Snettisham - Steve Davies



VILLAGE VOICE NEEDS AN EDITOR

If you like words and pictures, have some spare time and would like a creative challenge the Village Voice team would like to hear from you. You won't be working alone and unaided but you will be able to shape this magazine for the future.

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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 May 1903 edition and we will publish further extracts in future issues of the village voice.

THE CEASELESS FIGHT WITH FIRE.

A GLANCE AT SOME NEW FIRE BRIGADE APPLIANCES

BY F. M. HOLMES. *Author of "The Gold Ship," etc.*



ONE morning, a few years ago, London woke up to read the striking announcement: "First Rescue by the New Horse Fire-Escape!" Thereupon London rubbed its eyes, and asked: "What is this new contrivance?"

Not very long afterwards appeared another announcement - namely, that the new horse-escape had rescued life with remarkable promptitude at a fire in Goswell Road; and London nodded its head in great approval.

Then Brown said to Jones that he had seen one of these new escapes, and very smart it looked. And Jones replied to Brown that he, for his part, had noticed a great many more tablets bearing the letter "H" placed about the streets than formerly. What did they mean? Had they any-thing to do with the extinction of fire? . . .

Yes, they had; they meant Hydrants. And a hydrant, Brown believed, was something which could throw a jet of water on a fire without an engine.

Brown was right. A hydrant is an elbow-shaped pipe placed just beneath the pavement, and connected with the great water main below; the pressure in the main is so strong - probably about thirty-five pounds to the square inch, or a little more - that when the hydrant is opened and the hose attached the water rushes out in a great jet. Hydrants were not intended to supersede engines, but to afford a ready means for easily obtaining an ample supply of water. Nevertheless, a jet can be obtained from them for playing on a fire without an engine. Some hydrants are furnished with two necks, enabling two delivery hoses to be worked.

The system of planting hydrants all over the immense territory of the London County Council - an area of about a hundred and seventeen square miles - has been steadily followed ever since the Council came into existence. Thus, in 1889, there were 8,881, while the number has now increased

to more than 26,000. In order to enable this result to be accomplished the Council have had to call upon the Water Companies to give a continuous supply throughout their respective districts.

During the last few years several very important improvements have been proceeding in the London Fire Brigade-improvements which are no doubt illustrative of developments elsewhere. The new horse-escape was first introduced to the Brigade in July, 1897, and the first actual rescue of life by one of the new appliances took place in October, 1898.

The extension action of the escape is telescopic, and the gear can be easily worked by two men; More than fifty horse-escapes are in use in the Brigade, while a number of manual-escapes have remained.

But the question of length was specially brought before the public by the loss of life at a fire in the City in the summer of 1902; and the authorities took prompt action in the matter. Their escapes were not all of similar length; but the machines, ninety-five in number, which had previously reached to a height of only forty feet were fitted with "extension ladders," which enabled the contrivances to be used to a height of more than fifty feet for the purposes of saving life.

In August of that year officers and men might be seen daily undergoing instruction in the use of the improved machine at the headquarters of the Brigade in Southwark Bridge Road.. It may now be taken for granted that in any town where the buildings reach to any degree of height the fire-escapes should be made capable of extension to fifty feet, for the tendency seems to be to increase the height of urban edifices. Still further, the escape may be used as a water-tower if not required for saving life. By mounting the ladder with hose in their hands the firemen can direct a jet of water directly into the burning building, and possibly on to the source of the fire itself. When, therefore, persons flippantly criticise a fire brigade, and sneer at its officers for not employing a water-tower,, they should pause to inquire whether a lofty escape used in this manner is not equally, or even more efficient.

Yet another improvement in the fight with fire is the utilization of fire-alarmposts for telephonic purposes. Everyone must have noticed the short red posts by which in London an electric fire-alarman can be rung at once in the fire station; and now by means of an arrangement devised by the Chief Officer, a portable telephone can be plugged into the post by firemen; and a message can be telephoned from the fire by those on the spot to the station; instead of sending back the coachman of the engine, or escape, with a written message. The number of these fire-alarmposts has been continually increased, and gradually all are being adapted for telephonic messages.

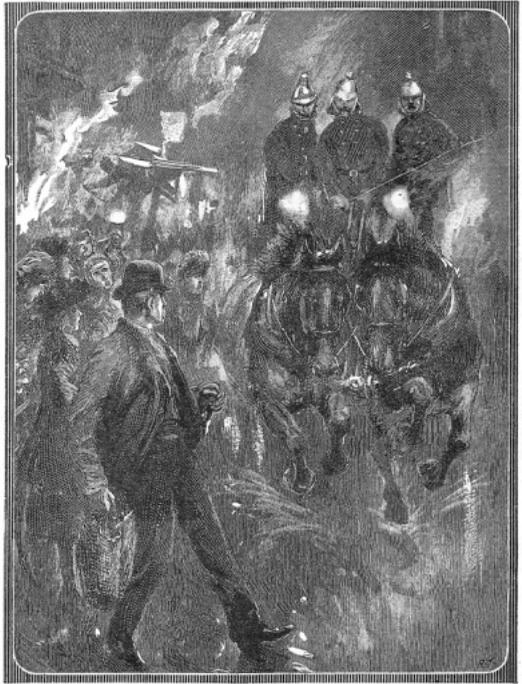
On the river a self-propelling fire-float had been introduced some years previously, the vessels used for this service were comparatively large, and carried both pumping and propelling machinery, but they could not be used effectively at all states of the tide. They were, moreover,, costly to maintain and to keep under steam. Therefore when Sir Eyre M. Shaw was Chief Officer, these large vessels were discarded and tugs substituted, drawing about nine feet of water and hauling fire-floats - that is, rafts carrying pumping-engines and floating in about two feet of water.

It would appear to be an obvious advantage to have a self-propelling fire-float capable of approaching close to the riverside, and the Chief Officer designed a craft of that description.

She is a twin-screw vessel, eighty feet in length with sixteen feet beam. The draft does not exceed two feet, and the speed is about ten knots an hour. In the fore part of the vessel are stationed pumps capable of throwing 1,250 gallons a minute. Delivery outlets are fitted on each bow and quarter so that the vessel can be manoeuvred even should the engine-power temporarily fail. The craft lies at the landing-stage, which the Council constructed at the Victoria Embankment near Blackfriars Bridge. Furthermore, two of the rafts carrying steam fire-engines, and drawing about two feet of water have been rendered self-propelling by apparatus for pumping jets of water through apertures in the stem and bows, while two of the tugs hitherto only used for towing purposes have been furnished with pumps for fire extinction. But, notwithstanding all these developments, mankind is sometimes beaten in his ceaseless fight with fire. Great damage is wrought to property and occasionally, sad to say, even life itself is lost. In face of such a foe, it seems incredible that men should not take every possible precaution, and yet it is doubtful if, for

instance, valuable public buildings, such as ancient churches; are adequately insured. Yet such buildings are liable to the attacks of fire as are other edifices; St. Mary's, Whitechapel, perished in the flames a few weeks after it was built. Archdeacons send out their papers of questions, but what if the answers be perfunctory? The real question is as to the adequacy of the insurance. A church may have a beautiful stained-glass window, or other valuable objects added to its structure, or its property, and yet the insurance remains unchanged, This surely is not good business management, to say the least.

But such an aspect of the subject does not primarily concern the fire brigades. With them rest the great question of appliances, of organisation, and of personal effort; continually face to face with the foe, they have to beat him down, and snatch victims from his fiery grasp; and while attention is given to the machinery of the fight, the men, we are assured, will continue to exhibit the same skill and bravery in the future as tradition assigns them to the past.



"FIGHTING THE FLAMES!"
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The Editor Thanks Neil Adams

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Some Of Which Are Show n Here



Prelude to Spring



Dersingham youth and community centre



My How Schools Change ; Terry Termite, Reporter

(The underground reporter who 'wood' love to stop 'boring'.)

It was sunny! It was hot! It was a Sunday! It was even a hot sunny Sunday in August. But that wasn't going to stop the children from going to the school. As I saw so many children and parents heading towards the school, I became curious. There wasn't much going on around where I live. Even in this modern age of multi-channel television, there wasn't much point in watching repeats of the repeats shown last week; so at last I decided to go to the school. Tessie must have seen the light in my eye, for just then she said, "Terry, will you take young Tommy out of this house for a little while? I can't get dinner answering all the questions he is throwing at me. Will I be glad when school restarts for the next school year! Believe me, I wish some public spirited citizen would ask for a law that made school be in session all year round. I'm worn out with all the children wanting to know how far is it to space? What makes a jet plane go so fast? How high is up? And all the other simple things in life that we adults just accept. Please Terry, get him out of the way so that I can get my breath.



Tessie dear, "I'd be glad to," I lied gallantly. I wasn't glad to at all, but it gave me a chance to find out what was going on. "Come on Tommy," I called, "Let's go over to the school."

"Okay Pop," he answered and before you could count to one, we were on our way. It didn't take long for us to discover that all the people had come to the school for the special village picnic. Soon we were having a great time watching all the big people and all the little people, as well as all the very little people having a good time. There were races, two-legged and three-legged, there was boule. So much was going on that it became difficult to report it all. How the children and the grown-ups all clapped and cheered as each of the contests took place. I was screaming and hollering with the rest when Tommy exclaimed, "Hey Pop, look, here comes our old head-teacher." "Don't be silly," I returned. "Retired head-teachers don't come to a village picnic." "Well maybe they don't, but she is here now." Sure enough there was the recently retired head-teacher smiling and laughing whilst talking to all the people. Just then there was an announcement over the PA system, "Would our retired head-teacher please come to the microphone?" The retired head-teacher did just that. So did I, for I didn't want to miss anything. I could tell from the look on her face that she was wondering what they wanted her for, but she didn't have to wait long. As soon as she arrived the parish councillors gave her the job of awarding the prizes to the winners of the contests. Some prizes were funny little hats, some were boxes of toffees and some of them were lollipops, not just plain lollipops but great big ones, almost as big as saucers. How I wished I could have won one of those! It would have kept all the little termites quiet for a week and Tessie and I would have peace and quiet for some hours of the day at least. When the last prize was awarded the head-teacher started to walk away, but the school governors stopped her for they had orchestrated the whole process. They had a prize too. At least it looked like a prize. A big box covered with pretty paper and decorated with ribbons. The chair of the school governors started to make an announcement and all the people listened. "What is it Pop?" Tommy asked about a dozen times. "How do I know, do you think I have x-ray eyes?" I answered rather testily, "Just keep still and listen and you may find out."



The governors' chairman was coming to the end of the announcement, "...and so as a token of our appreciation, the governors and the parents, past and present, give you this little gift hoping that it will always bring happy memories of your time at the village school!"

The retired head-teacher thanked them all and then opened the box. Inside was a blue book full of pictures. There were pictures of boys and girls; there were pictures of mothers and fathers; there were pictures of things that had happened through the years. The head-teacher went home surprised and happy. The rest of August passed by and the school reopened for a new school year and everyone welcomed and adapted to the new head-teacher.

Pen was put to paper by a retired governor with deep and heartfelt thanks to Mrs Jackie Austin for all the enthusiasm, guidance, patience and support for the Infant and Nursery School of Dersingham over the last 7 or is it 8 years. It was written with an abundance of poetic licence and an element of tongue in cheek. I wish Jackie a long and happy retirement and remind her that she will be sorely missed when she retires in July. God bless Jackie.



Len Mathews

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The refurbishment is complete. In just over twelve months we have achieved our goal and are delighted with the result. The total costs are approximately £50,000 and we wish to record our grateful thanks to all who have helped to raise this by donations including the Parish Council and by attending our various events. The Church premises are light, warm, comfortable and welcoming.

The rededication service on 15th January was attended by some of the contractors as well as friends from the village and the area.

We are not standing still, our next step is to renew the path round the Church and I am sure we will soon find something else to do!

We look forward to seeing you at any of our services and various events:

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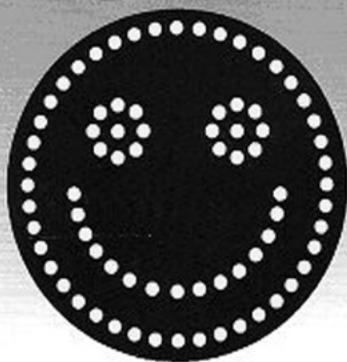
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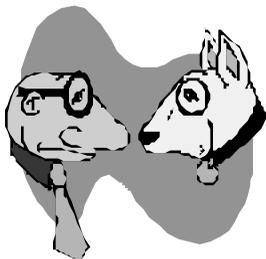
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It's Not The Dog's Fault!!



A member of the Village Task Force took responsibility for clearing up the mess left by the inconsiderate dog owner at the junction of Centre Vale and Post Office Road, not for the first time in recent months. During these winter months the quantity of dog mess left in the village has increased greatly. Don't spoil it for everyone, use the bins or take it home!

Editor's Note; The following is an extract from the current Dersingham Data (Page 57)

Dog Fouling

Dersingham is now covered by the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act. This means that any person in charge of a dog is guilty of an offence if they fail to clean up after their dog on the Recreation Ground, the Sports Field or any area alongside a highway within a speed limit of 40 mph or less. Anyone found guilty of the offence is liable to a fine of up to £1000. The Parish Council maintains a large number of 'doggie' bins around the village (sites are marked on the street map enclosed with this edition of Dersingham Data). Anyone walking a dog is asked to place any mess that their dog makes in one of the bins. Plastic doggie bags are available from the Parish Council office and cost £1.50 per 100. These are preferable to supermarket bags as they are much smaller and do not prematurely fill the bins.

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Dersingham Judo Club

We at Dersingham Judo Club would like to report on progress made since we opened just over sixteen months ago in September 2006.

Having held weekly sessions (Monday evenings, 5.00 to 7.00 pm at St George's School) during this time, membership has expanded to include nearly forty children and about a dozen adults; approximately a half of them are always in attendance at each practice.

One rather unusual, but pleasing, feature of a provincial club such as ours is that we have now got three black belts to help with tuition; normally there is only one. (Remember in judo, only an adult can attain this rank; it is not like some other martial arts, which give them away for much less achievement to eager children). One of the high spots last year was our visit to a course run by former World Champion and double Olympic medallist, Neil Adams. He is hoping to visit us at our Summer School, which will take place in Hunstanton, at the end of July.

Another high point was when we attended the National Junior Squad trials. We had two students selected to train with this squad, a great achievement for all of us. They are now hoping for a place in the team which will travel to Europe in a few months.

Most recently we had a very successful Christmas Party, which went well mainly due to the efforts of many of our parents. We are looking forward to organising more social events, such as BBQs, in the summer.

Our club is open to people of all ages, and about a third of our students are girls and ladies. Although it is an Olympic sport, with many ambitious young competitors in our club, we do have a great deal of fun. Most of our students have passed their first grades, some their second, and with time I am sure we will see them go on to really good things. Eventually perhaps, reaching that coveted, and often elusive, black belt.

Should anyone wish to visit us, or join in, please contact me on 01485 542888.

Brian Poucher – 2nd Dan



Pictured left to right

Back row

"Sandy" 2nd dan

Terry Whelan 7th dan

Neil Adams MBE 8th dan

Tony Eadson 7th dan

Front row

Allan Jones 8th dan

"Mary" 2nd dan

Brian Poucher 2nd dan

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THE ROAD TO THE BEACH

By Elizabeth Fiddick

In many of the old documents that I have looked through or read about there are frequent references to the old street names of this village. Chalkgate, Haresgate, Streetgate, Ffychamway, are just a few. One document records, "*A path by the swamp leading to Doddshill called Wadgate.*" Unfortunately no maps accompany the documents to positively identify the positions of these ancient roads. One of the oldest track ways here is of course Sugar Lane. A document of 1780 which describes the roads leading to the two mills which once stood high above the village, records, "*One other road, being an ancient lane, beginning at the S.E. corner of the yard of Francis Hill and proceeding in a North direction to and over the land allotted to Dixon Hoste, till it joins the last mentioned road near the said mill in the possession of John Stanton for the use of persons going to and from the said mills.*" Another ancient track way which is still walked today is The Drift opposite Manor Road and now running alongside the Mountbatten Estate. Its full name, Center's Drift, used to be on a road sign there when I first came to the village. This track used to run unimpeded from the village down to the marshes and the sea. In centuries past the sea came much closer to the village than it does now. There is a document in the Record Office which gives, "*a survey of all the ports, creeks and landing places within the countie of Norfolk.*" It describes our village in this way, "*There is a haven or cricke called Dersingham Haven to which sayde town adjoyneth and belonging having habitation and householders therein to the numbers LXXV and ye shippes and other vessels yet lade or unlade there are licensed by warrent.*" Armstrong's History of 1781 describes the area in a very picturesque way. "*Beside the Ouse there are several rivulets of less note which trickle down the cheeks of this rustic vale and influx themselves with the sea at or near Lynn. A small brook rises and passes into the Lynn Chamel in Dersingham parish.*" Armstrong also noted that a much larger stream ran near Castle Rising and that it had at one time been navigable for large vessels. Sir Henry Spelman referred to Castle Rising as a "*famous port.*" In 1328 Edward 111 ordered one of his Admirals Waiter de Mauncey to return a Dersingham boat he had seized unjustly. In 1338 fishing protection was granted to one Martin, son of Peter Scott of Dersingham and another villager, Adam, for "*two little ships of Martin and Adam made for fishing in the port of Dersingham.*" Henry V in 1415 included a Dersingham captain John Goolde in a commission to police the seas and attack the King's enemies. Henry VI granted sailors from Dersingham the freedom of the seas. A licence was granted to, "*Alan Lawrys of Dersingham*" with one "*dogger*". A dogger was a two masted Dutch fishing boat. In 1560 a ship called "William" based in Dersingham was employed in transporting corn to the North and returning with coal. The same document records another boat belonging to John Bary and William Nevet employed for the same purpose. There are an additional 3 mariners and 2 fishermen listed here. We know that the Pell family of Dersingham Hall had several ships which operated not only from the port of Lynn but also from Wolferton. The Drift was the road way down to the coast. It would have passed close by Gelham Manor House which once stood just at the back of Mountbatten Estate. At one time the remains of its moat could be clearly seen but unfortunately that has now disappeared during the building of the estate. It is possible that The Drift is the track named in an old document as, "*Morgate that led to Gelhamhall Moore.*" Dersingham church once had a steeple on top of which was a lantern to help guide the sailors in from the sea. It was during the seventeenth century that the sea began its slow retreat from the village and the spire of the church was finally removed in 1798. The marshes were a great resource for the village. Arthur Young, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, noted in his description of this area the bullocks that were fattened on the marshes. A wiry grass called "flat" was grown of which the cattle were very fond. There were canals that drained the soggy black soil and pumps tumbled by windmills forced the water into certain channels. It is possible that the windmill that once stood near the station was of this kind. When the railway came in 1862 Dersingham station was equipped to deal with the conveyance of coal, cattle and farm produce. The old track way at The Drift was now not so



A sketch showing St Nicholas Church prior to 1798 at which time it had a steeple

convenient and the need for a better road from the station over the marshes to the beach was demanded. When the villagers met together in 1901 to discuss how to mark the coronation of Edward VII the construction of a road from the station to the beach was one of the first suggestions. However one of the owners of the land needed Sir H. LeStrange said he could not give the village title to the land for the construction of

a road. Also there were no promises of subscriptions for such an expensive project so the project failed. It was finally agreed to raise a subscription to place a clock in the church tower. The sum of £20. 6s.0d was duly raised from the villagers. The contributions ranged from just 3d to a grand £5. 400 silver Coronation medals were given to village children of 14 years and under and the clock was installed in the Tower. It was set going on December 22nd by The Prince of Wales. I wonder how many of the medals are still to be found in family collections. Ten years later in 1911 when the villagers met to discuss how to mark the coronation of George V the first suggestion was once again the construction of a road to the beach. Although there was strong support for this at every meeting it foundered on the same two problems, the rights to the land and the expense. Mrs. Tylden of Ingoldisthorpe was not willing to release the land for that purpose. Also the King would have to be approached and the villagers thought it was not right to ask him to provide the means for commemorating his own coronation. There was also the problem of how the road would be maintained afterwards. A Mr. Bartlett had worked out a preliminary costing. Allowing for a road of two miles with material at 7s. 6d a yard the total would be £ 1500. This did not include fencing, the cost of the land or legal charges.

This announcement was met by whistles of amazement and was headlined in the local press "Dersingham's £1 500 Road" Mr. Bullman observed that it was perfectly silly to talk about making a road to the beach as Dersingham had no foreshore and no right to the beach when it got there. The suggestion that all the work could be done by the local labourers was given short shrift. An anonymous voice from the back of the hall shouted. *"You speak for yourself. It's quite enough to work from 5 in the morning to 7 at night."* So the road scheme foundered once again. There were other suggestions put forward at the meetings. The most serious was establishing and maintaining a nurse in the village. There had been several bad cases of illness and the Rev. Lewis thought there was an urgent need for a nurse whose services would be at the disposal of the poor. He thought that £60 a year would support a nurse. This scheme, surprisingly, did not prove popular. In fact one villager voiced the opinion that the nurse would probably expect to be waited on hand and foot and be provided with a house and uniform.

Moreover what would she do in a working man's house? *"Would she do any cleaning up?"* There seems to have been a shared opinion that the nurse would really only benefit the better off. Another suggestion considered for a while was a swimming pool at The Emblems the house opposite The

Feathers. Although there was agreement that it was an attractive idea it was finally considered impractical.

I suspect some villagers became rather bored with all the arguing to and fro. Mr. Dyble suggested a road through Centre Vale but the fact that he lived there was not lost on the meeting. Needless to say it was not carried although the present day residents of the area might wish that it had been. Another restless villager suggested that as many residents drove donkey carts and had pig sties that they should have a pig and donkey show. Although this caused much laughter it was not voted on. However Mrs. Tylden, although not able to give the village the land for the road, did make a very generous donation for the building of the Church Institute Hall which was duly completed and opened in 1912. It would be many years before the topic of the road came up again. In his Millennium interview Geoffey Rolfe recalled his early life working on the land in the village. He stated that the only way down to the marshes resource and good access to them was essential. Thus finally a concrete road was built from the Station down to the shingle banks.

Geoffey Rolfe remembered its construction vividly. As a youngster he was employed on the marshes as a bird scarer. *"I had a pair of clappers made..... You waved them backwards and forwards to keep the crows off the seed I used to see the Italian prisoners of war making the marsh road that is now the concrete road They lived in huts down on the beach. They were brought there every day by lorry. I used to see them cooking on the side of the road They'd be cooking in billy cans. There were English Officers looking after them."* Once the road was completed several different companies worked at extracting the shingle which was used on the runways of the airfields. The remains of the light rail track that was built to help in this work can still be found as you walk along the paths from Dersingham through to Snettisham beach. Once the war was over the work was stopped as it was severely weakening the bank and the risk of flooding was a distinct possibility.

This of course was realised in the 1953 disaster. Mr. Rolfe recalled using the concrete road after the war and that at 12 o'clock each Saturday dinnertime Dan Seaman used to shut and lock the gates so that only a footpath could be used. So that is how the concrete road down to the beach finally came to be built. The whole saga reminds me a little of the problems in the more recent past connected to the building of a certain by-pass.



An aerial view of the concrete road to Dersingham 'beach'

A Little History Lesson

This may or may not be factual, but nevertheless could be. It was received by an e-mail sent to my former colleague Stella Caunt in 2006 and passed on to me by her for publication. It is headed:

Stuff I Didn't Know I Didn't Know! Some Facts I Bet You Didn't Know!!

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg."

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October)! Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig.' Today we often use the term "here comes the Big Wig" because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.



In the late 1700s, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today we use the expression or title "Chairman" or "Chairman of the Board."

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scar by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, "mind your own bee's wax." Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term "crack a smile." In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt. Therefore the expression "losing face."

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced,' wore a tightly tied lace.

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' Top avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't "playing with a full deck."

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were telephones, TVs or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs and bars. They were told to "go sip some ale" and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. "You go sip here" and "You go sip there." The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and thus we have the term 'gossip.'

At local taverns, pubs and bars, people often drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A barmaid's was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close

attention and remember who was drinking 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts', hence the term "minding your P's and Q's."

In the heyday of sailing ships, all warships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem... how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few land lubbers realise that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." (All this time you thought that this was an improper expression, didn't you.)



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No Couch Potato??

By Kathy Jordan © 5 November 2007



Now that I am an O.A.P. –
No 'couch potato' will I be,
All Norfolk I would like to see –
With my bus pass I can go for real!
Soon using it for further afield –
From John O' Groats to Huddersfield?? –
With discounts on tour spots to view,
I'll be laughing in the barking queue –
But a novice in this pension lark –
Me and my savings may soon part –

Bills eating up my meagre wealth –
If on the slippery slope of health??
Free prescriptions are so very nice,
Or Xmas dinners at half price,
But with many years to go – I hope,
I'll maybe end up stony-broke!!
So I'll cherish each and every day –
Trying to keep old age at bay –
Testing fate – I'll swear to be –
A lithe and lively O.A.P!!!
Hopefully!!



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My Patch

By Gardenwatcher

Wed. Early December and the wind howls and the rain lashes and I really have no inclination to go outside. Sleep is the only option!

Sat. One of the fat balls they put out to attract the birds for me, has disappeared. Naturally the finger of suspicion was pointed at me until the mauled remains were located near the new Tree Peony and re-hung on the feeding pole. No apology was forthcoming of course. Weather still foul!

Thur. Once again the fat ball has gone. A rummage around the TP proved fruitless. Much later it's net bag was found 40 feet away in the drive sans contents, so a substantial thief is around the patch. More threats about my idleness and general attitude have been made. YAAAAWWWWN!

Thur. A whole week of cold, dismal weather since my last entry. He has made no attempt at gardening and frankly, neither have I save for a little top dressing under the Camelia. This hitherto fine specimen is looking very yellow about the leaf at the moment despite his watering on some jallop for acid lovers. Christmas decorations are now being erected affording me some potential fun . . . whoops I got my claw caught in some tinsel etc., etc.

Fri. An unexpected bonus today when a pot of double cream spontaneously leapt from a recently placed bag of shopping and burst upon hitting the floor. I was ordered to finish the cleanup operation and afterwards was praised for my thoroughness and attention to detail.

Sun. The Xmas goose has arrived. Another challenge! Can I get it to behave as the cream did?

Christmas Day. Did my usual performance of believing there to be some prey in the heap of discarded wrapping paper which seems to amuse them, but instead of the helping of roasted fowl I was expecting in return, they merely squeezed a packet of turkey and veg mush into my bowl. Gave them the "epaul froid" for the rest of the day. Have yet to topple the tree.

Thur. He was out in the garden cutting back Fuchsias. Some of these have yet to succumb to winter's ravages and are still covered in green leaves. The same goes for the Geraniums he has not brought in. Still the worst is yet to come!

Sun. Interesting development on the bird bait front. The feeder of grain that has been in place for over a year without any avian interest (contents freshened from time to time) has suddenly started doing business. I spotted a sparrow on it today. However I was unable to sample the creature.

Tue. A new year and he is removing the last of the Runner Bean stems but is once again leaving the roots in place. About 70% of the ones he left in 2006 came up again last summer but it was such a poor year that the efficacy of this cheeseparing method is yet to be established. I know that any savings he makes will not be reflected in the size of my meals!

Fri. A large flock of what appear to be Jackdaws has been hanging around today. They are noisy devils and seem to lack purpose so quite what their interest in my area is I do not know. The supreme beings have been away for a couple of nights so mealtimes are better at the moment, the temporary handler being easily comed still!

Mon. Already lots of bulbs are coming into growth, buds are swelling and his wretched grass is still growing. No doubt the mowing monster will be out soon. The water level in the wildlife pond has dropped dramatically. He did drop an electric drill and a power screwdriver into it last summer so maybe it is punctured. It does, however, mean that the fish within are more easily viewed/caught. I think he will put off investigation until the spring—and he accuses me of being soft!

Sat. A remarkably uneventful week has just passed. Some wind had caused an Italian Cypress to bust it's lashing and lie down but he was out tying it back up in today's sunshine. I think I will make it my stopping tree of choice for 2008. They have been animated by the discovery that Phil Collins has a house in the village, according to Wikipedia, and the hunt is now on. Little things...

Tue. Brown bin day (this week's highlight). Stimulation is hard to come by, routine patrols around the patch merely gets me wet with a possible assault from flying branches and other windborne detritus. Five greenfinches briefly visited but left before we were properly introduced. I think I will sit on his seed catalogue to annoy him. Still it will soon be baby bird season - gives me something to dream of.

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Bog News

February 2008



Oblong leaved sundew

With spring just around the corner, one can almost feel the anticipation in the air. The busy, winter flocks of redpolls, bramblings and siskins are preparing to leave the reserve to head back to their northern breeding grounds. Their activity noticeably increases in advance of this and they gather in chattering flocks among the highest sprigs of birch, occasionally bursting up into the sky on whirling wings to avoid the passing attentions of the local sparrowhawks. Just as swallows gathering on telegraph wires in late summer herald the autumn, these bustling flocks of finches on the

heath signal the end of winter.

Sometimes, if conditions for their departure are favourable, these wintering flocks depart the reserve on their homeward voyage, before the summer breeding birds arrive back at the bog, giving the bog an eerie, deserted feel. However, the first sunny days of March quickly change this as the plants burst back into life and rich greens replace the sombre tones of winter.

Springtime also signals an end to the bulk of the work to clear the regenerating scrub from the open heathland and bog.

This winter, contractors, volunteers and staff have been hard at work clearing dense tangles of scrub that have regenerated across the bog. By periodically clearing this scrub and then allowing it to regrow, we are able to maximise the variety of conditions present on the bog, each phase of its growth benefiting different species. Clearing it will allow the sensitive bog plants to recolonise the area and flourish until they are gradually 'shaded out' by the developing overstorey of scrub which, in turn, provides a home to nesting birds such as grasshopper warbler.

Another species that has benefited from the clearance of the scrub from around the ditch running around the old landfill site at the northern end of the reserve is the water vole (the creature that inspired the creation of



Clearing the scrub

'Ratty' from Wind in the Willows). Seldom seen, these harmless, attractive little creatures advertise their presence by plopping into the water upon detecting the approach of a visitor. As well as being part of making their escape, the plopping noise is also intended to alert other water voles in the vicinity to the presence of danger, just as rabbits thump their hind feet on the earth as a warning to others of present danger).

The more observant visitor to the reserve may have noticed that we have been busy erecting bat boxes and bird nest boxes. The total of 68 boxes are result of the hard work of Chris Bryant, one of the reserve's hundred or so voluntary wardens.



As the weather warms up, another springtime phenomenon occurs - the grass snakes and common lizards that have hibernated underground throughout the winter emerge. Unfortunately, whilst there are no confirmed records of adder from the reserve, some people's fear of snakes results in many harmless grass snakes being killed each year.

Not only is this illegal, but it is also depleting the remaining small population of this beautiful creature on the reserve – of the few remaining places locally where they can still frequently be seen.

Ash Murray
Reserve Manager
Natural England



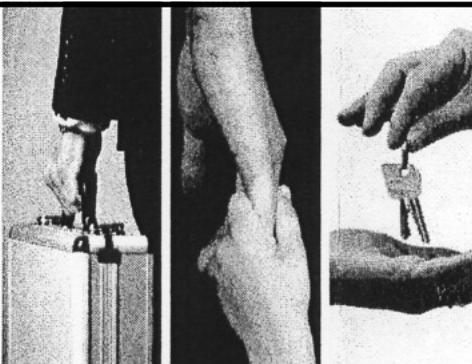
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Who's having a good time?



Joan Scolah gave us these pictures taken at the dances that she and her husband Marshall used to organise in the sixties.

The lowershots seem to be in the St Nicholas church hall but who are the people, what and when was the occasion?

Dare you own up?

196?



196?

DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Wed 13 Feb		West Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Office	Budgen's Car Park
Wed 13 Feb	7.00 pm	Heacham Parish Church	Ecumenical Group Meeting	Ecumenical Group
Sat 16 Feb	10.00 am	Ders Methodist Church	Coffee Morning	Ders Methodist Church
Wed 20 Feb	7.00 pm	Dersingham Parish Church	Ecumenical Group Meeting	Ecumenical Group
Fri 22 Feb		Hunst & District Lions Club	Race Night	Searle's Club House
Wed 27 Feb	7.00 pm	Hunstanton Parish Church	Ecumenical Group Meeting	Ecumenical Group
Thu 28 Feb	7.30 pm	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	AGM & A Year at Holme	Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall
Wed 5 Mar	7.00 pm	Sandringham Parish Church	Ecumenical Group Meeting	Ecumenical Group
Wed 12 Mar	Mid-day	Dersingham Village Voice	Deadline for Contributions and Articles	Parish Council Office Manor Road
Wed 12 Mar		West Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Office	Budgen's Car Park
Wed 12 Mar	7.00 pm	Snettisham Parish Church	Ecumenical Group Meeting	Ecumenical Group
Fri 14 March	6.30 pm	Friends of St Nicholas Church	David Battie FRSA Dinner	Sandringham Visitor Cen
Sat 15 Mar	10.00 am	Ders Methodist church	Coffee morning	Ders Methodist Church
Thu 17 March	5 pm to 7 pm	Safer Neighbourhood Team	Surgery	St Cecilia's Church
Thu 27 to Sat 29 Mar	10am to 5 pm	St Nicholas Church	Arts & Crafts Festival	St Nicholas Church & Hall
Thur 3 April		Dersingham Village Voice	Publication Date	
Sat 26 Apr	9.00 am to 12.00 noon	St Nicholas Church	Grand Book Sale	St Nicholas Church Hall
Thu 22 to Mon 26 May	10.00 am to 5.00 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Annual Flower Festival	Dersingham Methodist Church
25 & 26 May	2.00 to 6.00 pm	St Nicholas Church	Dersingham Open Gardens	Dersingham Village
Sat 29 Sept	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Strolling Players Concert	St Nicholas Church

DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS

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 Antediluvian 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 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 and Mid-day Meal	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Wednesday	10.00 to 11.00am	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 Manor Road
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
2nd & 4th Weds of every month	7.30 to 9.00 pm	Dersingham Fellowship	Prayer and Praise and Bible Study	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
3rd Wednesday of the Month	7.15 to 10.00 pm	Dersingham Evening Women's Institute	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
Every Thursday	10.3 am to 3.00 pm	North West Norfolk Phobbbies 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 7.00 pm	1st Sandringham Guides	Unit Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre,, Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.00 pm	1st Dersingham Scouts	Group Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.30 pm	Norfolk Army Cadet Force	Sandringham Detachment Meeting	The Drill Hall, Dodds Hill
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Badminton Club	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thurs Sept -June	2 pm	Park House Hotel	Rubber Bridge	Park House Hotel
1st Thursday of Month		Dersingham Flower Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
2nd Thursday of 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
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 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; Wednesdays 13 February and 12 March 2008 - when Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forder 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 456 4567**

Advertising in Village Voice

The Editorial Team would like to thank all of those who so generously support our magazine by placing advertisements in it, for without the income so generated there would be a possibility of the publication ceasing to exist. With this in mind it would be helpful if you were to support those who do advertise, and to then let them know that you used their services because you saw their promotion in our magazine. For those readers who perhaps provide a local service but who do not currently advertise with us, you may consider a fee of from £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 Anita Moore, Dersingham Parish Council, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH **by Wednesday 12 March 2008** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465. E-mail — anita.dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk

Articles for publication in the December edition of Village Voice must reach The Editor c/o Dersingham Parish Council, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH or e-mail; anita.dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 12 March 2008 for publication on Wednesday 2 April**. (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 for this edition consists of

Editor: - Bob Tipling

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

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

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

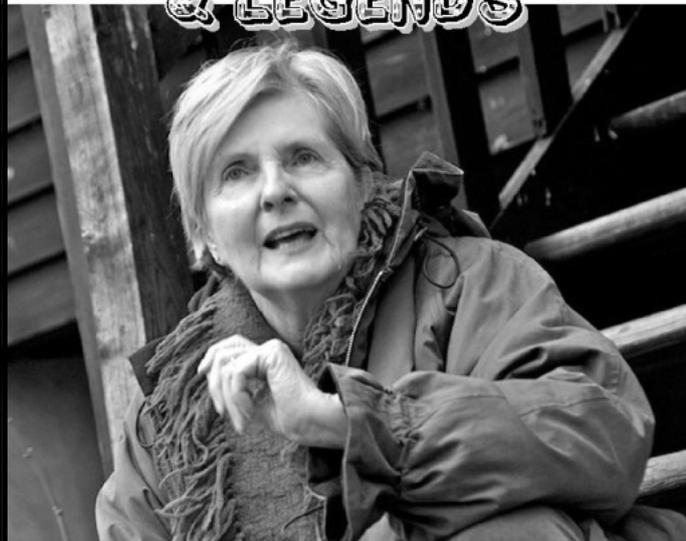
Tuesday March 4th

Polly Howat

The Travelling Storyteller

tells of

NORFOLK FOLK LAW & LEGENDS



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

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Angela Ruthven

Artisan Chocolatier

Tuesday April 1st

CHOCOLATE

All you ever wanted to know about Chocolate!

The history. How to make chocolates

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St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £4.00 (including a tasting session),
refreshments. Raffle