

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



"Nothing nasty in the woodshed"
Page 40



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Editor's Notes

It's been a bad year for lilly beetles in my garden, that is from the beetles' point of view. Bright red, they hang on the underside of lilly leaves but are easily spotted once you get your eye in. They chomp their way through the poor plants leaving unsightly holes in the leaves but are greatly appreciated by my single Blue Orfe when I pick them off and chuck them in the pond. The lucky fish has had dozens this year. I originally bought five of these fish but not only are they appealing to herons they also have a habit of jumping out of the pond, usually when there is nobody around to pop them back. When I bought them I did think, after I had told the shopkeeper what I wanted, that I could have just mentioned the title of a new Enid Blyton story.

The church hall has had a makeover inside and it is a great improvement. I did, however, glance at the underside of a table that was leaning against a wall to see the words - St Nicholas Church, please wipe after use. So I will be watching on Sundays to see the faithful swarming over the building with damp cloths complying with this request.

Elizabeth Fiddick has been delving onto the history of Hillington Hall. She tells me that whilst there is loads about its origins there is very little about recent times. If you have any memories, photos etc., do get in touch.

There has been no response to my request for recipes as yet but perhaps the looming festive season may tease a few out of you. There must be something you would like to share.

Quite a few streets in the village are named after past residents so who was "Clayton" of Clayton Close? What did he or she do?

I went to see RAF Marham Exercising the Freedom of the Borough at the beginning of September and very impressive it was. With Tuesday Market Place cleared of traffic some 80 RAF personnel marched in from beside the Globe accompanied by a RAF band. I was amazed at just how loud they were as it's a big space. Being surrounded by buildings helped and individual drum beats, which picked out individual bits of drill, echoed around adding atmosphere. The Mayor performed an inspection and finding no fault - what would happen if he had? - addressed the gathering. After a bit more speech making the airmen and women did a lap of the marketplace before marching off bidding farewell to the substantial crowd watching. Well worth a look next year.

We are having a new Village Sign made, partly to mark the Diamond Jubilee and partly because the existing one is going rotten. Carved in the village, the new sign will be unveiled by Dr Simon Thurley, of English Heritage, at 2pm on the 6th of October with refreshments afterwards in the Social Club. Do come along for a look. We will then be drying out the old sign and preserving it for posterity. Does anyone know what happened to the last one?

And so to the magazine. Hopefully lots for everyone again but a couple of regulars have missed the deadline so will have to be held over. The deadline is important as the proof reading must be done before the work goes to the printer where it is booked into a slot in their busy schedule. Some of you do cut it a bit fine with articles. Little snippets can usually be squeezed in at the last moment but longer pieces, particularly those that will benefit from colour, really need to be with us a week before the cut off. Those that did make it include Elizabeth Fiddick who continues her exploration of local houses with Hillington Hall, an article on the Sandringham Sawmill which is actually in the parish - note Bob on the cover picture who retires as we publish, another fascinating look into antiques and all the other usual suspects for your delectation.

Please note that the Dersingham Data deadline is October the 3rd so do check entries and the Regular Events list for accuracy. Otherwise you must wait until the spring.

Sorry, I'm going to mention Christmas. Do let us know your happenings for publicising..Get them in by the 7th of November, if you want a good crowd that is! □

Tony

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Dear Village Voice

Silver Jubilee

I think the top photo has been taken with a view towards Sandringham Hill from the playing field, you can see the rhododendrons and Sandringham Woods in the background. The lower photo has one of the Feather's Hotel bay windows as shown on page 71 on Dersingham Evening W I photo.

At the time of the photos the houses at the entrance to the playing fields had not been built. I am pretty certain I am right about this because I lived at the Feathers Hotel from 1962 until 1969.

Jacky Dingle (formerly of Woodwynd, Doddshill Road)

(I think the Feathers is right but rather the entrance porch as it is a bit wider than the bay windows. Ed.)

And more

Now that the Queen's Diamond Jubilee has passed I had a look back at what happened in the village for the Silver Jubilee. A committee was formed of representatives of village organisations to promote a programme of events to celebrate the event. The chairman was my father Wallace Twite. *Sunday 29 May*, Combined Churches in Songs of Praise at the church, with the bells being rung to welcome everyone.

Mon 30 May, Old Time dancing and Modern Sequence at the Church Hall.

Wed 1 June, Dersingham Schools to entertain on the Sports Ground, Dancing and a gymnastic display with refreshments for the children after.

Thur 2 June, Jubiliana, a Victorian evening at the Church Hall wear victorian dress if possible.

Fri 3 June, Sports Club Dance at Church Hall with Bar.

Sat 4 June, Jubiliana again same place same time.

Sun 5 June, Special service at church.

Mon 6 June, Jubilee Exhibition of historical pieces and other art forms loaned by residents, in the Scout H Q. In evening Bonfire on Playing Field.

Tues 7 June, Carnival and Fete arranged by Sports Club and Cricket Club, childrens sports and competitions. Also a Bowls tournament at the Institute Bowls Club for the Silver Jubilee Trophy.

That was a programme of events with something for everyone and was well attended. In a foreword in the events programme which Wallace wrote I will quote the last paragraph. "One hopes we shall become a more united village which would make it easier to accomplish more for the benefit of all." Did that hope become reality?

Also in the foreword is a list of changes the village has seen in 25 years. The installation of street lights, the Seniors Club was formed, housing estates were built - Manor Side, Valley Rise, council houses and bungalows at Dodds Hill and housing for the Police and District Nurse. After years of hard work raising the money the Sports Ground Pavilion and the Scout and Guide HQ were built. The library and grouped homes were built and mains sewerage was installed. One big loss was the closing of the railway line.

What changes in the next 35 years. The Mountbatten and Sandringham View Estates and Catholic Church were built along with other small developments which have taken most of the spare land in the village. The Fire Station was built on Dodds Hill Road and the village got its much needed By Pass. The new Health Centre is up and running. Most of the old village business and trades people disappeared but new ones took their place and the village is well served for most things. With a lot of fund raising and hard work the derelict British Legion Hall was turned into the Social Club. Thanks to Malcom Bullock the Old Hall which everyone thought was ready for the bulldozer was saved and became the Gamekeepers and is now apartments; it would have been a shame to see this fine old building disappear.

What has the village lost. The Primary school closed and became the Community Centre which is now closed, a new school was built in Chapel Road. the Dun Cow and White Horse closed with Budgens and Jubilee Court taking their place. The old school is to be knocked down which is a shame as it is still basically a sound building, with the whole site due for development with hindsight

perhaps this would have been the place to put a village hall. This project seems to have gone quiet.

The village lost the use of the shingle pits to the RSPB after a long fight by Dersingham and Snettisham Councils; the footpath which went over a causeway through the middle of the pits was destroyed by a storm and permission was refused to reinstate the path in its original position, it being diverted round the pits, the combined weight of RSPB, NCC and landowners overcoming long standing local rights.

Now that the fen is part of a protected reserve the rights of locals are denied. With most of the activity being Wolferton end I cannot see why villagers cannot still have the right of access over Dersingham Fen. A lot of long standing rights to villagers are being given away and once lost cannot be got back. Large areas around the village which villagers had access to are slowly being lost. Some of these rights go back a long way, it's up to the Parish Council and Trustees as guardians of parish rights to preserve them.

My family like most of the old village families through work and marriage have moved on, and when my generation has gone that will be the end of a period of time where we have seen a lot of changes but it will be new faces and ideas taking the village on.

Bernie Twite

Teenagers Coffee Club

When I arrived at Dersingham Social Club for the teenagers coffee club (ages 11+) I received a very warm welcome from everyone. Signing up was quick and easy. There are many activities to do e.g. darts, pool, Wii games and board games like Twister and Monopoly. It only costs a pound to get in but if you are prone to being peckish then I would advise bringing extra money for tuck. I enjoyed my night very much and I had great fun meeting new people and playing games. There are no set activities at the club so you can choose how to spend you time there. I would highly recommend going to this club as it is great fun. It is held at Dersingham Social Club in Lynn Road on every Tuesday evening between 6 and 9 (hours may change in the winter) all through the year. **And don't forget, invite your friends.**

Molly May Harrod-Green aged 13

Sunshine House

I was interested to read in the August issue in Dick Melton's article about the Kellogg House. West Norfolk must have been very lucky in this competition run by Kellogg's.

I was working as a District Nurse for a King's Lynn Surgery in the 70's and a house that I visited at Middleton (on the corner of the turning off the A47 towards Fair Green) was also won in the same competition. Thanks for a very interesting village publication.

Kathy Carter

<p>Where is it?</p> <p>Who is it?</p> <p>This ? is within 10 miles of Dersingham</p>		<p>Sudoku 25 solution</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>1</td><td>9</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>9</td><td>6</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>6</td><td>9</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>7</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>8</td><td>2</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>8</td><td>2</td><td>9</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>8</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	1	9	5	6	7	2	4	3	8	7	8	3	1	4	5	9	6	2	4	2	6	8	9	3	5	1	7	2	1	4	3	8	9	7	5	6	8	6	9	2	5	7	1	4	3	5	3	7	4	1	6	8	2	9	6	5	8	9	2	4	3	7	1	3	4	1	7	6	8	2	9	5	9	7	2	5	3	1	6	8	4
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CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE (CBHC) PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) NEWS

From: Tom Morris, PPG Committee

Annual General Meeting.

The AGM was reasonably well attended with a good representation of patients, clinical and nursing staff, management and administration. The chairman, Mrs Vanessa Blythe, highlighted the PPG and CBHC activities for the past year and gave an indication of what events and enhancement of patient services were expected in the future. The Treasurer summarised the PPG's financial situation and indicated that the income from various sources had been £2600 over the year but that the PPG had spent over £4000 in the past year in providing enhancement to patient services. Nevertheless, there remained a healthy balance in the accounts.

Sisters Gillian McCowen and Sally Pemment demonstrated the value of PPG support by giving a short presentation on cardiovascular equipment purchased by the PPG. A fully automated 24 hour Blood Pressure Monitor had recently been bought together with 10 Blood Pressure Monitors which patients with already diagnosed cardiovascular problems could operate themselves. Such an additional facility is of major benefit to patients and clinical and nursing staff of the CBHC and one which is available to very few other practices.

The thorny issue of making appointments was addressed by the meeting and the practice management stated that patients had not taken as much advantage of the new 24 hour automated telephone appointments as expected. This facility, together with the internet on-line system, is an excellent facility, especially for booking appointments further ahead. The procedure is simple, allows you to make an appointment at any time of day or night for up to a month ahead and saves you the hassle of going to the surgery and possibly waiting for it to open. All you need to have available is your date of birth and your telephone number and the ability to press the appropriate key on your phone in response to the questions asked. The procedure is as follows:

1. Dial 01553 696888 and you will be asked to press the appropriate key for the surgery at which you are registered. **Key No. 1** is for Carole Brown
2. You will now be asked to enter your date of birth in the format **DDMMYY**, e.g. **120635**
3. Next you will be asked to enter your **telephone number**, e.g. **01485 999999**
4. Then you will now be asked whether this is a **new appointment in which case press 1 or to check or cancel an appointment press 2 or to speak to a receptionist press 4**
5. You will then be asked whether you are content to see **any available doctor in which case press 1, to see a male doctor press 2 or to see a female doctor press 3**
6. You will then be offered an appointment as requested.

What could be simpler? Try it for yourselves.

The Parish Council had requested that the PPG consider providing seating in the lobby area of the CBHC for those arriving before the main reception area was open. It was agreed that this was not practicable because it could be a health and safety hazard in such a small area as well as restricting the space available for wheelchairs, prams and pushchairs.

Next PPG Meeting: Thursday 18th October at 7.00 pm in the CBHC. □



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Norfolk Family Information Service (FIS) is an online, telephone and face-to-face service providing free information and advice to families including:

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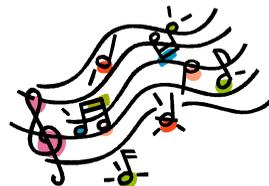
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The West Norfolk Singers



Are you looking for something different to do with winter approaching?

Perhaps you have recently moved to the area or your circumstances have changed and you are looking to make new friends. Then this could be for you!

The West Norfolk Singers meet on Wednesday evenings from 19.30 to 21.00 at Heacham Methodist Church and rehearsals commenced on 19th September.

We are a mixed voice choir and sing both religious and secular music. No auditions are necessary but the ability to read music is helpful.

Our Musical Director is Nigel Wickens, who is an accomplished professional singer and also teaches singing at Peterhouse, Cambridge. William Moss is our accompanist and was Head of Music at City of Ely and Downham Market Colleges. He is currently organist at Long Sutton Parish Church.

During the last year, we performed Christmas concerts at Dersingham Methodist Church and North Runcton Parish Church and Spring concerts at Stanhoe and Long Sutton Parish Churches. We already have a booking for a Christmas concert at Long Sutton Parish Church, as they enjoyed our earlier concert so much!

We are a friendly choir and always welcome additional singers, so why not come along. There are many members of the choir, who live in Dersingham, so car sharing and lifts can be arranged.

However, if you are not a singer, perhaps you would like to support a local choir by becoming a patron. For the sum of £20 per annum, you will be entitled to attend free of charge, one of our Christmas concerts and one of our Spring concerts and your name will be included in our concert programmes. This support helps the choir to purchase new music to enhance our concerts and also challenges the choir members to learn something new.

If you would like any further information about the West Norfolk Singers, please contact me on 01485 542960. □

Heather Titcomb (Chair)



Companions of Park House Plan ahead with our Christmas Market in October!



We will be holding a Christmas market in the conservatory of Park House in Sandringham. There will be stalls selling various crafts, books, baby toys and clothes, textiles, preserves, cakes, jewellery, bunting and much more.

Children welcome. Free entry.

Open from 10.30 am to 4.00 pm on Wednesday 31 October 2012.

For further information please phone Susan on 01945 880310, Phil on 01553 631663 or Jan on 01485 542278, or email parkhousecompanions@gmail.com.

Companions of Park House raise funds to help disabled people afford a holiday at Park House. Registered Charity No. 1079509

From the Parish Office



I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer even though the weather was not good to us. We have just had a good couple of weekends and my husband and I had a glorious long weekend with around 80 foreign people who came over for a Round Table Euro Meeting. The Norwegians even went home with sun tans from Old Hunstanton and the Chair of them has posted on

Facebook a beautiful picture of Old Hunstanton Beach with a brilliant blue sky and warm sandy beach with a note saying typical English weather if only it was true!

It will soon be Christmas and some shops already have decorations, cards etc. It would be so nice if we could have some festivities in the village and the Parish Council have been working on items in their committee meetings. If you would like to light up Dersingham, or be prepared to help with any festivities in the village please do not hesitate to contact me at the office. Let's light up a few faces in Dersingham this Christmas.

Anita and I are glad that you are finding the new office more of a benefit to you. We seem to be more accessible here in Post Office Road. Do not forget if you are concerned about anything in the village please contact us or come in to see us because we can usually help even if it is just pointing you in the right direction.

We have had a few problems with streetlights recently where someone rings up and says "well it has not been working for over a week and it must have been reported to you." Please do not leave it to someone else, please just give us a call. If we have already reported it, no problem, but if not it will get repaired quicker if you call. The contractors have to mend it, possible, in five working days so that sooner it is reported the better. We will report NCC lights also so just pick up the phone and call. We do not bite - promise.

Hopefully by the time you read this we have a memorial bench to Malcolm Nurse placed by The Green looking down Glebe Road. He was such a lovely person and the Council has not been the same without him in my mind.

We currently have four vacancies on the Council. If you are interested or know someone who is please contact us, we would love to hear from you.

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

Sarah

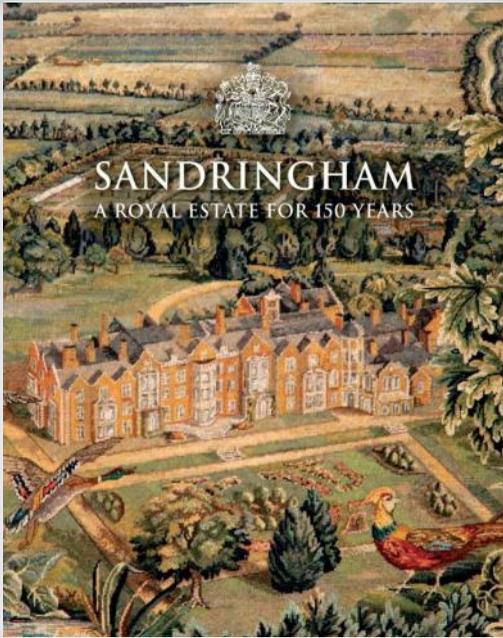
A New Member of the Team

As you will all doubtless know, the level of administration and bureaucracy continues to increase, putting the administrative resources of small councils under increasing pressure. To try and meet that demand, Dersingham, some while ago, appointed a separate (and temporary) Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to split the financial and administrative functions. This proved to be a successful venture and so the council has now decided to take matters a step further by appointing a professional, permanent RFO.

His Name is Alistair Skipper. Alistair brings with him experience of financial management in other small councils and has many previous appointments in public and private bodies, including lecturing on business management. He also has experience in getting project funding.

Alistair's appointment will allow Sarah and Anita to concentrate more on their administrative roles and so to concentrate more fully on improving the service of the council to the village and its inhabitants. □





Sandringham

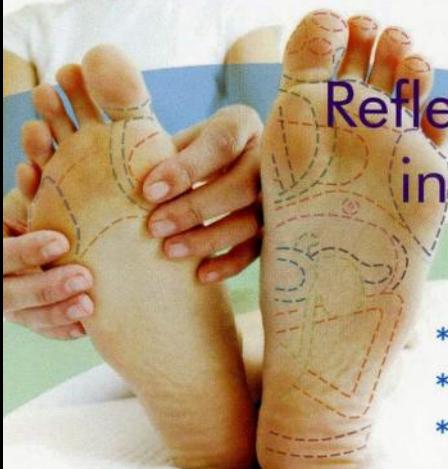
A Royal Estate For 150 Years

This new book marks the 150th anniversary of Sandringham becoming a Royal estate and the 60th anniversary of Prince Philip's stewardship. It is lavishly illustrated, with many paintings and photographs never previously published, and with a Foreword by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

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St Nicholas Church News



A busy few months at St Nicholas Church, with our Last Night of the Proms Concert with the Bilton (Rugby) Silver Band and soloist Liz West entertaining us again for the 3rd year with wonderful renditions of our favourite tunes.

Whilst writing this we are busy preparing for the **Arts & Crafts Festival 27th to 29th September** in the Church, with paintings by many local artists hung in the Church, alongside a photographic exhibition from the Hunstanton Camera Club with demonstrations in the Church and Craft Stalls in the Church Hall.

The Church Hall is looking very good after its month shutdown in August for repainting of the main hall and the refurbishment of the toilets. Thank you to all who helped with the raising of the funds to do this most vital work.

A lunch was held on the first Sunday in September to celebrate the re-opening of the Church Hall and a wonderful time was enjoyed by all who attended.



In October we are saying farewell to the Reverend David Fysh who has for the past few years led our Choir, he will be sadly missed by all his friends here in Dersingham.

Special Services during October/November

10th October – 10.30am Harvest Festival Services

We would appreciate if people could bring tinned or dried goods for the Harvest Service as we will, as in previous years, be giving the items to a local Women's Refuge, alongside our normal fruit and vegetables.

4th November – 3pm Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

We are once again having a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for those who have died. We warmly invite you to join us at St. Nicholas Church to remember and give thanks to God for those we love but see no longer. The service will consist of prayers and hymns and there will be a time of commemoration when the names of the departed will be read out and especially prayed for.

11th November – 10.30am Remembrance Service

Our usual service with the uniformed Branches of the British Legion, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies etc. There will be a cup of tea or coffee after the service in the Church Hall provided by the Mothers' Union.



Dick Melton

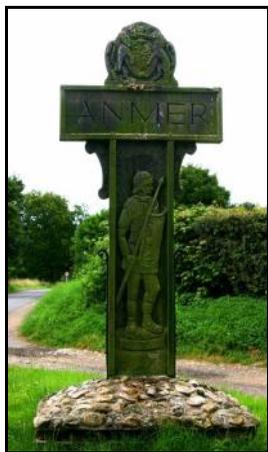
My brother in law, Peter Gathergood, rang me up to say that a friend of his had been reading a book about Norfolk and in it was the mention of a place at Dersingham called Goggs Win. Neither of them had heard of it and nor had I, so I set out to find more about this mysterious place and where it was.

I looked back in some of my old books and I found out that in 1883 a Mr John B Groggs lived in and owned the old hall at Dersingham and also, along with The Prince of Wales and the Rev J Bellamy, he was indeed one of the principal landowners in the parish. Then after a lot of searching I found it. Not in an old map but a modern one. It turned out that Goggs Win is what the Little Wood just down The Drift over the by-pass was called in 1883 when Mr Groggs owned it; and when it was just shrub land and covered in win bushes or gorse bushes before the trees took hold like they are today. This wood is in the parish of Dersingham but is managed and kept by the Sandringham estate though there is access to the Little Wood, as we know it, from The Drift. There is also another small wood in the area called Whin Hill Covert, which is nearer to Wolferton between Steer Road and Pennington Way.

A lot of these small fields and woods down The Drift are named after their previous owners like Waggs Field, Bauldings Moat, Fiddlers Wood and Parkers Piece.

Anmer

In the August edition of Village Voice I wrote about the village of Shernborne so this month I am writing about Anmer. I will start with a report about Anmer that was in Kelly's Directory 1925.



Anmer is a parish and village 4 miles east from Dersingham Station and 3 miles north from Hillington Station. The village is supplied with water from a tower erected at Appleton in 1902 by His Majesty King Edward VII. The church tower has two bells and the church was restored in 1880. In 1906 the church was re-seated and the chapel refitted. The church register dates back to the year 1674. There is also a primitive Methodist chapel erected in 1904 by His Majesty King Edward VII, who also erected a village clubroom in 1909.



A public elementary school (mixed) was erected in 1873 for 50 children; in 1925.

Miss Margaret Farrow was the mistress. Anmer covers 1,448 acres and in 1921 the population of the village was 155. Boaz Curson ran the village shop and post office. Lt-Col Scratchley lived in Anmer Hall, which is set in some 300 acres of parkland (the Royal Norfolk Show was held there in 1950).

Some of the people who lived in Anmer in 1925 were as follows: Rev William Waters, rector; Robert Hooks, farm bailiff; Richard Hubbard, blacksmith; William Knight, gardener at Anmer hall; and Thomas Walker, gamekeeper.

In 1958 a new village sign was erected in the village that was made by and carved by Harry Carter from Swaffham. It was a gift to the Queen from the Norfolk Boy Scouts Association in appreciation of the privilege of holding their jamboree in Anmer Park in 1957. Up until 1994 the Duke and Duchess of Kent had lived in Anmer hall for a number of years. Anmer residents have a tradition of doing well in the best kept garden competitions at the Sandringham Flower Show; the best is often one in the village.

The name, Anmer, is thought to derive from the Old English meaning of 'duck pond'. Queen Boudicca fought a battle against the Romans close by at Anmer Minque. Roman remains have been found here and one of their long distance green roads, Peddars Way, which runs from the North Norfolk coast to Thetford and beyond, passes to the east of Anmer.

Population of Dersingham

A friend of mine said to me the other day, 'Dick, how many people live in Dersingham at the present time.' Well, we had a census in 2011 but the results of this do not seem to be published yet, so I looked at the population figures for Dersingham for the last 100 years and they make very interesting reading.

In the year 1901 the number of people living in the village was 1,316. After that year there was a lot more houses being built in the village, especially along Lynn Road and Hunstanton Road, as before that most of the houses were in Chapel Road, Manor Road and one or two up Dodds Hill and near the church.

When the next count was taken in 1911 the number had risen by 183 people to 1,499 but when the next count came in 1921 the numbers had dropped by 78 to 1,421. Now all I can think of for this drop is that some people emigrated and others were lost in the Great War. By the time of the next count in 1931 the numbers had risen again by 107 to 1,528. There was no count in 1941 due to the Second World War. Then, in 1951, the numbers were up by 204 to 1,732 but this was only an increase of 102 for each of the 10-year periods.

In 1961, after the Gelham Manor estate had been built, there was a mini explosion of 296 so the population then was 2,026. By the census of 1971 the numbers were up to 2,597, a large increase of 521. A lot of this was due to the sale of building land down Centre Vale, Manor Side and Chapel Road.

Now on to 1981, after there had been some more building down Valley Rise, Chapel Road and Fern Hill, the population went up by 623 to 3,274. This was the biggest rise in any of the previous ten-year periods. After this we all know what happened; Dun Cow Farm was sold and then Sandringham View began to take shape. Then a strange thing occurred. The population numbers in 1991 were 3,888, a rise of 614 and then, in 2001, they had risen by exactly the same number, 614, to make a total population in 2001 of 4,502. This means that the population of Dersingham has gone up by 600 people a year since 1971 and it has doubled in size since 1961. If this trend carries on, by the time we get the results of the 2011 census the population of the village of Dersingham will be well over 5,000.

Shut-Up Common

Until a few weeks ago I had not been over the Shut-Up Common for many years. What a shock I got. Silver birch trees everywhere right up to Heath Road and the stream, that runs from the water works in Dersingham Wood under the road and into the main drain, is just a shadow of what it was fifty years ago. In the nineteen fifties us boys who lived at the Common end of the village built a cycle speedway track in the middle of the Shut-Up Common; it was surrounded by grass and heather so it was the ideal habitat for sky larks. Now they have all disappeared thanks to the take-over by those damned birch trees. Even some of the pathways have disappeared. A few years back most of the men in the village would go to the Shut-Up Common to cut down the birch trees to use as fire wood, pea sticks, line props and bean poles. Unfortunately this has not happened for many years, so those birch trees have just got the whole of the Shut-Up Common to themselves. I shall not go over there anymore as it makes me unhappy and sad just to look at. So I will just sit in my armchair and remember the good days I had over the Shut-Up Common with Brian, Alec, Bernie, Steward, Bob, Gary and the rest of the gang.

Well that's all for this month. It's been a good year for cockles and samphire but I don't give out much hope for the chestnuts. Be with you all again in December. □

The Anmer sign is double sided and a popular "perching" place for birds. Ed.



Dersingham Walking Group

A pleasant sunny evening brought a good response for our walk from Castle Rising on Wednesday 11th July, led by Michael & Valerie Smith. 24 of us enjoyed a walk through the picturesque village before joining a path through Wootton Carr and into Ling Common Woods. Here the sun filtered through the trees as we navigated our way to the footpath crossing the golf course to Knights Hill and returning along Lodge Lane.

An afternoon walk around some of the Bawsey lakes was enjoyed by 13 people on Tuesday 31st July. Led by Keith Starks the group were quite lucky with the weather, remaining dry & mild for most of the walk. Earlier rain had made some of the paths which had overgrown bracken a bit tricky, resulting in some wet legs and trousers for those not wearing waterproofs.

The leaders held a planning meeting in July to agree a programme of walks through the winter months; the first ones are detailed below. The full programme can be viewed on the parish council website. www.dersingham.org.uk/announcements

A hot sunny afternoon on Wednesday 8th August brought 15 walkers to our walk across Roydon Common and through parts of Grimston Warren. Pat Reed led us on a route through the Common which was looking at its best with all the heather in flower. We walked to a point close to the ruins of St Mary's church (Bawsey Ruins) before turning to return to the start.

The afternoon of Tuesday 14th August was also very warm for the group walk at Houghton. Michael & Valerie led a party of 12 from the West Lodge through Bunkers Hill, along the edge of the open vista before a pleasant walk in woodland. We joined the Peddars Way for a while before circling on paths and roads back to the start.

Steve Martyn led a walk on 29th August from Thornham harbour. Despite some unpromising looking weather the small group of 8 (numbers down owing to several regulars being away on holiday) managed to complete most of the walk before the rain began. The route took in some of the Coast Path before turning inland to Drove House corner and climbing to higher ground, and reaching the edge of Courtyard Farm, giving good views out over the coastline. The return route was along country lanes and a diversion at the end to reach the cars before getting too wet.

Details of our next walks are:

Wednesday 10th October 2012. 2-00pm Cream Tea Walk at Castle Rising. Meet at the Unique Car Park, Castle Rising. Please notify Keith by the 3rd October if you require a cream tea.
L132 674 248 Keith Starks 01485 542268

Wednesday 14th November 2012. 1-30pm A walk around Syderstone. Meet at Syderstone Church. L132 833 327 Christine Taylor 01485 542807

Wednesday 12th December 2012. 1-30pm Peddars Way & Little Massingham. Meet in car park behind the Dogotel just off A148 at Harpley Dams L132 772 255 Pat Reed 01485 540757

All of the walks listed in our programme will be between **4 and 5 miles long**. If you have any queries regarding any of the walks please contact the leader. All grid references given are for Ordnance Survey Landranger (L) or Explorer (E) series maps.

*There is **NO CHARGE** for these walks: just turn up on the day (wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. **WELL BEHAVED** dogs are welcome provided they stay at the rear of the group.*

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

If you would like more information please contact me or the walk leader.

Michael Smith, ☎01485 540728. e-mail. mival.smith2@tiscali.co.uk

FOSSIL ROADSHOW IN CROMER

Saturday 6th October 2012



Come along to a day dedicated to fossil finds from the internationally important 'Cromer Forest-bed Formation'.

The morning session at the Cliftonville Hotel, Cromer, will have a series of free talks about the Cromer Forest-bed and its importance.

In the afternoon you can bring along your fossil finds to Cromer Museum for identification and recording by our team of national experts. **Free museum entry** for those with fossils to be identified!

MORNING

10.30am – 1.00pm

The Cliftonville Hotel

Runton Road, Cromer NR27 9AS

Introduction to the Cromer Forest-bed Formation

Simon Parfitt (The Natural History Museum, London)

The importance of the Cromer Forest-bed in a global context

Professor Chris Stringer (The Natural History Museum, London)

The West Runton Mammoth

Professor Tony Stuart (Durham University)

Recording new fossil finds

Dr John Davies, Dr Tim Pestell, Dr David Waterhouse

(Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service)

AFTERNOON

2.00pm – 4.30pm

Cromer Museum

Tucker Street, Cromer NR27 9HB

Fossil Roadshow

Bring along your fossil finds for free identification and recording by experts.



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Old Picture Corner

All people this time. The top picture is titled Playgroup 1977 but the lower one just has “Dersingham Church” to describe it with no year given. So it’s over to you to name names and suggest a date.



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DERSINGHAM INSTITUTE BOWLS CLUB

On Sunday 1st July we took 25 bowlers and supporters to West Winch for an afternoon friendly session. This turned out to be a lovely afternoon with a buffet which was enjoyed by all.

Saturday 28th July saw the return leg of the Ladies v Men competition. 36 Institute bowlers enjoyed a close match which was narrowly won by the men. After the game everyone enjoyed a barbeque supplied by the club's Social Committee, this being followed by a successful raffle towards club funds which was organised by Jean Murrell.

On Sunday 12th August the return match against East Winch was held, this being organised by Dick Murrell. After the bowling a 'Hog Roast' and raffle was provided, special thanks must be given to Lily Bridges for all her work on the day, and to everyone who helped to make this another success!!!



The 19th August was a very special day As the club remembered and celebrated the life of Angie Hill who passed away earlier in July this year, after a long fight against illness

All bowlers and friends bowled to set bowling challenges used in bowls coaching. The winner of the event was Albert Chamberlain and runner-up was Jane Burden.

The 'Angela Hill Trophy' was presented by Angie's husband, Eric This will be an annual event

The money raised, over £300, will go to Angie's favourite charity 'Help for Heroes' which is also supported by the club. Special thanks must go to Jean Murrell who contacted local businesses to provide raffle prizes for this special day. □

Richard Bridges



Photos by Richard Bridges - Top right: Winners at West Winch. Above: The buffet on Angie's Day. Below Left: Angie Hill. Below Right: Eric Hill presents the trophy to Albert Chamberlain.



Brownies Adventure On Outdoors at Dersingham Bog



On Monday 20th August Girl Guiding Norfolk in association with Natural England held an outdoor activity day for older Brownies at Dersingham Bog and Wolferton campsite. Six girls from 2nd Dersingham Brownies went and had a really enjoyable day trying new activities with other Brownies from around Norfolk, as the purpose of the day was to show Brownies the sort of things they can do at Guides to encourage them to go. They made clay puppets using natural materials, created photographs using light-sensitive paper and the sun,

candle-smoked pictures, made a shelter, learnt square-lashing - a key skill for Guide camp, dissected owl pellets to discover what they contain and went orienteering on Dersingham Bog with challenges from the CBBC Deadly 60 show. The girls really enjoyed themselves and the staff from Natural England who ran the activities were brilliant. It was a wonderful day and all the girls received a special badge for attending. □

Lynne Wheeler



JUMP IN NOW FOR THE SECOND

Dersingham Community

Christmas Dinner

**To be held from 7pm
on Friday 7 December 2012
at the Le Strange Arms Hotel,
Hunstanton**



The evening will include a welcome drink, a three-course dinner, live music from 'Gentle Jazz', a gift for the ladies, and entertainment with 'The Strolling Players' at a cost of £24.00 per head inclusive

All enquiries and bookings should be made in writing to Bob Tipling, 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham PE31 6JQ or by e-mail to derscommddinner@talktalk.net

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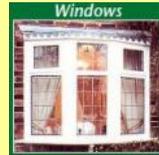
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The Sandringham Newsletter

*by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate
compiled by Helen Walch*

Diamond Jubilee celebrations continued on the Estate in July. An estimated 5,000 people came to Sandringham to welcome the Olympic Torch on 4th July; the Gardens were open free of charge on the day and around 2,000 schoolchildren happily waved flags and cheered the Torchbearers on their way. Fifteen vehicles were lent from the Museum to the Goodwood Festival of Speed in July as part of a Diamond Jubilee display of Royal transport mounted by the Royal Warrant Holders' Association in support of the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust which gives bursaries to help students of traditional crafts. Three of the vehicles were class winners at Goodwood – the 1937 Daimler V 37HP Shooting Brake, the 1961 Alvis TD21 and the 1955 Imperial Midget Racing Car.

Shortly after the vehicles returned to Sandringham, we were able to welcome a small travelling exhibition to the Museum. "All The Queen's Horses" celebrates The Queen's life-long interest in horse racing, looking at her most memorable moments on the Turf during her 60-year reign and including pictures of many of her significant winners and other special occasions that reflect her passion for the sport. The display contains more than 50 images, including several rarely seen photographs from the 1940s and 1950s showing the then Princess Elizabeth at the races with the Queen Mother, and other pictures capturing her delight in the winner's enclosure or in conversation with famous trainers and jockeys.

While the weather in July in the main was cool and wet, as it had been all year, the Sandringham Flower Show on 25th July fell in the middle of a hot and sunny week; unlike so many of this summer's outdoor events, the set-up period, the car parking and the clear-up were all able to proceed in dry weather and a crowd of around 20,000 visitors were able to see the Show and to welcome Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall as they toured the Show.

With the weather finally picking up in August, visitors came in droves to the Craft Fair in the Park and to visit the House, Gardens and Museum. The Olympics didn't seem to keep people at home and the fine weather was certainly an incentive to draw people out and about.

While the trees in the gardens responded well to the long wet period earlier this year, putting on a lot of growth and looking very happy indeed, birds and other wildlife did much better when it finally stopped raining. Species like coots successfully raised a second clutch of young, and a pair of spotted flycatchers appeared for the first time near the Estate Office. They built a nest tucked into the twining stems of a large wisteria, and seemed oblivious to people's comings and goings as they fed their youngsters. Three chicks hatched, and two successfully fledged and left the nest with their parents in close attendance.

The August Craft Fair in Sandringham Park attracted its usual large attendance, and Country Park staff then went on to prepare the area for the Game Fair and Country Show on 8th and 9th September. This show is always packed with displays and demonstrations including falconry, gundog trials, family fun dog shows, angling, clay pigeon shooting and archery, as well as the chainsaw carving competitions. Selected chainsaw sculptures are often subsequently added to the Sculpture Trail near the Visitor Centre, so it will be worth taking half an hour in the next few weeks for a gentle walk through the arboretum to see what turns up, joining St Felix with his coracle and beaver, Icarus and the wild boar with its piglets among others.

The Gift Shop at the Visitor Centre has just taken delivery of a new book published to mark both the 150th anniversary of Sandringham being bought by the Royal Family in 1862, and the 60th year of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's stewardship of the Estate, a role he took on when Her Majesty The Queen acceded to the throne in 1952. Lavishly illustrated, and including a Foreword by The Duke of Edinburgh, the book covers the history of the Estate and includes extracts from Estate archive material, photographs and paintings that have never previously been published. The book is called "Sandringham – A Royal Estate for 150 Years" and is priced at £20; it is also available from the online Gift Shop at £25 including postage and packing. □

Dersingham Methodist Church

After a quiet few weeks Church activities swing into action again. By the time you read this we will have celebrated our Harvest Festival, made plans for autumn activities and of course Christmas! A quiet few weeks does not include the Sunday services which have, of course, not ceased. During the year many visitors to the area join us for worship and it's always a joy to talk with them and find out where they come from and about their church activities. Many of us whilst on holiday will have also visited other churches both at home and abroad and in doing so been warmly welcomed. The churches may be of different denominations, buildings larger or smaller, or even services conducted in another language. However none of this matters as wherever God's people meet there is much to be found in common and in particular the desire to share the love of God.

Autumn means the start of '**Coffee and chat**', a series of discussions about our contemporary society, held on Thursdays fortnightly, 11.00 a.m. to 12noon. This year the series is entitled 'The Five ages of Man'.

11 th Oct. Birth and childhood	25 th Oct. Youth and Education
8 th Nov. Work, marriage and family	22 nd Nov. Middle life
6 th Dec. Retirement	

Judging by previous years' discussions I am sure these topics will be hotly debated, especially as all views are welcome! Join us for an interesting hour.

Coffee mornings: 27th October 10.00 – 12 noon, for Methodist Missions and Church Funds.
24th November 10.00 – 12 noon, for the Alzheimer's Society and Church Funds.

We look forward to you visiting us for any of the above and our regular activities.

Elizabeth Batstone



On Your Marks

We had a great time at our Summer Holiday Club on 28/29/30th August. 30 children, 4 Young Leaders, and 14 older (!) leaders were there. The children were mainly from Dersingham, but some came from Snettisham and other villages too.

We had our own Global Games, with flags from many countries decorating the walls. We watched Olympic athletes being interviewed by Dan Walker, and heard about how Jesus formed his team, and encouraged them when the going got tough. We shared some good

prayers – and jokes ! Thanks to all who helped and supported us.

Alan Crawshaw (tel. 543836) and Steve Lofts (tel. 0742 514 5887) - on behalf of Churches in Dersingham, Snettisham and Heacham

Upcoming events for Dersingham children – don't miss !

- Kidz Klub restarts on Sat 13th October 10am – 12
- Superstars Light Party at Heacham Church on Sat. 27th October 5pm - 7pm



King's Lynn Corn Exchange *October Highlights*



Thursday 4 October
Julian Clary
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Friday 5 October
Blake *Love Lifts Us Up*

Sunday 14 October
Charlie Landsborough

Wednesday 17 October
Stewart Francis
Outstanding In His Field (16+)

Sunday 21 October
Toyah Willcox

Friday 26 October
Sensational 60s Experience

Saturday 27 October
The Military Wives
of RAF Wattisham + guests

Sunday 28 October
Spirit Of The Dance

Monday 29 October
The Ladyboys Of Bangkok

Wednesday 31 October
Jethro (15+)



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Village Voice Live Tuesday August 7th More Railway Memories

The renovations in the church hall meant that our evening was spent in St Nicholas Church which adapted quite well to the evening of railway nostalgia that Andrew Ingram presented to us. Andrew has amassed a huge archive of railway photography over the years and he plucked choice pieces for our enjoyment. With his intense knowledge his talks could be overspecialised but Andrew has the knack of getting the interest out of every image without being technical, a facility much appreciated by a lot of the audience. No doubt he will be back again with another subject.

Wheeltapper

Tuesday 4th September Lynn Fisherfolk since the time of Elizabeth the First

Dr Paul Richards began by giving a brief history of Lynn as an important fishing port through the 16th, 17th and early 18th centuries. He pointed out that, as well as the obvious dangers of venturing into the North Sea in small boats, an additional one was well recorded during this period - pirates - with bases at various locations around the Norfolk coast, including our own village! The fishing was not only local, some deep sea fishing was also carried out at this time as far away as Iceland. His research on earlier centuries still continues, but he believes he will be able to trace the origins of Lynn fishing back one thousand years.

The main part of his talk concentrated on the more recent history of community of fisherfolk which established itself in Lynn's North End through the 18th and 19th centuries and to its eventual decline in the 20th century. He gave us many names and dates from this period, but the editor would probably not have the space in this publication to print them all, even if I could remember them! We were told of the fishing trade's relationship to the Tuesday Market in Lynn and to many prominent names of the town. But the main emphasis of this part of the talk was on the poor, but closely knit, community living tightly packed into the courts and yards of the North End of Lynn, of which True's Yard (now the Fisherfolk Museum) is a fragmentary survival; the fisherfolk's traditions, superstitions, religion (St Nicholas Chapel) and folk music were also described.

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I think all who attended were appreciative of a very interesting talk, given by a very lively speaker, whose enthusiasm for his subject sometimes ran ahead of the very detailed descriptions of people and places he was giving, and who could have probably carried on speaking until well after midnight without regulating influence of his assistant.

Whiffler

News from St Cecilia's Church Patricia Nevin

It is with great sorrow that I report the death on Tuesday 4th September of Sister Monica of the Daughters of Devine Charity community, St Theresa's Convent, Hunstanton. Our prayers go to her Community and her family; she will be greatly missed by us all.

Our last main fundraiser of the year was the sponsored walk on 9th September. Fourteen Parishioners along with our Priest, Fr Michael Ryan, made the walk of our annual route around Hunstanton. It was hot and sunny, so the refreshments back at the Parish centre were very welcome. It is not yet known how much sponsorship money has been raised.

The weather was lovely and a good time was had by all at a Parish family picnic. Thanks go to Linda and Andrew Jamieson for their hospitality in showing us around the orchards at Drove Orchards, Thornham.

Any Catholics wanting to learn more about or to renew their faith may be interested in joining our Catechism Course being held every Wednesday afternoon at 2pm, at the Parish Centre, Hunstanton from September 19th. It is part of Pope Benedict's 'Year of Faith'. Why not come along and find out more.



A food bank has been set up at the Church in Dersingham and your contributions are greatly appreciated. These store cupboard items will continue to be collected and given to the distribution centre at King's Lynn. You can find out more information on www.kingslynn.foodbank.org.uk

Visitors are always welcome to all Parish events and to our services throughout the year. Refreshments are served after the 11am Mass every Sunday at the Church in Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, and after the 9am Mass at Dersingham on the first Sunday of the month. We also have a friendly and informal gathering after the 10.15 Mass at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

Do come and visit –all are welcome and we'd love to see you.

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Sandringham Squirrels by Alan Coleby



Girl squirrels

Ella
Eve
Cassie
Thora

Stories for children: a group of eight young squirrels play, feed and explore in the woods of Sandringham.

Boy squirrels

Scot
Chip
Barney
Gus

The Birch Tree

‘How high can you climb that tree?’ asked Gus, as he, Barney and Scot looked at one of the birch trees.

A line of thin, small birch trees stood at the edge of the wood. They grew where the ground became more sandy than it was deep in the wood. In front of them was a bare patch of ground and then the gorse bushes, with the fence and the orchard beyond.

Some of the birch trees were tall but some were slender and short. Some had trunks that were quite thick, but others were very small, thin and springy, though they were tough. The tree Gus was pointing to was of about medium height, and slim and skinny.

Scot had been going around with Barney, who was teaching him a great number of things, and they had met Gus. Scot knew that Gus was always one for adventure, for trying out new things. He was a bit silly, though, and soon gave up if things didn’t work.

Scot didn’t much like Gus. He was a bit of a bully and would take food from you if you

weren’t careful, and if you complained, he just laughed. He was also a bit of a show-off. He always had to be the best, always wanted to prove that he was better than anyone else at everything. That was what he was up to now, seeing how good Scot was at climbing, and showing that he was better.

‘I don’t know how high I can climb,’ said Scot. ‘I’ve never tested myself.’

‘Well, have a go now,’ said Gus, trying to push Scot into it, ‘and then we’ll see.’

Scot was not sure. He could see that Gus could climb better and higher than he could. He was bigger and fatter and stronger. Gus just wanted to show how much better he was, as usual.

Scot looked at Barney. He would think of a way out of this if he thought Scot shouldn’t do it. Whatever happened, Barney would be on Scot’s side. To his surprise, Barney just nodded, saying it was alright to do it.

Scot trusted Barney, and so he



started up the tree, watched by a sniggering Gus.

It was fairly easy going. The wood was quite soft. The four claws on his two front feet and the five toes on each of his back feet dug well into the bark. There were only little thin and flimsy side branches, and so Scoot carried on up the trunk.

Soon, the trunk itself was getting slim and slight, and Scoot could feel it swaying backwards and forwards. Scoot didn't look down at Barney and Gus; he just kept going on and up. The swaying got worse and worse. Scoot could see that there were no other trees nearby, so that he could not jump sideways into other branches. He just had to hang on and go higher if he could.

Soon, he could go no higher. The trunk was so thin it was waving backwards and forwards so much that climbing further was impossible. But when Scoot stayed still, it didn't seem to keep swaying so far. Once, it bent over so much that it was going towards the ground, and Scoot decided to let go and jump down.

'Couldn't you take it any more?' shouted Gus, who was excited.

'Not much point in staying there, swinging about,' said Scoot.

'You did look funny,' said Gus.

'Well done,' said Barney. 'Are you OK?'

'Yes. OK, Barney,' said Scoot. 'Thanks for asking.'

'We can see where you got to,' said Barney. 'Your front foot was just by that nobbly bit that pokes out near the top.'

Soon, the birch tree slowed down from its swaying now that Scoot was off it, and was steady.

Gus jumped onto it. His front and back feet dug into the bark as he went up swiftly. Very quickly, the tree began to sway. It swayed further and faster than when Scoot climbed it.

'It's because he's much heavier,' said Barney. Scoot glanced at him and Barney winked.

It was swaying so far when Gus was about three-quarters of the way up, that he had to stop climbing. Barney could see that he had not gone as high as Scoot.

'Oh! I twisted my front foot,' called Gus, as he came down slowly. Once on the ground, he made a great show of limping round in a small circle.

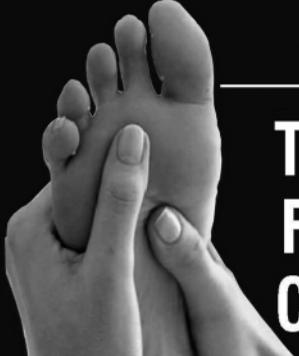
'Ah, Gus! You're tough. You'll soon recover,' said Barney. 'Come on. Let's get back to the beech trees,' he said to Scoot, ignoring Gus.

As they made their way through the wood, Scoot was feeling very pleased with himself. 'I wondered why you nodded,' he said, and grinned at Barney.

Barney grinned back at Scoot.

'It's just a game we play,' he said. 'You can always get thin birch trees to sway backwards and forwards as you go up. The smaller you are, the further you can go up. The thing is, to make them sway so much that you can drop down to the ground, like you did, only Gus got scared and made an excuse to climb down.'

So Barney grinned once more, and winked again at Scoot. □



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The World of Antiques by John Vost

I did say that I would be writing about pottery in this issue but I've decided to leave that for another time as I want to re-visit an subject I have mentioned before - provenance.

On a recent valuation I came across a large oak box with brass plaque inset to the lid, it was inscribed *R McKenna*. The box measured about 18" square and it intrigued me - old boxes always do as, until you open it you never know what's inside - it was heavy.

On opening the box the contents were four silver dishes in an upper tray, this lifted out to reveal a large oval bowl, a bit like a tureen, and two smaller dishes, they were all in fitted baize lined apertures - the contents dated to 1907 when they were made by a firm called Elkington & Co as a marriage gift.



On the face of it the box and contents had a value of around £600 and the client decided they would like me to arrange its sale at auction which I did. The silver served no function in the modern age and it looked as if it had never been used. Each piece had an inscription - *Calo wrth Galon* - which translates from Welsh to English as - *Heart to Heart*.

The silver had been in the same family from when it was made and the owner was distantly related to R McKenna, so I decided to do some research to see who this person was.

Mr Reginald McKenna (6 July 1863 – 6 September 1943) was a very interesting man. He was a British financier and politician. He was the youngest son of William Columban McKenna.

After being elected as MP for North Monmouthshire in 1895, he served in the Liberal governments of Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Henry Herbert Asquith, successively as President of the Board of Education, First Lord of the Admiralty, Home Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In 1908 he married Pamela Jekyll, daughter of Sir Herbert Jekyll and niece of Sir Herbert's sister, Gertrude Jekyll. They had two sons: Michael (died 1931) and David, who married Lady Cecilia Keppel, daughter of 9th earl of Albemarle, by whom he had three daughters, Miranda, Primrose and Sophia.

From 1919 until his death he was Chairman of the Midland Bank, and it was in this capacity that he commissioned his friend Edwin Lutyens to design a number of buildings for the Bank between 1922 and 1932. Lutyens also designed McKenna's homes in London (36, Smith Square), Mells Park House, Somerset and Halnaker House, Sussex.

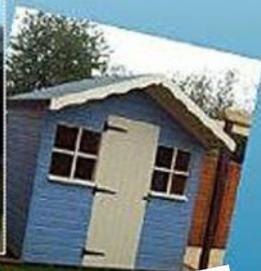
With this information to hand I had to reassess my valuation as a number of parties, when informed of its forthcoming sale, would be interested; I ventured a new valuation of £1,000-1,500.

Various institutions in Wales and Monmouthshire, including the Liberal Democrats, were contacted and advised that the silver was coming up for sale and interest was sparked. I cannot reveal who eventually bought it but it realised £2,000. That is the value of provenance.

If any readers require advice or information about a particular item then please contact me, John Vost, with a photograph if at all possible at enquiries@vosts.co.uk. □

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That's Her Majesty's Business The Royal Sandringham Sawmill Manager: Peter Bourner RVM

Lying just within the parish boundary of Dersingham, along Admiral's Drive, (right at the top of Doddshill Road) is the Royal Sandringham Sawmill, an impressive, appealing sort of a place that many discover for the first time quite by chance (as indeed we did shortly after moving here whilst out walking the track through Dersingham Wood which brings you out almost opposite). Perhaps the first thing to strike you as you enter the extensive sawmill yard, is just how well organised and shipshape it all looks. That stood to reason when the first thing I learned from chatting with manager Peter and Bob, two of the three staff currently employed there, was of their mutual Royal Naval background, including time served aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia before starting work at the mill some years prior to it opening up for business to the public in 1997.



"Suppliers of High Quality Pressure Treated Timber" appears on the business card Peter handed me, and certainly all the surrounding neatly stacked timber, fencing, garden seating, tables, trellises, etc, that I could see bore that look of quality about them, all FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certificated, confirming amongst other things that it is from *renewable resources*, ie the Sandringham Estate in this case of course! Oak can also be ordered in says Peter. He gave me a swift tour of the workshops where Bob was constructing a fence panel to add to his growing collection whilst Norman, the third member of the team was at the more noise intensive, sharp end, machining the timber down to size, prior to it being fed into their own pressure treatment plant. Nothing is wasted; you can get logs, offcuts and chippings there, even a bag of sawdust!

The main shop area itself has all manner of complementary timber fixtures and fittings, decorative knobs, screws, nails, fully galvanised hinges and fastenings, etc as well as wrought iron gates and a range of heavy duty gardening tools, including the odd pitch fork I noticed! They do of course offer a delivery service.

Although the Sawmill supplies to large customers such as the Environment Agency, English Nature, RSPB, etc, Peter is very keen for more of the public to look in and become aware of the competitive pricing on the products they offer. They also have a display of Sheds and Summer Houses from the local Dersingham business: *Unique Timber Buildings (UTB)*, and supply Christmas Trees in season. Open from 7am to 4pm weekdays and 8am to 12pm on Saturday; it is quite simply a great place to call in, browse and get some inspiration, and of course to keep Peter happy by becoming a new customer! □

Steve Davis





That's My Business Katie Bowman - Time Out Salon

I have been running the Time Out Beauty Salon (formally the pet shop) for four years which I opened when I was 18 years old. I have really enjoyed building the salon to what it is today and each day it grows a little more. I have always had a keen passion for beauty therapy and was giving my mum treatments when I was a young teenager to try and practice until I could go to The College Of West Anglia to study. My hobbies include having treatments, trying to keep fit and healthy and spending time with friends and family.

There have been lots of new and exciting improvements at the salon. We now offer 'Jessica soak off gel polish' which lasts anything from 2 to 3 weeks. It is applied like a nail polish, helps promote growth by protecting the nail and comes in clear or many different colours.

This June we also launched Declerol skin care which uses aromatherapy oils to penetrate deep into the layers of the skin. The Declerol full facial is an hour and 15 minutes of relaxation and deep cleansing to leave your skin glowing.

Those of you who already come into the salon may know that Tania qualified in reflexology at the end of July, after studying hard. Our reflexology is an hour's treatment which works by manipulating your feet and can help many different problems you may have. For example, it can help improve circulation, reduce stress levels and induce deep relaxation or, if you would just like to lay back and take some 'Time Out', its an excellent treatment for this too. All reflexology requires from you is for you to remove your shoes and to lay on a comfy bed. Tania will be offering reflexology treatment everyday except Thursdays.

I would like to thank the people of Dersingham and the surrounding area for their continuing support and look forward to see new and existing clients in the salon. □



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DERSINGHAM UNITED CHARITIES

ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED March 2012

Membership of the Trustees is limited to nine volunteers who manage approximately 100 acres of land in Dersingham. This land is divided into farm land, fuel allotments (commons) and field gardens (allotments). Revenue from the land is used to provide funding for general benefit to the poor and those suffering hardship and in assisting persons who are preparing for a trade. During the year two obligatory committee meetings are held on the second Thursday in May and November, with interim meetings taking place as and when required

Last year saw some changes to the committee. Mr Alan Hayward continues as Chairman. He is a representative trustee who is appointed by the parish council, as are Mr Alan Cross, Mr Allan Coleby and Mrs Sarah Harmer who are serving a four year term, commenced in May 2011. A vacancy occurred with the resignation of Mr Simon Davidson and, in his place, Mrs Andrea Smith was appointed by the parish council. Co-optative trustees appointed by the committee are Professor Walter Blaney, Mr Barry Smeaton and Mrs Elizabeth Fiddick who serve a five year term. Revd. Michael Brock, vicar of the parish of St. Nicholas completes the committee.

Annual accounts are produced at the end of March and sent to the Charity Commissioners. These are published in the Village Voice booklet delivered to every household in the village. Charity donations are distributed to local charities and individuals whose criteria meet the requirements detailed in paragraph one. Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly, Dersingham Seniors Club, Dersingham Phobbies and Orchard Close Community Group have again benefited. Donations are made upon application, which should be received by the clerk of the trustees by 1st November each year, for consideration by the committee, for December distribution.

Since Norfolk County Council withdrew funding on all conservation sites Natural England are providing funding. Management is again in the hands of the trustees who have a works programme to follow and are responsible for appointing contractors to carry out the work. An annual check is made by Natural England to advise and ensure work is satisfactory. The fire in April last year did considerable damage to the area destroying board walks and vegetation. The trustees have repaired boardwalks and fortunately regrowth has improved the visual outlook. The area is one of the few acid valley mires in the country and is the habitat of rare species of moss and lichens which flourish on the open site. Maintenance of public footpaths and fire breaks is the responsibility of D.U.C. and is ongoing on both commons.

Station Road Allotments are being well tended. On the advice of local police it has been necessary to install gates at both ends of the allotment site in an attempt to combat vandalism. These are locked at dusk and opened early morning. The Allotment Association has financed the project and volunteers have carried out the work. Hedges have been re-layered or replaced where necessary. The access is not a Right of Way but residents have claimed right of access through continuous use. The ROW is in close proximity at the edge of the recreation ground but it is not well maintained and therefore little used.

Ruth Mountain

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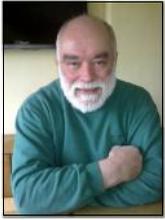
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Ion Trewin Ponderings 4

In this latest instalment of Sue and Ion Trewin's mission to restore their century-old pond they welcome wet-suited divers, but a Mallard meets an unfortunate end.

In this the wettest and coldest summer since 1912 the beaches of North Norfolk have become accustomed to swimmers in wetsuits. But I wondered in early August if the advent of two wet-suited men clambering in and out of our century-old pond was a first. Their mission was to extract as much of the dreaded water buttercup as possible.

In that first summer when we first arrived here the buttercup – peltata – had all but covered the pond's surface. As I have related in earlier Ponderings we dredged it last winter. As well as the thick glutinous black spoil which had been spread around the garden, a huge mound of rhizomes, many as thick as a human arm, were deposited against the garden wall and as the summer progressed had rotted down nicely into garden compost. Inevitably, however, some had



remained at the bottom of the pond. By August their deceptively waterlily-like leaves were once again spreading across the surface. To us this pernicious weed had to go!

As they splashed around, the two men charged with the task demonstrated that our pond now varies in depth from five to two feet. Not surprisingly our duck population, nervous at the proximity of humans at the best of times, fled. Our wet-suited team had brought with them a flat-bottomed-boat which was soon piled high with peltata, leaves, stalks and rhizomes. Nor was that all. When they emerged they reported that our pond is infected with blanket weed. This is, apparently, inevitable. Even brand new ponds made with liners are not immune; as Monty Don showed us in a recent *Gardener's World* the pond he made only last winter is already infected. In the long term we shall need to consider whether we drag it out with nets, blast it with chemicals or import barley bales, an organic weapon against the foe.

That was the pond, but August also saw the return of our contractors with their diggers to grade the pond spoil which had been spread so liberally around the garden. Now, thanks to the wet summer wild flowers and weeds had taken over in profusion. There were some anxious moments when one machine had to be hauled out of a particularly sticky patch and the tow-rope repeatedly snapped. It became clear that the springs in the neighbouring field – useful in keeping our pond water levels up – needed channelling if we weren't going to live with a perennial bog on one side of the garden. A deep trench was dug, huge quantities of gravel poured in around one of those perforated drainage pipes. Only time will tell if it does the job.

Next several lorry loads of top soil were delivered before grass seed was liberally scattered. It had been wet, but now, of course, the sun shone and the ground began to dry out. Thank goodness the hosepipe ban had been lifted as we needed to move sprinklers around to ensure that the seed germinated. Then suddenly one afternoon we suffered a downpour of tropical rainstorm proportions.





This created its own channel across the nascent lawn taking top soil and grass seed with it. Oh well, we muttered, at least the rest of the garden no longer needed watering.

When the pool had been dredged we made a decision to run a temporary pipe between the old goldfish pool and the main pond. One day after the storm I noticed that the pipe entrance was under water and the pool side exit was now emitting merely a dribble. I reasoned – rather obviously in

retrospect - that the pipe was blocked. Out came the drainage rods: I prodded and poked from the top end and soon hit an obstruction. I transferred my efforts to the pond end. Once again the rods went only so far. I twisted the corkscrew end this way and that. Suddenly I felt enormous pressure on the rods with the pipe exit emitting what I quickly identified to be the body of a dead Mallard. A Niagara of water followed in a spectacular swoosh. Naturally the weight of water that had been building up at the pipe entrance now disappeared. So how had the duck met its untimely end? Presumably it found something tempting in the pipe entrance, couldn't retreat and then got sucked down before becoming wedged. What an appalling way to die! If we decide to keep the pipe then we will need to put a protective net across its entrance.

What of the pond itself? We have begun to think about planting schemes for the edges. We have plenty of yellow irises, but for the moment little else. As I write the grass is beginning to green up nicely. Sue now wondered about a boat? What fun it would be to view our surroundings from the middle of the lake. Her masterstroke was to suggest a pedalo, which grandchildren would also surely love. But more on that next time. □

West Norfolk Mind Mental Health Recovery & Support Services Open Day



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Free Wildlife Activities during October 2012

Wildlife Talk - British Wild Orchids: Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves

Friday 19 October, 7 - 8.30pm

Orchids have an aura of rarity and glamour, but the realities of their ecology and reproduction are even more amazing than you might imagine. Join Simon Harrap and discover more about orchids.

Location: *Reffley Community Centre, Reffley Lane, Reffley, King's Lynn, PE30 3SF*

Details: *Free. No need to book, just turn-up and join in.*

Adult Wildlife Workshop - Introduction to Visible Bird Migration

Sunday 21 October, 7am - 12pm

This workshop will introduce you to the basics of bird migration, and at the same time take you to two of the best places in Norfolk to view birds as they migrate.

Location: *Hunstanton and NWT Holme Dunes*

Details: *Free.*

Booking essential –
01603 598333.

Family Activity - Wild about the Wood

Sunday 28 October,
11am-3pm

Join the Woodland Trust and Norfolk Wildlife Trust for a fun-packed day at The Rookery, Plantation Wood. Go on a guided walk, try a woodland craft activity, make a bird box, listen to a story, join in with an art and craft activity. There will be lots to do, so why not come down to the woods today?

Location: *The Rookery, Plantation Wood, next to Howard Infant School, Parkway, King's Lynn, PE30 4OJ (TF 639195)*

Details: *Free. No need to book, just turn-up and join in. Refreshments available to buy.*

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I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING CUSTOMERS OLD & NEW

Bog News

by Tom Bolderstone, reserve warden

This nesting season has been pretty strange with the weather and the Nightjars arrived on the site around three weeks late.

Nightjars numbers have been down this year with thirteen males churring on the site. This is mainly due to the weather and the birds not arriving from the continent at the beginning of the season. The success of the nests has been ok with seventy five percent of the nests succeeding.

The remaining twenty five percent failed mainly due to predation and the appalling summer weather. By mid September most of the Nightjars have will have left for Africa returning again to the UK in May. The adults will return first with the young birds returning shortly afterwards.

This year we have begun a study monitoring nesting success of three of the key heathland bird species on the site, Stonechat, Woodlark and Nightjar. We are trying to discover what is causing nests to succeed and fail on the site. As part of this we have been colour ringing Woodlark and Stonechat. Ringing is a scheme administered by the British Trust for Ornithology and carried out by volunteer ringers throughout the country.



Woodlark chicks in their nest



Stonechat

Colour ringing birds allows people to see which birds are which through telescopes or binoculars without having to recatch the bird. The colour combinations are unique to the individual bird and site. By colour ringing the birds on the site we are able to better understand whether birds are returning to the same nest site each year or whether they move to another nest site on the reserve. We are also able to

see in winter whether birds stay on site or move to other places in the county and whether other birds move into the site from other sites. It also allows us to see site interaction so whether the young return to nest on the heath here or whether they will nest at other places.

The data on nesting success and site interaction that we obtain will help us plan future habitat management but also help to provide information on a county and national scale which can be used to help the conservation of these birds across the UK. If anyone sees a colour ringed Woodlark or Stonechat they could let me know the colour combinations and date and location of the sighting. My email address is Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk.

As many of you will know we have got a herd of Black Galloway cattle on the site and as part of the Grazing project we have introduced Albert the Bull to the site. As part of the project we want to heft the animals to the site. This means the cows will breed on the site and spend their lives here and the mothers will pass on the knowledge of the site to the calves. Albert is part of this process and arrived on site in the middle of May. He is a stunning looking animal of the finest pedigree. He came from Biggar in Scotland and is getting used to the terrain that Dersingham has to offer. We are hoping that the cows will be in calf and that in the New Year we will have calves on the site with their mothers. As always with cattle we are asking people to keep their dogs on a lead or under close control whilst on the site. There are information signs at the two entrances to the reserve which give more detail and updates on the grazing project.

It doesn't seem like many months ago we were at the start of spring. The heather flowering has been and just going over and the heather is beginning to go to seed after covering the reserve in purple haze for just over two weeks. As I write this article the first Pink Footed geese of the autumn have flown over the house, another sign the seasons are changing. □

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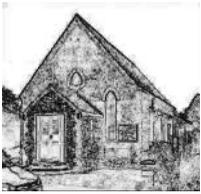
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Greetings from the manse Rev. Kim Nally

In many countries nature is being valued and commodified so that it can be exchanged for cash. That's really something to ponder as we take our tin of peas to the harvest festival service and sing our harvest hymns. Our harvest services even in an urban context remind us to value the creation but praise the Creator.

A few years ago the last government commissioned a research company to produce a total annual price for England's ecosystems. After taking the money, the company reported – with a certain understatement – that this exercise was "theoretically challenging to complete, and considered by some not to be a theoretically sound endeavour." Some of the services provided by England's ecosystems, it pointed out, "may in fact be infinite in value." To which I want to say "Amen!"

This rare flash of common sense did nothing to discourage the current government from seeking first to put a price on nature, then to create a market in its disposal. The UK now has a Natural Capital Committee, an Ecosystem Markets Task Force and an inspiring new lexicon. We don't call it nature any more: now the proper term is "natural capital". Natural processes have become "ecosystem services", as they exist only to serve us. Hills, forests and river catchments are now "green infrastructure", while biodiversity and habitats are "asset classes" within an "ecosystem market" and "off sets" where you can destroy in one place if you replace in another. All of them will be assigned a price; all of them will become exchangeable. Issues and decisions might well rest on balance sheets and be resolved in a column of figures. It will be the case, it is argued, that the money to be made by protecting nature will rarely match the money to be made by destroying it. Nature offers low rates of return by comparison to other investments. Critics worry that if we allow the discussion to shift from values to value, from love to greed, we will cede the natural world to the forces wrecking it.

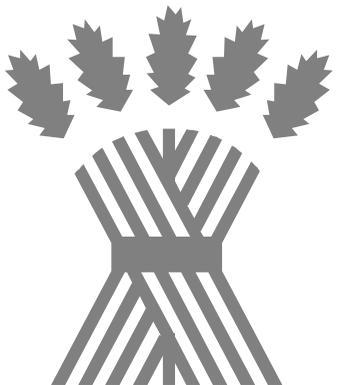
In the 1800s Chief Seattle, Chief of the Suquamish Indians allegedly wrote to the American Government. He responded to the American Government's request to buy their land. The following is part of the letter he famously wrote in reply.

"The President in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. But how can you buy or sell the sky? the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them? Every part of the earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every meadow, every humming insect. All are holy in the memory and experience of my people. The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. They carry our canoes and feed our children. So you must give the rivers the kindness that you would give any brother. This we know: the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself. One thing we know: our God is also your God. The earth is precious to him and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator. We love this earth as a newborn loves its mother's heartbeat. So, if we sell you our land, love it as we have loved it. Care for it, as we have cared for it. Hold in your mind the memory of the land as it is when you receive it. Preserve the land for all children, and love it, as God loves us."

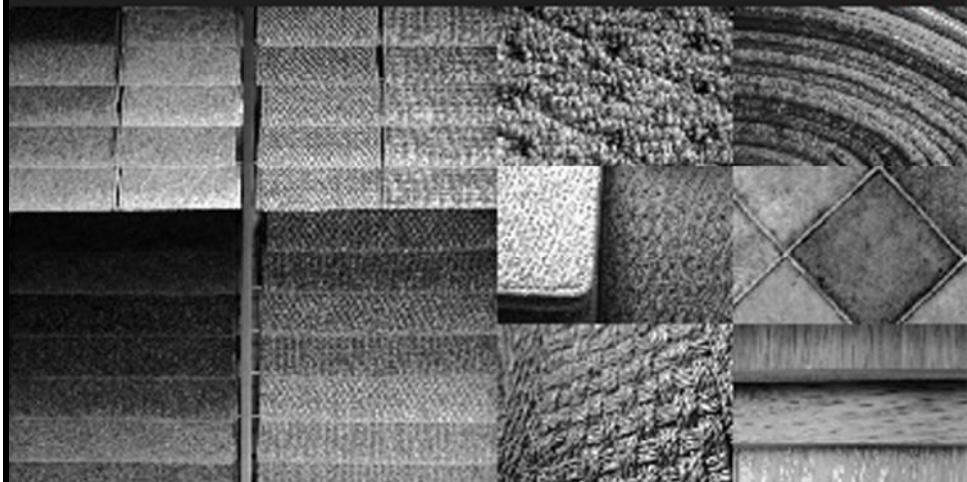
We should sing with renewed understanding and commitment our treasured harvest hymns. They contain a lot of wisdom.

"For the fruits of his creation,
Thanks be to God."

With every harvest blessing. □



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June writes - The summer of 2012 was a special time for us at Dersingham Pottery & Gallery we celebrated our 40th year living and working in Dersingham.

To celebrate, we have made a commemorative jug, Ben engraved the sprig and I made the jug, see right. They are for sale in the pottery.



The picture to the left shows me at work on the wheel throwing very tall porcelain pots in the tack room which is part of my studio.



Below is a window display with some of my work in porcelain and stoneware.

We would like to thank all our loyal customers over the last forty years and if you haven't been yet, call in - you will find many colours and textures, small espresso cups to very large lamp bases, useful and just decorative pieces. Also displayed are Ben's paintings and our daughter Siobhan's photographs and cards.





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from The Wash to the Brecks

To many people Chris Knights needs no introduction. Chris is well known as a Breckland farmer, conservationist, film maker and photographer. Chris is bound to enthral his audience with his wonderful photography of the county's bird life.

Visitors most welcome. Admission £2 on the night if you are not a NarVOS member. For more information about this meeting or NarVOS call Ian Black on 01760 724092

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Hillington Hall by Elizabeth Fiddick

1066. If there is one date in our island history that everyone knows it is surely this. Whatever else we may have forgotten from school history lessons 1066 and the Battle of Hastings has remained firmly in our memory.

It was Christmas Day 1066 that the invader William of Normandy was crowned King William 1 of England always to be known to future generations as William the Conqueror. He had defeated the English army led by King Harold and we all know the fate that befell Harold. After his victory and coronation King William had to consolidate his hold on the country and the no doubt sullen populace. Estates that had been held by the Anglo-Saxon lords were confiscated. Some were awarded to the Norman Knights who had followed William into battle and others to members of his family. In our own village William awarded several manors to his nephew Peter de Valognes and close by at Flitcham Roger Bigot, an ancestor of the Dukes of Norfolk, received land and estates. William de Warenne was another highly placed noble who received much land in this area. In fact some 60 nobles held land in Norfolk given by the Conqueror and the King himself retained land in 170 Norfolk parishes.

However at the village of Helingtuna, which means lying near water and which we now know as Hillington, it was recorded that Berner, *captain of the crossbow men had this lordship from the Conqueror.*

The battle to decide the fate of this nation began early in the morning with the two armies facing each other on Senlac Hill. The English army were well placed at the top looking down on the better equipped Norman soldiers but towards the end of this day of fierce fighting the issue had still not been resolved. Harold was still resisting. So William ordered his archers to move as close as possible to the English and to shoot their arrows high over the phalanx of shields that protected Harold. The English soldiers were poorly protected by the helmets of the time so many were hit in the face or as in Harold's case the eye. This contribution from the archers was one of the decisive factors that finally swung the battle William's way so it is not surprising that Berner, captain of the crossbow men, was rewarded when honours were distributed. A further honour was bestowed on



him in our time as he now features on the village sign.

Like our village of Dersingham which had seven Manors of varying size Hillington also had different estates. There was Albon's Manor, Bury Hall Manor, West Dereham Manor, Uphall Manor and Netherhall Manor. It was during the reign of Elizabeth 1 that Richard Hovell Esq. of Fritcham House, a member of an old Suffolk family, began to purchase estates in Hillington. All the Manors in Hillington had changed hands many



times over the years but finally Albon's Manor was conveyed to William Walpole of Houghton in the reign of Elizabeth 1 and on his death his executors sold it to Richard Hovell. Richard also purchased Bury Hall Manor and West Dereham Manor from William Walpole. From William Barker he also acquired Uphall and Netherhall. The original house where Richard lived in Hillington has long since disappeared but the remains of the moat that surrounded it still remain. The area is now known as The Wilderness. There is a monument in the church which records that *Richard Hovell being of the age of 77 years and upwards finished his course on the 30th November 1611 in peace with God in charity with all men.* His wife Margery is also commemorated having lived "virtuously and comfortably with her said husband 44 years". She bore him 4 sons and 9 daughters of whom 12 lived to *the perfect state of men and women.* It was one of the sons, another Richard, who in 1624 replaced the original moated house with a much larger residence, The Hillington Hall of the title. The family flourished for in 1641 Richard was knighted at Whitehall by Charles 1.

However these were the turbulent times when the tensions between King and Parliament escalated into civil war. The Eastern Counties mostly supported Parliament and there was a need to raise money to pursue the fight. There was a system of voluntary enlistment when the gentry were expected to raise their own troops of horse and foot but although in our village Sir Valentine Pell supported the parliamentary cause other local gentry did not. The Cobbes of Sandringham Hall, L'Estrange of Hunstanton. The Mordaunts at Massingham and Sir Richard Hovell of Hillington were suspected of being royalists.

Such potentially unreliable officers were quickly removed and Sir Thomas Hogan of great Dunham was commanded to take over the troops commanded by Richard Hovell. The following year Richard revealed his true Royalist sympathies and joined forces with Sir Hamon L'Estrange when he took control of King's Lynn and declared the port for the King. Cromwell quickly sent troops under The Earl of Manchester to lay siege to the town and ordered the Earl of Warwick's ships to patrol the Wash. Sir Hamon's defiance did not last long and the town was soon forced to surrender.

The consequences for the rebels were severe as their estates were sequestered and large fines

and even imprisonment followed. The fortunes of the Cobbes of Sandringham never really recovered and it is certain Sir Richard would have had to face the consequences of his actions. He died in 1654 so never saw the restoration of the monarchy but his son William, who inherited the estate, witnessed the happy event and was knighted at Whitehall in 1660 by a grateful Charles 11.

Sir William married Etheldreda Lilly and they had a son William and three daughters Clementina, Dorothy, and



Etheldreda. Sir William died in 1669 and his son inherited the Hall and estates but this William died in 1671 without leaving an heir. So it was that the hall and estates passed to his sister Dorothy who had married Martin Folkes. (Another sister Etheldreda married William Wake who became Archbishop of Canterbury.) Thus began the association for the village with the Folkes family who were descended from Martin Folkes Attorney- General to Catherine, Queen Dowager of Charles II. The baronetcy was created in 1774.

The spelling of the name as Ffolkes is thought to have occurred from the perpetuation of the sign in old manuscripts which looks like two small f's but is actually an old form of the capital F of the time. Dorothy and Martin had three sons and two daughters. The oldest son Martin inherited the estate and considerable wealth on his father's death in 1705. He became a man of some importance and influence as during his lifetime he was appointed President of the Royal Society and later also of the Society of Antiquaries. He was a friend of Sir Isaac Newton and travelled extensively in Europe. However on October 18th 1714 he caused quite a stir when he married an actress Lucretia Bradshaw.

She first appeared on the stage in 1696 but in 1706 her career really took off and she was considered most promising. A report appeared in the national press that she was *"was taken off by Martin Folkes Esq. a gentleman of very considerable estate and there is not a more happy couple."* However rumour had it that Martin's mother was so grieved at the match that she threw herself out of a window but fortunately only broke her arm. There is a description of the hall in a history of Norfolk written at the time. It states that the Hall had been much improved and the gardens *"are planted with the choicest trees and the hot walls and pinery, being furnished with much taste and propriety, produce annually great quantities of fruit and grapes in the highest perfection."*

Martin and Lucretia had two daughters and a son. Sadly the son died while he was a student at an academy in Caen following a fall from a horse. Further tragedy was to follow when on a visit to Rome Lucretia grew, "religiously mad" and on her return in 1735 had to be confined to a lunatic asylum in Chelsea. By 1750 Martin's health was failing and he resigned his presidencies in 1753 and died in 1754. He is buried in the chancel of Hillington Church. Lucretia never recovered her



sanity and remained in the asylum in Chelsea. In his will Martin provided her an annuity for life but she died in 1755. The estate and Hall were inherited by Martin's brother William.

The biggest changes to the Hall happened after Sir William John Henry Browne Ffolkes inherited the estate in 1821. He considerably enlarged the house with a noble entrance hall, a grand staircase, library and several other rooms. The exterior walls of the oldest part of the Hall were rebuilt to obtain a more uniform appearance with the modern additions. The North front was still in the early 15th century style and a large square tower rose in the centre. Further work was carried out on the grounds where a rivulet was opened out into a large lake and a handsome lodge was erected on the south side.

It is easy to imagine life in this truly grand house by looking at the census returns. In 1861 Lady Ffolkes lived here with her son, daughter and three grandchildren.



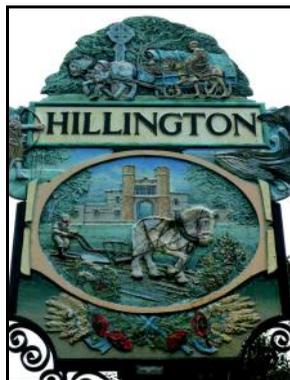
She employed a governess for the children with a schoolroom maid to keep things neat and tidy. The butler, Edward Woods and Anna Hopkins the Housekeeper/cook were in charge below stairs with an upper housemaid, an under housemaid, kitchen maid and kitchen boy to carry out their orders. Lady Ffolkes had Henrietta Beech as her Lady's maid and whenever she wished to visit friends or relations she could summon John Blaster the coachman to bring a carriage to the door. The horses were well cared for by Richard Smith the groom. There was also a Dairy House where John and Frances James provided fresh butter for the kitchens and from the Gardeners House Alexander Thompson and his nephew William kept the grounds as her ladyship wanted.

The Ffolkes of Hillington Hall were important respected members of the local society and it was noted that Lady Ffolkes paid for the education of a number of poor girls and established a Sunday school for boys. Later Sir William Ffolkes founded the village school which is a fine carstone building standing near the church in Congham Road.

Hillington Hall stood behind its extensive walls until 1946 when except for some fragments of walling it was demolished and the few remains were attached to a new house in about 1953. This house was in turn demolished in 1998 and a third house was erected on the site.

Today we have reminders of what used to be with a large lodge house and imposing gateway on the Lynn Road next to the Ffolkes Arms Public House. The family coats of arms can still be seen on either side of the gateway. On the curving walls can be seen the shafts that once carried 15th century roadside crosses. These came from the surrounding district and were originally placed along the road for travellers to pray for safe travel from one cross to another. The stone crosses were most probably vandalised at the dissolution of the monasteries. A second lodge, rather more dilapidated, can be found along the Flitcham Road.

On the village sign you will see a pilgrim on the Ickneild Way passing a roadside cross and beneath is the imposing gateway of the Hall. On one side Berner the crossbow captain takes aim and on the other a whale lashes its tail, marking the time Hillington had a whaling station. Fortunately there are several photographs of this grand Hall which can be viewed on the internet and allow us to recapture a lost age. □





Steve Davis Wandering the corridors of computing

I received several comments from readers identifying with the reminiscences expressed in my last article concerning the sort of “large” ICL computer I worked on over 40 years ago as a trainee programmer. This was the heyday of the larger organisation’s all-powerful *Data Processing (DP) Department* with its dedicated teams of systems analysts, programmers, operators, data preparation staff with the management structure to support it. They dictated how work from the users they supported had to be submitted for entering on to punched card or paper tape prior to processing and the format that the fan-folded line-printer results were returned in, and you soon learned who you needed to get on the right side of if you wanted a smooth path through the system! As a programmer I needed to be familiar with languages such as *FORTRAN*, *ALGOL* and *COBOL*, each with its own merits for coding up sequences of instructions to solve problems in specific areas, as well as the more laborious but versatile low-level Assembly Code specific to each type of computer. (Actually the first computer I ever programmed was my college’s hand-me-down *English Electric “Deuce”* built like a tank in the mid to late 1950s with its *thermionic valve processor*, and *mercury delay line* memory, using a programming language called *ALPHACODE*, but that may be taking the reminiscences a little too far!)

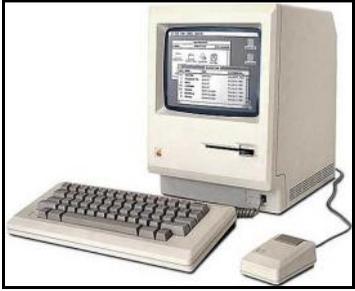
The 1970s saw rapid developments as computer users were increasingly given online *multi-access* to their ever growing computer installations from all over the building via remote *teletype terminals* and the more affluent from relatively simple mono-chrome *TV style Visual Display Units (VDUs)*. Larger companies with DP departments on two or more sites, could link their computers together by renting what were then considered to be high speed dedicated connections from The Post Office forming *Wide Area Networks (WANs)*. However, alongside the large main-frame computers, there was increasing interest in the smaller scale *mini-computers* being produced at



much lower cost by companies such as the *Digital Equipment Company (DEC) PDP-11* and *Hewlett-Packard’s 3000 series*. Such devices would be comparable in size to a small wardrobe or even bed-side cabinet and could be tucked away in any convenient corner without the hitherto need for any special power-supply or air conditioned environment, yet still capable of supporting a surprising number of online terminals.

The end of the 70s and beginning of the 80s saw the introduction of the first so-called desk-top *micro-computers*, costing hundreds rather than multiple thousands of pounds, culminating with IBM bringing out the first of what was to become the definitive business standard *Personal Computer (PC)* in 1981 with its twin 5” *floppy-disk drives* each of which originally held just *180Kbytes* or if you prefer 180,000 characters (ie letters, digits, punctuation, etc) of information. The 80s saw a great surge of interest in computing by the common man and boy (and occasional girl perhaps) and, although *IBM PC* compatibility running the *Microsoft Disk Operating System (MS-DOS)* became the eventual target for businesses, many look back with affection on computing at school or even at home using devices like the *Commodore PET*, *BBC microcomputer* or *Sinclair ZX Spectrum* and their attempts with the language *BASIC (Beginner’s All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code)*. Suddenly the middle manager saw a potential way of getting free from the clutches of the DP Department and the *Personal Computer* gave them the freedom to manage their own computer needs as office desktops became cluttered with computers, printers and boxes of floppy disks.

Soon as one of the floppy disk drives gave way to built in hard-disks holding as much as a hundred or more floppies, and early software for tasks like word-processing such as *WordStar* and the versatile *spreadsheet* such as *SuperCalc* and *Lotus 1-2-3* became established, so DP departments as we knew them started to crumble. However the responsibility and security for managing all the software and data on floppy disks and backing up the ever increasing hard-disks became just too much for the individual office worker, and old DP departments gave way to the leaner styled *Information Technology (IT)* departments or teams who would service staff needs remotely through interlinked local area networks (*LANs*) of desktop computers.



In the mid 80s *Apple Computers* introduced the first dinky little *Macintosh (Mac)*, and the public were introduced to the concept of a *Mouse* and *Graphical User Interface (GUI)* albeit black on a paper-white background resembling a sort of desktop and described as *WYSIWYG* (*pronounced woo-zee-woog or What You See Is What You Get*). *Microsoft* experimented with similar approaches to operating a PC with their early versions of their *Windows* interface 1 and 2, but it was not until the 90s that *Windows 3* and *3.1* became the first serious contenders for dominance. Of course the contention continues to the present day with *Microsoft Windows* accounting for the lion's share but with *Apple Mac* undeniably having the edge for smoothness and quality albeit at a premium.

Throughout the 90s computer processors got faster, colour screens became the norm, memories got smaller, and software rapidly got more sophisticated to fill the space. Whether people actually accomplished more work as a result is of course debatable! But the really significant impact of the 90s was the introduction of the Internet and the *World Wide Web (WWW)* as we know it, (though actually the precursor ARPANET dates back to the 60s). As more and more local networks were joined together using non-dedicated existing telegraph connections, the Internet just grew and what started as an academic experiment became the way in which business was done, and for some of us at least, though I curse myself for saying it, it is difficult to imagine going back to life without it!

The past decade has seen an increase in the variety of ways in which we access the Internet as well as what we actually get from it: shopping, banking, video, messaging and of course social networking with things like *Facebook*, *Twitter* and *Google+*, where we can let the whole world know what we are up to and at the same time feign interest in what so many others are doing and thinking! Dispensing with the tangle of cables everywhere, we can now connect *wirelessly*, through our *Home Hubs*. As well as smooth, sophisticated *Smart Phones* such as *Apple's iPhone* or the various makes of *Android Phones*, this has become the age of the touch screen *Tablet* computer with no mouse to worry about, or separate keyboard, just smooth flat screen of between 5" and 10", the leading brand perhaps being again *Apple's iPad*, but there are increasingly more contenders. The emphasis is very definitely on using a computer. Very few talk about programming their computer now. Those that do use languages such as *Visual Basic*, *Java*, *HTML*, *PHP* or *Python(!)* Academics however are keen to revitalise school interest in this area. So those who hanker for a blast-from-the-past in getting to grips with the more basic side of computing this winter might like to taste the new *Raspberry Pi*, a tiny single-board computer basically costing around £25 (but allow up to £70 by the time you've bought mouse, keyboard and all the other paraphernalia to go with it).



Further details of all the equipment or terms

mentioned in this article can be found by searching the *Wikipedia* site at *en.Wikipedia.org* or directly through *Google* of course.

So what might the next few years bring? Ever-faster Broadband connection with more extensive availability throughout the world. According to the BBC News Channel programme *Click!*, *Smart TVs* will continue to blur the distinction between TV and computer as elaborate ultra higher definition screens appear everywhere we go with touch, voice or remote hand gesture control. More images will appear in 3D without the need for special glasses, from wafer-thin mobile phones to huge see-through screens appearing on shop windows or filling our living-room wall with low-power, lifelike detail.

In the mean time, for those of us who still like to get out more, may I wish you a glorious ultra high-definition and touch controlled Autumn!

Email: steve@davista.co.uk or visit www.davista.co.uk for links to docs, photos & videos.

News from Ingoldisthorpe C of E Primary School

The summer has been a particularly busy and positive time at Ingoldisthorpe C of E Primary School. First of all, a special congratulations to our year 6 children who achieved a fantastic 100% at reaching Level 4 and above in their Sats for both English and Mathematics this year.

During the summer holidays the external painting was finished, a new floor went down in the hall and a new generation of interactive whiteboards were installed. All in all we are delighted with the work that has been carried out. The school looks, bright, refreshed and thoroughly up to date with the new technology. Similarly the field is in great condition offering lots of outdoor activity.

Now we are back and into the swing of things children are enjoying a good range of after school activities. These include clubs for: sport, board games, dance, football, reading, hand bells, drama and make and do a craft club run by the children.

We also have breakfast club every day from 7:30 and Tea-Time club every day until 6 pm. So there are an awful lot of opportunities for the children.

Little Owls our pre school group meet every morning in school and work alongside our Reception children. We also have a toddler group and dance group for pre school children. Contact us on - 01485 541402, email head@ingoldisthorpe.norfolk.sch.uk

Keith Twaites, Head teacher

Sudoku No 26								
7				5				1
3					9			8
	6				1	5		
6			7				2	4
				6				1
		9			3			
	7						9	
		2			4			3
	5			8				6

Where is it? Who is it?

This statue of Ceres is at the top of the front elevation of the Corn Exchange in Lynn's Tuesday Market Place. Lower down the fascade is the towns Coat of Arms





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The Old Biddie and her Cottage Garden

Valerie Anckorn

I'm fancying some pigeon pie. I would very much like someone to come and shoot all the fat pigeons that have been stripping my cherry trees of their leaves since spring time, who nick all the food I put out for the nice little birds and who make black dollops all over my lawn, *and* who do clog dances on the roof over my bed morning, noon and night. They have not previously been such pests as they have this year, so they must thrive on rain – or have multiplied a dozen-fold. As does the maretail or horsetail (I'm not sure which) that grows in such abundance in my garden. My philosophy in life is that if you can't control a situation, don't let it worry you – but that ideal is wearing a bit thin now! Added to the pigeon problem we have rabbits again nicking all the fresh young blooms, and while Crow the dog tries to sneak up on them, he fails his Lurcher test time after time. I have to say he is rather confused, as we tell him to 'go get' pigeons or bunnies, but to leave the blackbirds alone.

Him indoor's flagstones on the lawn rose and floated on rainwater, though they still proved invaluable, if splashy, when I wanted to cross the lawn-lake to put food in the bird feeders.

We had one wonderful sunny week in late July. Of course much as I had looked forward to sunshine and heat, I couldn't cope with it when it arrived. There is no pleasing some, is there! At the beginning of the sunshine and before it got too hot, I managed to get in three solid days of pulling weeds and chopping back hedges and bushes overgrown from the lack of attention for the past year. I have to say I really enjoy gardening when I find the energy and the weather permits.

I've had loads of evening primroses grow this year – they seed themselves and make a fine architectural plant – and which of course are well known for their medicinal oil. I lay on my bed just before dusk watching the flowers outside the door pop open – it was like watching one of those speeded up films of flowers opening, only this was in real time. Pop! They went, petal by petal from a tightly rolled furl. It was really quite exciting. This is a plant that can be eaten in its entirety. Tisanes can be made from the leaves or they can be added to salads – a nice peppery flavour. The first year's root can be used as a regular root vegetable in bakes and stews. The flowers from second year plants are also edible and can be used to decorate salads. Here is a recipe that sounds rather good:

Roasted winter vegetables:

Carrots, Potatoes, Parsnips, Evening primrose roots, Large onion, Garlic.

Clean and peel or scrub the vegetables well. Cut into 2 inch chips. Coat with olive oil and salt. If you want the different veggies to taste differently, keep them separately, so you can sprinkle the parsnips with curry, the carrots with coriander seed powder and the potatoes and evening primrose roots with Chinese 5 spice mix.

Cut onion into big chunks. Separate garlic into cloves. There is no need to peel. Preheat oven to about 425F

Place all ingredients onto a baking tray and cook for about 30 – 50 minutes on a high shelf. Cooking time depends on the size of the chunks – check frequently.

You can add a few sprigs of fresh sage and rosemary toward the end for additional flavour – putting them in at the beginning will burn them.

Serve with meat – i.e. a roast (pigeon pie would be good) – or cauliflower cheese.

I've had a lot of wild mullein too, another tall plant. Lots of yellow in the garden this year. This is another one that has a myriad of uses, including nature's 'wipes' because the leaves have a soft downy texture and is known in America as the Cowboys' backside wipe – so if times get harsh, you now know how to save a penny or two!

My roses would have had a heavy crop this year, but more than half of them rotted on the stem because of the rain. Such a shame. How have the bees and butterflies fared, I wonder, with such horrible weather. My son tells me that the honey harvest was very slow at first, but the bees flew out as soon as it was sunny and managed to fill the hives. Very productive, bees.

My willow fedge got rather out of control due to all the rain, which it relishes. The high wands have to be left to harden a bit before I weave them back into themselves, so for a while it has looked very out of hand and tremendously high.

I keep dreaming about hens. I don't know if there is any psychological significance for these occurrences, but I do fancy having a couple. I used to have a hen yard, which I loved, but just two hens would be nice for the odd egg, and the gentle clucking.

It transpires that to dream of chickens is to denote worries or cares, and of young chickens (which mine were) fortunate enterprises. See, google turns up trumps every time. Perhaps I could set up a fortunate enterprise selling one or two chicken eggs – paint them gold maybe?...

Him indoors got a bit fired up and decided to put some decking down for our gazebo. Well, that was until I found out the kit would cost £500. A bit of wood costs a lot, doesn't it? In a sense I am relieved. He *would* have kept on until the task was completed but his temper would have been taxed to the limit, with planks and hammers flying everywhere and the dog and I would have had to hide under the forsythia bush until the last nail was hammered in. The parrots would have learned a few more choice oaths, this time in *his* voice as opposed to mine...

The seasons are shortening now – we have had very little proper summer to healthy us up, we all need the vitamin D that the sun provides. Before I knew about these things I used to watch my cats and dog stretch themselves out in the winter sunlight that streamed through the window and I deduced that they were getting something out of it as they didn't need warming up – which of course would be their vitamin D supplement. How very wise is nature.

I'll leave you now, hoping for a nice Indian summer to set us up before the winter. □



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Dersingham Autumn Village Read. From 1 October 2012 until 31st December

Dersingham Library is on a mission to celebrate Black History Month and see how many members of the local community we can encourage to read and share the same books at the same time over the autumn. The books we have chosen are *The help* by Kathryn Stockett - set in Jackson, Mississippi, 1962, a vanished and unjust world, where black maids raise white children, but aren't trusted not to steal the silver - and *Summertime* by J M Coetzee - an intriguing map of a constricted heart struggling within South Africa's claustrophobic, unpoetic, overtly macho society' 'Seriously good'. Guardian How can you take part? Pick up the books at Dersingham Library from Monday October 1st. The read will run from then until the end of December. You can share your views on the Village read via our website at <http://norfolklibrarybookreviewblog.wordpress.com/> or on the Village Read noticeboard at the library

Reminiscence Workshop at Dersingham Library. 1 October 2012 10:00 - 12:00

Come and join this free workshop where we'll explore life experiences through reminiscence activities and discussion. Find out how to use memory boxes - see page 31 - to stimulate and share memories. Learn about Life Writing and how to use art and crafts to reminisce. Booking essential as places are limited. Please call 01485 540181

Surfers reunited at Dersingham Library. 3 October 2012 10:30 - 11:30

If you have attended a computer course at the library, then we want to hear from you! Come along to our coffee morning and let us know how you are getting along. There'll also be an opportunity for staff to direct you towards further learning in you require it!

Dersingham Library Knit and Natter group. Every Thursday from 10.30-12:00

A weekly drop in morning for those who knit or crochet (or those who are interested in learning how to do both). If you are a knitter and are interested in helping others learn or if you would like to learn a new skill then please give us a call. Coffee and tea provided.

Ancestrylibrary.com taster at Dersingham Library. 8 October 2012 10:00 - 12:00

Learn how to start your family history research using Ancestrylibrary.com. Previous experience of using computers is essential. Please book by calling 01485 540181

Dersingham Library Crime Book Club meets on the 2nd Monday of the month 18:00 - 19:00

Dersingham Library Book Club meets monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month 18:00 - 19:00

Get online taster at Dersingham Library

15 October 2012 10:00 - 12:00 or 22 October 2012 10:00 - 12:00 or 30 October 2012 10:00 - 12:00 or 9 November 2012 10:00 - 12:00 or 19th November 10:00 - 12:00

In two hours learn how to use a mouse and keyboard, browse websites and search the internet. Places are limited so please book by calling the library on 01485 540181

Anansi the spider storytime. 31 October 10:30 - 11:30 Under 7s must be accompanied by an adult

Autumn Reads to look out for...

James Patterson - *Kill me if you can*, David Baldacci - *The innocent*, Clive Cussler - *The Race*, Danielle Steel - *Hotel Vendome*, Fern Britton - *Hidden Treasures*, Milly Johnson - *A Winter Flame*, Lily Baxter - *The girls in Blue*, Anna Jacobs - *The trader's sister.*□

Happy Reading! *Alison*

Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly by Alice Worth



After our summer break the Autumn session started again on the 5th September and it was nice to see all our friends and catch up on all the news.

We were delighted to find that the work on the Church Hall had been completed and what a difference the painting and cleaning had made to the main hall. The new toilets, particularly the disabled one, are such an improvement. An awful lot of hard work had obviously gone into the cleaning and sorting out of the kitchen etc. so thanks to all those who helped to make it so much nicer for its users.

Prior to our summer break, and at our last meeting in July, we booked the local mobile fish & chip van to come and cook our lunch. It duly arrived just before noon and all our members were sat down ready to be served. The volunteers queued outside the Hall door armed with hot plates and waited in turn to be served. To experience beautifully cooked fish and chips, straight from the hot fat onto the plate is something to be highly recommended – perhaps not by the Surgery, but as someone remarked “let the statins take the strain just for once”. Chicken and scampi were an alternative dish and so all tastes were catered for, including those who liked mushy peas provided by one of our volunteers. I think this is a treat that we will be repeating before too long!

As we have only had one meeting, prior to the Village Voice’s publication deadline for the October edition, there is no more news this time. However, we will be very pleased if you will note the following:

The Day Centre’s AUTUMN FAIR will be held on SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER in the METHODIST CHURCH, POST OFFICE ROAD from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

Stalls will include Cakes, Bric-A-Brac, Books and Jigsaws, Christmas Cards and Gifts etc.

Refreshments will be served throughout the morning

We do hope you will be able to come and support us.

The Dersingham Day Centre is there for those over the age of 70 who feel they would benefit from a day out each week to socialise and enjoy the company of others. If you think you might like to come and help at the Day Centre (any time you can spare would be appreciated) do come along to the Church Hall any Wednesday between 10.30am and 3.00pm and see what we do. Being a volunteer at the Day Centre is very rewarding as well as good fun. If you are new to the area this is a good way of meeting people and making new friends, everyone is very welcome. □

The courts of the Dersingham Tennis Club are now officially open.

Club times of play

Thursdays 6 - 9 p.m. Sundays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Please feel free to come along and try it out.

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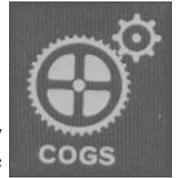
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THE DERSINGHAM COGS by Mike Keogh



Does this sound like you?

You may have noticed round the village an unusual necktie being worn by some respectable-looking old (the word is comparative) men, bearing a device we say in heraldry or what engineers term a “spur gear”; a small toothed wheel engaging a larger one with the legend COGS beneath, and wondered what it signified.

The initials stand for Conservative Old Gentlemen’s Society though our conservatism is not aggressive but broadminded. Old, as I said, is a comparative term though none is middle-aged any longer. Our youngest member I believe to be in his seventies and our eldest I know to be ninety seven as we drank his health on that anniversary earlier this year.

Gentlemanly conduct is expected of all members, with particular reference to ladies and Her Majesty the Queen whose health is pledged ceremonially to start each meeting. These take place every other Thursday morning at the friendly Coach and Horses in Manor Road. The toast forms virtually the only ritual apart from a Welfare Report. Members look after one another and their spouses, or widows of former members, by providing support in times of sickness with visits, lifts to hospital and surgeries and many similar tasks, all on a voluntary basis. We are powerfully patriotic and number among our membership several whose careers were in the Services. Apart from these we include retired scientists, – we are all retired but remain active – a Merchant Marine officer, a builder, an engineer, a senior civil servant, a haulage contractor, a company director, a senior police officer and a school teacher. In short, as varied a collection as even Agatha Christie could dream up in one village, and all with a tale to tell reflecting such a unique combination of experience.

I was asked recently “What do COGS do?” and without thinking I replied “They attend each other’s funerals” as, by value of the “O” qualification, we are often called upon to do just that. Membership has always been by invitation and is restricted to twenty, plus our Member of Parliament who is an honorary member. Our current MP, Henry Bellingham, has proved particularly helpful and available.

And what else? Well, we hold social functions and our barbecues are virtually guaranteed to produce rain but we are not downhearted. We enjoy lectures occasionally from within our ranks and without and most of all the company of like-minded chaps with opinions and respect for those of others.

As I stated, membership has always been by invitation but so vigorously has the Grim Reaper worked among our ranks lately that we have decided to extend beyond our immediate contacts.

If you are a conservative-minded (small “c” or large) man of (shall we say) mature years and fancy the lively company of others and a few beers, please contact our **Chief COG Simon Beales**, on **01485 540097** for further information. ☐



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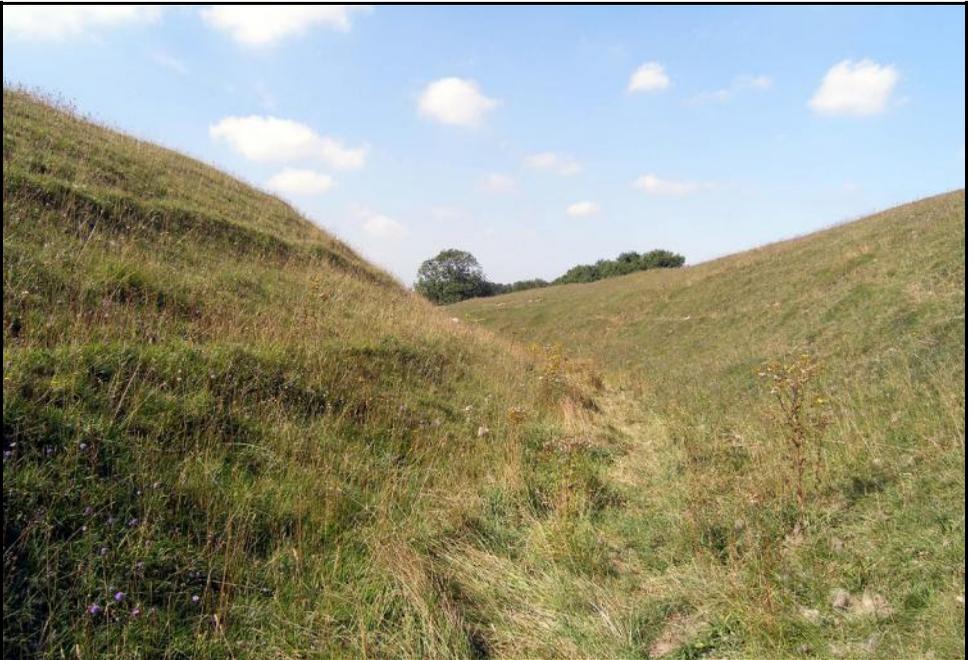
David Bingham The Iron Age

'She was very tall and stern; her look was penetrating; a mass of auburn hair fell to her hips and around her neck was a heavy golden torc; she wore a patterned cloak with a thick cape over it fastened with a brooch, *Cassius Dio's description of Boudicca*.

The Iron Age in Britain began around 800 BC and ended in 43 AD - when the Romans invaded under the command of the Emperor Claudius. Roman writers described the people they met and the places they visited, giving us a glimpse of life in Iron Age Britain – albeit from the point of view of the victors. Norfolk was the land of the Iceni tribe. The modern county isn't an exact match with the old tribal territory but the fit is quite good and would lead most people to recognise Norfolk when looking at a tribal map of Iron Age Britain – they would struggle to do the same for any other county. The most important settlement of the Iceni was in Thetford and Boudicca probably had her main base there, however, north and west Norfolk also have significant Iron Age sites.

It was once thought that the beginning of the Iron Age was a time when a large number of immigrants arrived in this country, bringing with them new technology and a whole new culture. This is no longer thought to be the case and the arrival of iron, and its more useful relative steel, probably came via contacts with tribes on the continent and the arrival of a small number of skilled people. The remains of the Iron Age village of Chysauster in Cornwall are set in an essentially Bronze Age landscape and this is a good place to visit to get a sense of the transition between these two ages.

Early Iron Age ferrous objects often resemble their bronze counterparts and include features that would be required to give the bronze objects strength but are of no value in the iron or steel item. The Iron Age saw a real flourishing of British craft and design and this is clearly seen in the gold torcs that were found near Snettisham and are on display in the British Museum. The 'Great Torc' in this collection may have been worn by Boudicca herself and it is an exquisite example of this type of art often referred to as 'Celtic'. A number of Iron Age hand tools have been discovered at



Fiskerton in Lincolnshire and these look very similar to the tools that can be found today in any garage or workshop.

The Iceni were a sophisticated people with their own coinage and they would have had trading links with neighbouring tribes and even further afield with tribes in Europe. Having said this, it can't be denied that the Iron Age was a time of warrior chieftains and armed conflicts would have been commonplace. Southern England is full of Iron Age hill or ring forts and there are a couple of examples in north Norfolk at Holkham and Warham. The Warham Iron Age fort is particularly fine and sits in a commanding position within the landscape – fully deserving the title hill-fort, even though some may scoff at the idea of a hill-fort in Norfolk. The Warham fort isn't that extensive in area and would, in all likelihood, have been occupied in a crisis rather than year round. The photo was taken in the gap between the outer and inner defensive banks. They would have been bright white when first constructed because they are made of from the underlying chalk. The inner bank would also have had a wooden wall on the top. The banks do not form a complete circle at Warham because a river protects one side of the fort. Natural features in the landscape were often used for defensive purposes in the Iron Age. Ken Hill is a prominent natural feature in our local landscape and it is easy to imagine its rapid fortification in an emergency. I don't think there is any proof that this was ever done but finding the buried torcs close by is suggestive of an Iron Age presence in this part of Norfolk.

Looking a little further afield we have some very impressive Iron Age sites in England. Maiden Castle near Dorchester is a truly enormous hill-fort and is particularly impressive when seen from the air. In Oxfordshire, the huge equine figure cut into the flanks of a chalk hill known as the 'Uffington White Horse' marks the position of a hill-fort, which sits immediately above it. This figure is believed to have been cut in the Iron Age and was probably the logo of the local tribe. The 'Uffington White Horse' is thought to be the oldest of our three great chalk figures. The 'Wilmington Long Man' and the 'Cerne Giant' are both of a more uncertain age – although they are amazing sights for all that and they may one day be shown to be older than we think.

If you go to see the Snettisham Hoard in the British Museum it is well worth visiting an exhibit just a few metres away where you can actually come face to face with someone from the Iron Age – or maybe a little later but still of an Iron Age culture. Lindow Man was found in a bog in Cheshire (I call him Pete). He has been remarkably well preserved by the acidic oxygen poor conditions of the site and his skin looks like tanned leather. His hands were bound and he was thrown naked – apart from a fox fur armband - into the bog after having his skull cracked with an axe, his ribs broken and throat garrotted then cut with a knife. He has a miserable expression on his face – not really surprising because he was having a very bad day. His hair looks neatly cut and he has a trim beard and moustache and his nails are manicured - so he wasn't used to hard manual work. His last meal was unleavened bread and mistletoe berries. This was possibly a ritual sacrifice of a high status individual. The religious leaders in the Iron Age were Druids. There is no connection between Iron Age Druids and their modern namesakes, except that they both seem to put nature at the centre of their beliefs. Pete also suffered from intestinal parasites, which may explain his scrawny appearance - but I guess that being dead for two thousand years would have a similar affect. He was about 28 when he died.

The road to the Iron Age 'hill-fort' known as Stonea Camp near March is very undulating. This is because it runs over peat soil, which has dried and shrunk in recent centuries due to land drainage. The peat is made up of the remains of freshwater plants, which would have been growing here in abundance back in the Iron Age. The fort covers a large area and is the lowest hill-fort in the country at only two metres above sea level. It is hard to imagine just how frightened the defending Iceni people would have been - hoping that their weapons and the earth banks and wooden walls of the fort - together with the miles of unchartered marshland surrounding it - would protect them from the pursuing Roman legions. Unfortunately, this was not the case and the human remains of all ages found in and around the fort suggest that the defenders were massacred. So we have arrived at the time of the Romans and I will talk about Roman Norfolk in the next article.□

Tarzan of the Pine Forest by William Pemberton

Aoo ah ah ooh ah the sound came from the pine forest adjacent to our house. We lived in a large bungalow on the South side of Athens, from our kitchen window we could see the Acropolis.

When I first heard the sound I was about five or six years old, so it would have been about 1947 or 1948. It was explained to me it was a crazy man that thought he was Tarzan. His given name



Two burner Primus stove

was Yiorgos but everybody called him Tar-Zan, in Greek the emphasis is on the last syllable. The name stuck with him and everyone referred to him as such. Our Tarzan made his living repairing Primus stoves and walked the streets bare foot and, wearing an ex Wehrmacht overall, calling out his presence and asking for any stoves to repair. He had plenty of work because up until the early fifties everyone cooked on Primus stoves including my mum, anything for the oven was taken to the local baker.

When we first arrived in Greece our house was without electricity and water, our water would arrive in a British Army bowser and then be pumped into a tank in the loft. When we did get electricity, at first there was only a 5 amp supply just enough for lighting. Eventually a 3 phase supply was installed and my Dad ordered a Belling cooker from Gamages, a mail order catalogue, but the electrician that connected it got it wrong and my poor mum was getting shocks from it so she carried on cooking on the Primus. Tarzan came in and serviced it for us until someone reconnected the electric cooker and the Primus was rendered redundant.

As I grew up I got to know a little more of Tarzan, I don't remember him having any friends; he was always a loner. He lived in a mud brick house with his mother, right up until the early fifties

people were still using mud bricks. On warm summer nights he would sleep out under the trees and occasionally give out his Tarzan jungle call. Later when I was older and went swimming on my own, our paths would cross on the beach where he could be found swimming all year around. He had tremendous stamina and he would swim great distances. On our seashore we had some clay cliffs with caves in them and Tarzan would wash his hair and himself with clay; he had long wavy hair of which he was inordinately proud. I think with his long hairstyle and using only natural shampoo he was ahead of his time. We boys used to dive and jump off the high cliffs into the sea, in fact we were tombstoning before the word was invented. Looking back now and seen the height of the cliffs with adult eyes I can't believe how stupid we were. Today we would be called vandals because we knocked great chunks out of the cliffs in search of the razor fish which we used as bait for fishing.

Tarzan was a remarkable character, he had taught himself to read English and his pride and joy was a book of poems by Longfellow. He liked to read them to my brother and me, there was no point in reading to the local boys as they didn't speak English. If he had been given the opportunities others enjoyed he would have made more of his life. I left in 1957 and I didn't see him again. When I went back he had gone, my brother told me he had gone back to his Island of Seryphos. If he is still alive he will be about 85 years old now with his healthy natural lifestyle and Mediterranean diet, which then consisted of black bread olive oil, grapes and the occasional piece of Feta cheese. Ironic how white bread was prized and priced above black and lamb was preferred to goat. Now it is all back to front. We were envied because we had meat or fish everyday but which was better? Only time can tell, but several of my Greek childhood friends are now dead.

I can imagine him swimming and still giving out his Tarzan call. I wish I could go back in time and learn more about the characters I met when I was a boy, there were some remarkable people that had lived through some difficult times. The Greek people suffered terribly during the German occupation. □

The Dersingham Weather Observed by John F. Murray



The summer weather continued to let us down in July and August although somehow the Olympic Games were hardly affected, unlike the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The Meteorological Office, in September, declared that it was the coldest summer for decades. I have to disagree with this, although I have to admit that I'm not really sure what their definition of "summer" is.

Certainly the mean temperature for both July and August was higher than the same two months last year. July this year produced an average of 16.3°C whereas last July it was only 15.9°C. In previous years it has ranged between 17 and just over 19. However, I have to admit that the highest recorded temperature that I recorded was a paltry 18.1°C. The previous high was last July with 27.2 and in 2010 it reached 31.4; both temperatures being way higher than this year, however I have to repeat myself and say that the average, or mean temperature was not the lowest.

August this year's average temperature was 17.6°C and last year it was 16.5°C. Previous years have been between 16.2 and 18.1, putting this August about in the middle. However the highest temperature I have so far ever recorded was in August this year when it reached a very hot 32.6°C on the 18th of the month. The previous best was last August at 31.2°C.

Even the lowest temperatures do not bear out the Met. Office's claim. This year's PPPs low for July was 12.9°C. Last year produced the lowest ever for July with only 6.5°C. This year's August low was 9.2°C with the previous best being in 2009 with 8.6°C. Last year was only 7°C.

Maybe the Met Office averages it out for the entire country, which, if that is the case, makes us here in Dersingham well above the average.

I come lastly to my favourite subject; rainfall. By early August we had exceeded all of last year's rain. In July we had a total of 107.6mm which exceeds the monthly average of 79.8mm by quite a margin. It only just passed the previous July high of 106.2mm which I recorded in 2009. This high level of rainfall, which of course means overcast skies was no doubt responsible for the very low maximum temperature.

The rainfall recorded for August was 53.4mm which is below the monthly average of 69.6mm and well below the highest monthly rainfall I have ever recorded of 113.1mm in August 2010. This is the first below average rainfall for several months.

So what have we in store for the rest of the year? Early indications are for a reasonable September, but time will tell. Now that the summer is over we can look back on it and say, in true British fashion, that we needed the rain and console ourselves with that.

Can I just remind everyone that you can see the current weather conditions updated every fifteen minutes from my weather station by the weather links on the Dersingham Village web site. □

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Village Voice publication dates

We love getting your reports of events and meetings, advertisements and advance details of forthcoming attractions. To make sure you hit your targets please note the publication dates of this magazine:-

No	Copy deadline	Publication date
No 79	Wednesday 7th November	Monday 26th November
No 80	Wednesday 23rd January	Monday 11th February

The earlier you get your copy to us the more we like it and the better position it gets.

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 £17.20 for an eighth of a page black and white or £26.00 for colour per issue, to be very cost effective. (Prices include VAT)

Advertisements for inclusion in the next magazine should be in the hands of Anita Moore, Dersingham Parish Council, 4 Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP by **Wednesday 7th November 2012**

Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

E-mail — villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

Articles for publication in the next edition of Village Voice must reach The Editor c/o Dersingham Parish Council, 4 Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP or e-mail; villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 7th November 2012 for publication on Monday 26th November 2012**. (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 will appear on the Parish Council's Internet web site. The copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor does not necessarily agree with opinions that are expressed, or the accuracy of statements made, by contributors to the Village Voice.

Copies of most of the photographs published can be made available. Please enquire.

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Editor: - Tony Bubb. Editorial assistant - Rob Smyth
In the office - Anita Moore, Distribution - Steve Davis

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shows you the county
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