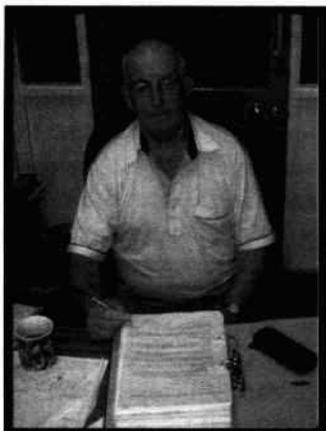


# Dersingham Village Voice

Issue 35

August 2005

## Former Parish Council Chairman Councillor Malcolm Nurse Dies aged 71



The very popular Councillor and former Chairman of Dersingham Parish Council died on Saturday 16 July. Born in Snettisham in October 1933 he moved to Dersingham in 1938 being educated at Dersingham Primary School and Gaywood Park Boys Modern Secondary School.

He worked as a Shop Assistant with Bob Riches in a fish shop which was opposite the Coach and Horses Pub, then moved on to Heacham and opened a shop there.

Malcolm was called up for National Service, joining the RAF in 1952. On leaving the RAF he got a job at the Flax factory at West Newton. It was there that he met his wife, Avis. He joined the Post Office in 1956 and married Avis at Hunstanton in March 1957. Malcolm leaves a daughter, a son, and 4 grandchildren.

Malcolm, a person who was well-versed on the village of Dersingham and who had a recollection which was to be to the advantage of the parish on many occasions, joined the Parish Council in June 1966 and was elected Chairman in July of 2004 following the resignation of his long-time friend and colleague George Pratt, but found it necessary to retire from that post in February of this year due to illness.

A stalwart member of Dersingham Royal British Legion for over 50 years, and of Norfolk No 1 Group Royal British Legion for the same period, Malcolm had been a member of Martin Ffolkes Masonic Lodge since 1982. He had also been a School Governor of Dersingham First School and a member of the Sports Field Management Committee and the Scout and Guide Committee.

## Parish Council Report

A substantial part of the Parish Council meeting held on 23 May was devoted to a presentation by Inspector Colin Williamson from the police. Inspector Williamson explained that Dersingham was a safe place to live with few crime problems compared with some other parts of West Norfolk. The police concentrated their resources on areas where crime levels were high but would move more police into Dersingham in the event of crime rates rising here. Several Councillors and members of the public pointed out that there was a significant level of anti-social behaviour in the village, especially around pub closing time. There were also difficulties caused by groups of young people, some of whom had been drinking. Inspector Williamson asked for all such incidents to be reported, as the police could not do anything unless they had been told. He asked people to use the new special telephone number for non-emergencies: 0845-456-4567.

Following this, the Council discussed problems of anti-social behaviour and agreed to promote a public meeting to discuss how this could be tackled. A working group of four Councillors will do some preparatory work and organise the meeting for the autumn.

A member of the public had pointed out that there had been an ancient pond or moat on the southwest corner of the open area in the Sandringham View estate but this had been filled in by the developer. It was suggested that this might be reinstated as part of the landscaping of this public open space and the Council agreed to write to the Borough planning department suggesting this.

Problems regarding parking by the builders working on the Old Hall development in Chapel Road at the junction with Manor Road were discussed, as vehicles were having difficulty getting past and there was a danger as the site was so close to a blind corner. The meeting was told that the police could not act as there were no parking restrictions in the area. The Council agreed to raise the issue with the highway authority and the developer.

The problem of parking outside the Old Hall development was raised again at the meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 June, when the County Council's Highways Development Control Manager came to answer questions. He agreed to look into the problem; it was also agreed to ask that consideration be given to parking during the construction of any future major developments, including the proposed new medical centre in Church Lane.

The Council received a report on plans for fundraising to pay the balance of the cost of the new skateboard park. A group of local lads had suggested that they organise a gig, as some of them were in a band. Councillor David Benn had also agreed to sit in a bath of beans outside Tropics provided that sponsorship was obtained.

The Norfolk Rural Community Council had written to the Council saying that it was now ready to undertake a survey in Dersingham to establish the need for new affordable housing. The Council agreed that this should go ahead early in the autumn.

*PRB*

### Editor's Notes



It is with great sadness that I have had to report the death of Malcolm Nurse on the front cover of this issue. Over the time that I have known him I have always found him to be a fund of information about this village and with a willingness to share that with anyone who was willing to listen. One of the things which pleases me is that, having served the Parish Council for so many years, he was able to achieve the role to which he had aspired, that of Chairman, albeit for such a short space of time before illness required him to resign from that post. Tony

Bubb, who succeeded Malcolm as Chairman of the Parish Council said "Malcolm was a stalwart of the Parish Council serving the village for 39 years. His depth of knowledge was invaluable where matters demanded historical recollection and his enthusiasm for matters relating to the young of the village knew few bounds. He always brought to any meeting a well thought out and measured response to the business before us and we were often surprised by his suggestions and youthful ideas. We will all miss him." I believe that every member of the Council and of this community will concur with these thoughts.

Malcolm's funeral service, which was attended by some 150 mourners, took place on Monday 25 July at the Methodist Church in the village, followed by cremation at Mintlyn. The service was conducted by the Revd Kim Nally who made reference to Malcolm's community spirit and to the many organisations with which he had been associated, a list which, after he had completed reading through it, had, he said, been so extensive that it had made him breathless. Evidence of his many interests was demonstrated by the number of associations and clubs which were represented at the service.

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The village has also gone through another recent period of grief in the passing of Jamie Griffin whose popularity in Dersingham was such that it is almost impossible to identify exactly how many people attended his funeral, although his obituary in the "Lynn News" on Friday 22 July shows that almost every organisation and family in the village was represented. Our thoughts go out to his parents and family, and to his girl friend, Jade, who is not only suffering the loss of Jamie, but is also having to recover from the horrific after effects of the accident.

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In discussing sorrow I cannot but feel that this last couple of months have had a major impact on the whole of this country in relation to the bombings in London, and I am therefore bound to say that our sympathy goes out to anyone who was there at the time, who was injured by the attacks, or who is related to or friendly with anyone who was affected by these incidents.

## Letters to the Editor

*Some 'Concerned Dersingham Residents' have written to the Editor on the subject of 'Bonfires' without declaring who they are:* Should the writers of this letter wish to have it published they are reminded that we will only publish material under a pseudonym when we are made aware of the name(s) and address(es) of the author(s).

*Mrs Lilian Barnes of Manor Road writes:* **Campaign Care '94 - Plant Sale** - Thank you for advertising our plant sale in the 'Village Voice'. Although a somewhat cold and blustery day initially, things did warm up and we made approximately £350. We had a good raffle and the prize winners were; 1st-Mrs Wakefield; 2nd-J.Taylor; 3rd-Mrs France; 4th-N.Harvey; 5th-Mrs Wheeler; 6th-Mrs Trewin; 7th-Mrs Betts; 8th-Mrs Rudd; 9th-Mrs Ramshaw; 10th-S.Smith; 11th-Geraldine; 12th-Mrs Chadwick; 13th-W Blaney. Our sincere thanks to everyone who supported and helped with this event.

*Steve O'Donnell of 5 Shouldham Close writes:* I am writing to all organisations in the Dersingham and surrounding area on behalf of the Dersingham First Responder Scheme, which is in the process of starting up operationally. First Responders are basically volunteers who hold a relevant first aid qualification and respond to medical emergencies within their community. One of their primary roles is assisting people who may have suffered a heart attack by way of using a defibrillator (the electric shock you may have seen delivered to people on TV programmes), but they may also be called to other emergencies such as bleeding or collapses. The First Responders do not replace Ambulance staff and Paramedics, who will already be proceeding to these incidents having received a 999 call, they merely try to improve a casualty's situation by providing initial treatment when an Ambulance may not be able to get there as quickly. We currently have 9 volunteers undertaking the necessary training. However we need funding. The initial outlay has been estimated at £3500 and although the British Heart Foundation will meet some of the cost we will still have a considerable shortfall. This is the point in which I am basically asking for your help by way of a donation, however large or small, to help us get up and running. The donation need not necessarily be money, it may be an item or goods which we can then auction or raffle, but obviously this then takes time for us to turn these items into cash. The service we look to offer will be voluntary, and in a community such as this would possibly benefit someone you know or work with at some point, although we hope this will not be the case. However, according to statistics we may receive 2-3 calls per week, and as the nearest Ambulance stations are King's Lynn and Hunstanton, you can see our response time would be critical in some cases, especially those where the casualty has suffered a heart attack. We are also looking at ways of raising these funds ourselves by way of holding events such as a car wash or race night, and if you feel you or your organisation may be able to assist us with an event we would be happy to hear from you. Obviously the sooner we reach our target the sooner we can hopefully save someone's life. Finally, we are always looking for more volunteers to join the scheme. First Aid training will be given free of charge so if you, or anyone you know, is in a position to give even a small amount of time each week and would like some more information on the scheme please call either the scheme co-ordinator Steve O'Donnell on 07977 155931 or our Fund Raising Co-ordinator Richard Harrowing on 07775 777319.



I appreciate your taking the time to read this letter and would greatly appreciate hearing from you soon.

**Mrs M Clayton of Bank Road writes:** many people have said the trees on the recreation ground and elsewhere have never looked so fine as they do this year. When he was a parish councillor in the late 60s and early 70s it was Marshall Schorah who was mainly responsible for these. He persuaded the council to accept the idea, researched all the specialist tree nurserymen throughout East Anglia, and thus found the best source of the trees required. He then asked people to pay for these. Some people paid for trees in memory of departed loved ones. Other public-spirited people merely wanted to contribute so as to make Dersingham an even more attractive place. Enough money was donated to be able to plant almost all way round the Recreation Ground and on the triangle of land besides what is now called Budgen's pedestrian crossing. Wallace Twite, who was then the Parish Clerk, organised the labour required to plant the trees. Having worked on Sandringham estate he used his considerable acquired expertise. Most trees survived. However a few succumbed to the efforts of one or two silly youths anxious to show they were stronger than saplings! Every generation produces such idiots, will it ever change? Should anyone want more details, Mr Scorah tells me he still has a list of the trees planted and of their cost. My late husband, George Clayton, while on the Council planted daffodil and crocus bulbs, paid for by the Council, between the trees. However, they were cut down before the tops had fully died off. This meant fewer flowers in the next and subsequent years.

**Dick Melton of Hunstanton writes:** I was very interested in the notes in the Lynn News from the Dersingham correspondent, Mrs Sarah Crowe, about the moat down The Drift. If my research is correct, at one time there were two moats in Dersingham, the one down The Drift and also one on the pastures just before you get to the Church Hall. These two moats have been in existence since the 12th Century and they are both shown on a lot of old maps, and even maps printed in 2004. Both of these moats at one time would have surrounded a manor house when they were constructed, there were at one time up to six manor houses in Dersingham. One of these was called Snoring Hall and stood up Shernbourne Road in the wood next to the last house which is now called Snoring Lodge. The manor house that was down The Drift was no doubt the home of Sir Thomas de Gelham, and I can remember some times when this field was deep ploughed pieces of slate and stone would come to the surface. The last manor house to be pulled down was the one that stood in the old school yard (Community Centre) and was demolished in the 1930s to make way for the school gardens. The row of cottages next to the old Albert Victor Public House in Manor Road was also part of a manor until they were turned into a workhouse. In the great flood of 12 September 1671, when the water came up as far as the church, some of these manor houses on the low land were abandoned and left to decay. Another manor house stood on the low land by the old station with a windmill behind it on the side of Station Hill, also on this same spot were some fishermen's cottages, as Dersingham was a fishing village. After a second great flood in 1735, when the sea went back it receded to the old earth sea wall which is still there today, then the land was reclaimed so that the village was then three miles from the sea, and no longer a fishing village. The last area of land to be reclaimed was about three hundred acres that lay between the pumping station bank and the foreshore. As for the moat down The Drift being restored - I think it's a bit late for that. The best thing to do is to fence in what's left, then plant a few trees around it. When I was a lad we used to paddle across the moat in an old tin bath!

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## Dersingham's 'Travelling Shops'

by Dick Melton of Sunny Hunny

After my little bit about the village shops in Dersingham in the 33rd issue of Village Voice, and all the interest it generated, I thought that I would do a piece about the travelling shops and hawkers that came around to our houses in the forties, fifties and way into the sixties in Dersingham.

Landy Daniels from Snettisham came around the village every Friday with his old Bull-nose Morris van fitted out as a shop selling all sorts of haberdashery, paraffin and methylated spirits. Lambert's of Snettisham also had a mobile shop and they sold all sorts of goods in tins, and would take your grocery order and deliver it the next week, they went round all the villages within a twenty mile area of Snettisham. Lambert's also delivered paraffin in a separate van, of which the driver was Arthur Dade, who always wore an old greasy flat cap.

Don Bradfield from Heacham came round with his van selling hardware and paraffin, he was a right character, always telling jokes.

In those days everybody had a radio (wireless) and they all ran off batteries and accumulators, so a chap called Ted Dodds, who had a shop in Manor Road (opposite the flower shop), would pick up your batteries and accumulators, charge them up, and bring them back the next week.

Then there was Tony Daniels, the cockle man, who came round with a horse and cart selling cockles, mussels and samphire when it was in season. He was a larger than life character with always a good word to say to everybody – if you wanted any chickens plucked and dressed you could take them up to Tony in the bar of the Dun Cow Pub and he would sit up in the corner and do them for you. There was another cockle man called Norman Mitchell from Snettisham, and he kept coming round in his van until the late eighties.

Dan Andrews and his son Bill went round the village twice a week with their horse and cart selling fruit and vegetables. They also had a shop in Chapel Road near the turn off for Fern Hill, and also had a stall on the grass near the church at Sandringham with Ray Dilks who had an ice cream van. There was also another greengrocer called Titch Norwoon from Snettisham who was an amateur escapologist, and who would do his act at lots of local galas and garden fetes.

A lot of other people delivered to our door including Mr Playford the Baker, Norman Towers and Mr Kerry who were both butchers. Norman Towers used a horse and cart, keeping his horse on the Shut-up Common. There were also a Coalman, Milkman, Fish and chip van – every Friday teatime the tallyman, and, now and again, a scissor grinder. I can also remember a chap coming round with a trade bike and a wicker basket selling home-made cheese.

As long as you had the money, anything could be bought at your door!

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Life is like riding a bicycle. You don't fall off unless you stop pedalling.

Claude D Pepper

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## Sarah's Page

Well it is this time again, and unfortunately the office is closed at present because I am on leave until Monday 22 August when normal hours will recommence. This should not happen in future because on the 22 August our new Clerical Assistant, Mrs Norma Hart, should be in post. You will be able to read all about Norma in the next issue.

In conjunction with the Borough Council Sport Development Unit we have four days of fun for children. On Tuesday 30 August between 10.00 am to 12 noon we have Multisport. On Wednesday 31 August between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm we have cricket. On Thursday 1 September between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm we have football and on Friday 2 September between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm we have short tennis.



For more information please contact Cllr David Benn our Village Sports Co-Coordinator on 01485 544725.

We are hoping to hold a BBQ and have a bonfire to celebrate Trafalgar Day. If anyone has any other suggestions or ideas please contact me.

The Borough Council is asking if anyone in the village has a problem getting a Broadband connection. If you are please contact me.

I still have the Diary of Village Events in the office but as yet I have received no information of any of the village organisations etc. Please tell me what is happening as you may find it beneficial to your event.

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

*Sarah*

### Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

Monday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm

Tuesday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm

Wednesday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Thursday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

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## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR DERSINGHAM CENTENARIAN HAROLD BLACKMORE



*Photograph courtesy of Barrett & Coe, King's Lynn*

100 Years of age on 1 July and still going strong is Mr Evan (Harold) Blackmore of Dersingham, seen here with his wife of 12 years, Beatrice, who is known to her friends as Doreen.

Mr Blackmore's birthday was celebrated at a party in their Chapel Road home, when 40 or so friends and relatives, some from as far away as Los Angeles, and others from Nottingham, Yorkshire and Somerset, attended.

Having originally come from Chard in Somerset where his ancestors include the author of 'Lorna Doone', R D Blackmore, Mr Blackmore was employed by Maypole Dairies until a change in career led him to become a Master Plumber. During the Second World War he was to move to Derby where he was a fire fighter, having charge of four of the local fire stations.

Mr Blackmore, who used to have a caravan at Snettisham, moved to Norfolk when he retired, and following the death of his first wife, married Doreen twelve years ago. Their wedding anniversary was celebrated shortly after Harold's birthday on 31 July.

Having had the pleasure of being invited to join the couple for coffee at their home, I was pleasantly surprised at the fact that, although his eyesight and hearing are impaired, it does not appear to have affected either his mental capacity or his sense of humour.

## Swifts

by Marshall Schorah

When I was a member of a scientific society (BAAS) I met scientists from all over the UK. One was a science academic from Nottingham University who told me that one of his post-graduate students had extensively researched swifts.

The student agreed that they rarely landed once having left the nest. It seems they 'slept' by soaring higher than normal then drifted earthwards, snatching a little sleep as they did so. Their gape had the surface area approximating to a 10p coin. They would fly at high speed scooping up insects.



He established the typical energy content of a flying insect. He then evaluated the energy requirement for the swift to fly one metre, and then that, to maintain dynamic equilibrium and survive, the swift had to take in at least one insect for every metre of its flight during its life!

Of course, in areas of high insect density, this was easily achievable, but what about the other times?

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## Dersingham Nationwide

For many years I have been aware that there was a Dersingham Avenue in London's E12 district. This is to the east of the city near the River Roding at Manor Park. I often wondered why this name should have been picked. There was perhaps a slight Norfolk connection in the building of this area as there is also a Sheringham Avenue running parallel to it. These roads were built in late Victorian times when this area was still part of Essex. However the Essex Records Office could throw no light on why the name was selected. Fired with curiosity I then looked to see if there were any more Dersingham names in use and there are. London NW2 has a Dersingham Road. It's just at the southernmost tip of the Borough of Barnet and was built in the early 1900s and yes they also have nothing in their records to suggest why the name was chosen. There are no other Norfolk named roads in the vicinity.

Further away there is a Dersingham Drive in Coventry with no Norfolk names around it and Dersingham Road in Leicester with a cluster of local names around it including another Sheringham Road.

So the question is why was the name picked? Certainly the two oldest addresses are unlikely to reflect happy memories of holidays spent in Dersingham by the builders. Surely Sandringham or Hunstanton would seem more logical choices. Perhaps the sites were owned by a Dersingham resident and it was a condition of the sale that the name was used. One could speculate endlessly. Do you know why?

*Tony Bubb*

## Results

by Kathy Jordan © 20-06-05

(in which Kathy considers the thoughts of those who may be awaiting their examination results)



Full of fear and fright – lasting through the night,  
 Important appointments to keep,  
 Dreading the dawning – exam result morning,  
 Will the future be bright or bleak?



In those GCSEs – you've won A, B or Cs,  
 Vocation or 'A' level places?  
 You're way up on a high – but that downhearted guy,  
 Dismay and rejection he faces.  
 Or for 'Uni' selected – have you been elected?  
 Gaining those precious points needed,  
 You explode with elation – blind to the deflation,  
 Of students who haven't succeeded.  
 If you have done your best – you're as good as the rest,  
 With fortyfold forks now to follow,  
 Can't decide where to go? – Turn to those in the know,  
 Then you'll be triumphant tomorrow.  
 For they'll steer your resources – into fresh work or courses,  
 As your skills are more than a few,  
 So what're your result – something's waiting – just right,  
 For a brilliant 'boffin' like you.

## Active for Life

The exercise class, held at Heacham Surgery, continues to offer support for those over 65 and at risk from Osteoporosis.



The exercises are specifically designed and medically approved to help improve bone building and muscle strength and to increase mobility and balance. This helps greatly to ease the problems caused by Osteoporosis and reduces the danger of falls and fractures.

Members pay an annual subscription of £5 plus a fee of £2 per class. (A reduced fee of £1.50 is charged for a second or subsequent class in the same week).

An application form can be obtained from Reception, which should be countersigned by your Doctor or Practice Nurse and taken to the class on the day of your choice. The classes run from Tuesday to Friday inc and are from 10 to 11 am.

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## Dersingham Horticultural Society

**May Meeting:** Our newsletter announced this meeting as a talk on 'Bonsai' by Brian Taylor. However, he was not alone, but accompanied by fellow members of the local Bonsai Group, who, between them, assembled a magnificent display of this ancient art. Brian started his talk by briefly outlining the history of bonsai growing. Started in China as early as 2000 BC with plants naturally distorted by growing in rock crevices with little nutrients, it subsequently transferred to Japan where it became associated with the high ranking society. It came to Europe with the Paris Exhibition of 1887 and to the VSH after WW2 taken there by soldiers who had been prisoners of war and had seen specimen trees in Japan.

Largely a practical demonstration, Brian said that, to start, a tree/shrub of any kind should be allowed two to three years natural growth in the ground. Then trim half the tap roots away and replant to allow a good fibrous root system to develop, then remove the remaining tap root. Re-pot annually with a gauze over the drainage hole and a layer of gravel over this. Use a peat based compost mixed with John Innes No 1 to ensure good drainage. Pruning and training should be carried out throughout the year – experts use specialist tools for this.

The bonsai year starts in February with the pruning and adjusting of deciduous specimens – coniferous ones later. Feed with a low nitrogen feed every four weeks, shade in hot weather and keep cool at all times.

**June Meeting:** A fine June evening saw some forty five members for a sedate and informative tour of the organic project of Abbey Farm at Fritcham. Our host for the evening, Edward Cross, who is responsible for this area of the farm's business, told us the history of the organic project and of its increasing success and hoped for expansion.

A tour of the poly-tunnels proved of particular interest to the vegetable growers among our members some of whom were able to pass on valuable tips to Edward! This was followed by a peaceful walk where we saw hares, buzzards, early wild flowers and grasses – all of which served to emphasise the conservation aspects of the farm. A wild flower walk had been created with seeds gathered locally (eg ox-eye daisies from Fritcham churchyard) and this should achieve its full glory in early July.

The farm is situated in the valley of the Babingley Brook and the water meadows full of wildlife are overlooked by a bird hide - kingfishers have been seen by visiting schoolchildren – which may be visited at any time without prior permission.

Abbey Farm prides itself on its contribution to the conservation of wildlife and landscape and this was much appreciated by those present.

Our hosts very generously plied us with tea, coffee and biscuits at the end of the evening in the courtyard of their beautiful farmhouse.

Two very different, very enjoyable meetings thanks to our two events organisers – Pat and Terry Moss.

Meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of the month, 7.30 pm at St Cecilia's Church Hall.

*David Clark – 01485 543182*

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## **Dersingham Infant and Nursery School and Dersingham St George's Church of England Junior School**

By the time you read this edition of Village Voice our staff and children will be enjoying their summer holidays! As I write however, we still have three weeks to go and we are all wondering how we are going to fit in everything we have to do into just 15 days!

It has been a busy but rewarding year in our schools, and we would like to say a special thank you to the village community for supporting us in so many ways. We value your support and look forward to continuing the links with the community in September.

The summer holidays will see our schools cleaned and prepared for the Autumn Term. At the Infant and Nursery School we are having four new Interactive Whiteboards fitted and at the Junior School there is construction work going on. A new wildlife area is being created and also two classrooms are being refurbished. The improvements at both schools are designed to ensure we give the children the best environment that we can and make school an exciting place to learn.

Looking ahead to the next academic year, we have several special things planned where the two schools will be joining together, building on the success of the art exhibition, the joint school choir and the Christingle service of the last year. We plan to explore some of these ideas again, as well as introducing new initiatives and ways of working together. So watch this space! Our new school term begins on Tuesday 6 September.

**Jackie Austin - Headteacher  
Infant and Nursery School**

**Carol De Witt – Headteacher  
St George's Junior School**

### **Forthcoming Events at Dersingham Methodist Church**

Saturday 3 September at 10.00 am

**Coffee Morning with Hand-made Card Stall**

Saturday 24 September at 10.00 am

**Coffee Morning with Stalls and the Church**

**Decorated for Harvest Festival**

Sunday 25 September at 10.30 am

**Harvest Service - Mr Alan Haywood**

Sunday 25 September at 6.30 pm

**Harvest Songs of Praise**



We look forward to seeing you

## **ROUNCE & EVANS**

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# **FLOWERS BY YVONNE**

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## “The Worm Turned”

(or “Dashing away with the Brownie Points”)

To be sung to the tune of “Dashing away with the smoothing iron”

*by Steve Nowell*

‘Twas on a Monday morning, that I beheld my darling.  
 She looked so sweet and charming, in ev’ry high degree.  
 I had to do the gard’ning O, in wellies and sou-wester O.  
 Dashing away on a Dersingham dig, Dashing away on a Dersingham dig;  
 I gained a brownie point.

‘Twas on a Tuesday morning, when I beheld my darling.  
 She looked a lot less charming, in ev’ry high degree.  
 I had to take her to King’s Lynn O; Sainsbury’s, Morrison’s, Tesco’s O.  
 Dashing away with a laden truck, Dashing away with a laden truck;  
 I gained a brownie point.

‘Twas on a We’nsday morning, that I beheld my darling.  
 She look-ed so alarming, in ev’ry high degree.  
 She made me walk her doggie O, through Wolferton Woods and marshes O.  
 Dashing away with a Doberman, Dashing away with a Doberman.  
 I gained a brownie point.

‘Twas on a Thursday morning, when I beheld my darling.  
 She looked so grim and alarming, in ev’ry high degree.  
 She made me do the cleaning O; Hoovering, polishing, dusting O.  
 Dashing away with a Brillo pad, Dashing away with a Brillo pad;  
 I gained a brownie point – (*shout*) THAT’S 4!  
 (*speak loudly*) BY FRIDAY I’D HAD ENOUGH!

‘Twas on a Friday morning, when I beheld my...(*spoken*) darling??  
 She looked so mean and nasty, in ev’ry high degree.  
 I told her just where she could go, with all her rotten chores and so:  
 Feathers Hotel for a pint or three! Cheers, my lads, here’s one for thee!  
 I blew my brownie points!

### **The Malcolm Batterbee Memorial Day Sunday 14 August at Sandringham Club from 2 pm**

BBQ and Refreshments, Kids’ Fancy Dress  
 Face Painting, Big Prize Raffle, Variety of Games and Stalls  
 Car Boot £5 a pitch, please ring 01485 543284  
 to book your space

Entertainment by “Waddo” from 8 pm Sunday Evening  
 This is to try and get a Defibrillator Machine for the  
 Dersingham First Responders

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## **My Big Adventure in Poplar - East London Reminiscences of the Second World War**

*by Dersingham Resident Frederick Barnes*

At nine years old the serious fact that war was imminent had no reality other than that my sister and I were being evacuated to a place called Headington which, as we found out later, was in Oxfordshire. We were from the East End of London, Bowen St Poplar to be precise, and, up until that moment, had not ventured far from home. So it was that on Saturday, the day before war was declared, we made our way to the nearest railway station, a long snaking line of children completely unaware of what was to befall us.

On reaching Headington we assembled in St Francis Church and it was here that we would be given accommodation. In effect we would meet the people we were to be staying with. It all sounds very simple but as my sister would not leave me and I did not want to leave her this caused a problem, ie 1 boy and 1 girl = 2 bedrooms!

My sister's friend Nellie Stokes further compounded this because she would not be parted from her best friend, my sister - we were like the 3 musketeers all for one and one for all! By now it was late into the afternoon and being the last 3 children and as yet no one had come forward, we were feeling pretty low and close to tears, and then a decision was made that we would spend the night with a Mr and Mrs Morris (who lived opposite the church) until more permanent accommodation could be found.

On the next day, Sunday, war was declared and we could feel the tension. We were now realising as children that something was wrong but not being able to understand the severity of the situation and, bless the Morrises, they tried to protect us from it. The next day we were taken to Mr and Mrs Radborn of Benson Road who had agreed to have us on a permanent basis and so it was that some normality returned to our lives. I stayed with the Radborn family for approximately 15 months in which time I was treated almost like a son. They were very strict but fair and my thanks to them for showing me a different way of life. My reason for leaving was that Nellie had a cousin, Eileen, (another girl) who came to stay, and it seemed that I was the obvious one to move on, being the only boy. I was billeted in a Boys' Home, which I found completely alien after the family atmosphere I had enjoyed, the transformation was too stark, and so I returned home.

On returning to London I now had to adjust to the dangers of air raids, making sure where the nearest shelter was and become more street wise. The dangers when out and an air raid was in progress came not only from the enemy but falling shrapnel from our own ack-ack batteries, and, being near the docks there was plenty.

My parents were both working, Dad in the heavy rescue and Mum in some munitions work and so I had a great deal of freedom. School was very much a casual attendance, although, having attended Hay Currie school in Poplar I then passed a scholarship to attend St Pails Way which was the old Thomas St Central that had been bombed.

Like many Londoners we all tried to do what we could to help each other and the

one notable thing was the togetherness. As a young lad I saw many casualties and deaths, the worst moments being when the school register in the morning was called after a heavy night's raid and no answer was given. I would like to bring to your attention the NFS messenger service, little of which seems to have been mentioned in the accounts of the London blitz that I have seen. I joined it in early 1944, putting my age up, we signed on at various fire stations, Burdett Road, Brunswick Road, Janet St on the Isle of Dogs. The idea was that if communication broke down as a messenger you hopped on the bike and were the go between, ie to call on more pumps to attend, so when you first went on duty you were allocated a tender and duly strapped your bike on it (so eat your heart out all you Harry Potter fans - you haven't lived until you have ridden on the outside of a pump escape on a call out?). Our training was supervised by Leading Fireman Hall and Fireman Bird who were our instructors. They were very strict on safety and if we happened to be on duty with them kept us on our toes. I often wonder why there is no cadet force in the Fire Service today.

My service in the NFS was mainly at the time of the V1 and V2. I remember the first doodlebug, as the V1 was called, which fell on a bridge in Grave Road not far from where I lived. The Authorities thought it was a German aircraft but, as we were soon to find out, it was the flying bomb. I am finding exact dates difficult but I will always remember the drone of the flying bomb and the fear when the engine cut out. We had two such incidents in a space of some 5 hours when at 7 am the first one which was very close exploded in Brabazon Street, Poplar, landing on houses causing many casualties and damage then a second bomb came down at around 12 o'clock making a direct hit on the Co-op factory in Broomfield St. This was far worse as at the time it exploded the workers were leaving for their lunch and again there were many casualties and fatalities.

I am now 74 and, looking back, I wonder sometimes if it really did happen to me and others I knew so well. The answer was in the recent anniversary of the D-Day landings, for when I saw the effect of remembering in the faces of those brave survivors I was proud to have done what I did, always aware of the debt we owe to them.

This was my war, my big adventure. There is so much more one could recall but it can get very painful and I prefer to remember the good times about those who are no longer with us.

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In poverty and other misfortunes of life, true friends are a sure refuge. The young they keep out of mischief; to the old boy they are a comfort and aid in their weakness, and those in the prime of life they incite to noble deeds.

*Aristotle*

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**Tuesday September 6th**

**"Forty years of Norfolk Vetting"**

an illustrated talk  
by local vet

**Roger Haverson**



St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Rd, Dersingham  
7.30 pm Admission £2.00 including refreshments.  
Raffle

**VILLAGE VOICE LIVE**

**Tuesday October 4th**

**THE EAST ANGLIAN FILM ARCHIVE**



will be presenting an evening of nostalgia.

St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Rd, Dersingham  
7.30 pm Admission £2.00 including refreshments.  
Raffle

## Village Voice Live



A bright June evening saw members of the Communications Committee busy blacking out St Cecilia's ready for Simon Massen to entertain us. His vast collection of old postcards and pictures of the area held the audience spellbound as image after image was presented on the screen, everything from views of the old station to the young King of Norway sitting on a pony.

Simon makes no charge for his shows but hopes for a charity donation, which we were happy to make. The evening raised sufficient money to enable us to make a donation of £50 to "Campaign Care 94".

The July meeting was well attended by local music lovers who, despite the rain, flocked to hear the West Norfolk Singers' dulcet tones. A varied concert of light pieces was splendidly performed by the 17 strong, smartly presented choir, with well known pieces including Scarborough Fair, The Ash Grove and I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside being interspersed with less familiar songs, solos from George Braun and a singular work, performed by Adrian Huggins (the words of which are printed on Page 19). All were accompanied by Adrian Flower on the piano and whipped into shape by director Anne Hynde. The evening was well applauded by the audience who indicated that a return visit would be welcomed, which your committee will endeavour to arrange.

We would like to thank the various businesses in the village who have generously donated raffle prizes, the raffle helps to keep Village Voice Live in the black.

Future evenings arranged include an "Antiques Roadshow", Mr Marcus O'Lone talking about the Sandringham Estate, Dr Paul Richards on some interesting aspects of local history and for October the East Anglian Film Archive will be presenting a programme of local interest. But first of course comes the September meeting when local vet Roger Haverson will be telling us about 40 years of Norfolk vetting. See page 22 for details.

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### THE FLYING GEESSE PATCHWORK & QUILTING GROUP

Are supporting the BREAK CHARITY with a raffle to help raise funds.

The Group have made a double bed size quilt as first prize (worth over £500) with many other prizes, some hand made.

**THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN AT OUR COFFEE MORNING ON  
SATURDAY 3-SEPTEMBER 2005. AT THE MEMORIAL HALL,  
SNETTISHAM, 10 am to 12.30 pm**

**PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THIS VERY WORTHY CAUSE.**

**There will also be a sales table with items hand made by the Group.**

The Flying Geese Ladies have been happily stitching together for over 4 years, combining friendship and an interest in various needlecrafts, skills ranging from beginners to experienced. As a group we also enjoy demonstrations, various outings especially in search of fabric and ideas for our projects.



## The Battle of Trafalgar - 20<sup>th</sup> October 1805

### The most decisive naval battle in history.

(Printed by kind permission of Malcolm A Baldwin, Editor, RAF Regiment (Birmingham) Newsletter)

#### Part Two of Four

It had always been essential to Napoleon's master plan to control the world that he should have command of the seas. With his Allied fleet now ruined as a fighting force that dream had been destroyed forever. Trafalgar, moreover, established England's supremacy at sea for nearly a century and a half, during which time the Royal Navy remained the bedrock on which her control of the far-flung British Empire rested, through the age of steam and into the 20th century.

It was not until several days after the battle that The Times newspaper was able to inform its readers of the outcome of the battle. Their joy that England had won a great sea battle was tempered by the knowledge that the country had lost its most beloved naval commander.

The battle of Trafalgar can be considered the most decisive naval battle, both tactically and strategically, in history. It not only eliminated Napoleon's plans to invade England, it also destroyed French naval power and ensured the dominance of the Royal Navy throughout the world.

#### The Aftermath

Trafalgar was a devastating defeat for the combined French and Spanish fleet. The British did not lose a single ship although most were damaged, some severely. Losses amounted to 449 killed and 1214 wounded out of 18000, allowing Britain to keep its experienced and battle hardened human capital intact. French and Spanish losses, on the other hand, amounted to 4408 killed and 2545 wounded. Eighteen ships were captured and one, the *Achille*, was blown up.

Of the 10 ships that regained Cadiz, the French ships *Pluton*, *Heros*, *Neptune*, *Argonaute* and *Indomptable* and the Spanish ships *San Francisco de Asis*, *Montanes*, *Rayo*, *San Leandro* and the *San Justo*, all were damaged and only five were seaworthy. When Admiral Rosily arrived to assume his command on the 25th October, instead of finding 18 French ships, there were only five battle-scarred survivors.

The danger was not over for the British as a strong gale was approaching. The storm raged from the 21st October through to the 27th during which the British lost many of their prizes. Only the *San Juan Nepomuceno*, *Swift-Sure*, *San Ildefonso* and *Bahama* made it back to Gibraltar. The crews of *Bucentaure* and *Algisiris* managed to regain control of their ships from the British but only *Algisiris* managed to regain port, *Bucentaure* running aground. The rest were lost, either sunk or abandoned.

A few days after the battle, on the 23rd the French ship *Pluton* spied *Neptuno* and the *Santa Ana* being towed to Gibraltar. Setting sail with *Heros*, *Neptune*, *San Francisco de Asis* and *Rayo*, they attacked, forcing the British ships to drop their tows. On returning to

port, however, *Rayo* became stranded on the coast to be set on fire by the British while *San Francisco de Asis* and *Neptuno* both ran aground.

More was to come. The 2nd of November saw Dumanoir's four ships meet Commodore Strachan's squadron of four ships of the line and four frigates. Engaging on the 4th, Dumanoir dithered in his command while Strachan attacked with vigor, capturing all four French ships. The combined French and Spanish fleet was, therefore, reduced by a total of 23 ships by the Trafalgar campaign. While not defeating Napoleon; the Victory was towed into Portsmouth on the same day Napoleon crushed the Third Alliance at Austerlitz, but his hopes of invading England were crushed beyond repair. In addition to these material losses, the French were crushed psychologically, destroying naval moral for decades. Of the ships that remained Cadiz, none were to see action against the British again. In 1808, when Napoleon invaded Spain, the Spanish seized the five French ships.

The British ships limped back to the safety of Gibraltar. The Gibraltar Chronicle carried its greatest world exclusive the next day. Nelson's body was brought ashore at Rosia Bay and placed in a brandy vat in preparation for the long journey back to England. The sailors who lost their lives were buried at sea. Those who survived the battle but who later died of their wounds, were buried in the Trafalgar Cemetery in Gibraltar.

### Effect of the Battle

France was forever altered by their loss at Trafalgar. Napoleon's ambitions against England were thwarted. Nelson would go down in history as a hero, and the most famous square in England, Trafalgar Square, would be named for the victory. Without France to challenge her – Germany was not yet unified, and Russia was no naval power – Britain would rule the world's oceans for 100 years.

Many historians argue that the fate of the Napoleonic wars were sealed at Cape Trafalgar, and not at Waterloo, ten years later.

## THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

The **Battle of Trafalgar** was the most significant naval engagement of the Napoleonic Wars and was the pivotal naval battle of the 19th Century. It was fought west of Cape Trafalgar in south west Spain. The Battle of Trafalgar was considered to be the greatest sea battle with sailing ships. It was also the last. It took place just off the coast of Cape Trafalgar between Caños de Meca and Conil on the Costa de la Luz.

The British Royal Navy led by Horatio Nelson destroyed a combined French and Spanish fleet and in so doing guaranteed to the United Kingdom uncontested control of the world's oceans for more than 100 years.

For much of the 1780s, 1790s and early 1800s, the British fleet was involved in actions against the French and Spanish in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Caribbean. Admirals such as Rodney and Hood established British superiority but it was Horatio Nelson who secured British naval dominance.

Successful at the Battle of the Nile in 1798 and Copenhagen in 1801, his most famous encounter occurred off the Spanish coast at Trafalgar in October 1805. It proved to be the decisive naval battle of the Napoleonic Wars, with Nelson defeating the combined Spanish and French fleets without loss of any British ship. Unfortunately, it was not without personal cost - Nelson was killed on his flagship, Victory, during the battle, by a sniper's bullet.

In 1805 under Napoleon, the French were masters of the European continent, while the British still ruled the seas. The British, during the course of the war, managed to impose a fairly effective blockade on France. This blockade had the effect of keeping the French from

fully mobilising their own naval resources and kept the French from invading Britain although Britain could always land in France.

Disgusted with this situation, Napoleon Bonaparte determined to sweep the Royal Navy from the seas, and issued orders for the French Navy to combine with forces from the Spanish Navy (Napoleon ruled Spain), break the British blockade, then escort an invasion force of some 350,000 French soldiers to the shores of England.

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### **Contact with the Police**

I am sure that many of you will have read the recent Dersingham Parish Council report in the Lynn News. There were a number of comments made by both your Parish Councillors and members of the public at the meeting about having difficulty contacting the police and therefore not bothering to report incidents. Whilst I would acknowledge that there have been problems in the past, Norfolk Constabulary has made great progress over the last couple of years to rectify this, culminating in the launch of the new non-emergency telephone number, 0845 4564567. This one easy recognisable low rate number helps us to improve performance and contact with and from the public. There will be occasions when relatively minor incidents are reported where an officer is not dispatched as their attendance is not felt to be required. However we take into account all reported crime and incidents when deciding where and when officers should be on patrol. I would therefore urge you to report all matters to the police. Put simply, if we do not know about a problem then we cannot take action to deal with it.

We handle about 350 "999" calls in the Contact and Despatch Centre with a further 7850 non-emergency calls. If you have access to the internet you might like to visit the Norfolk Constabulary website which can be found at [www.norfolk.police.uk](http://www.norfolk.police.uk). This contains useful information about the way we police the County. It also contains a "Frequently Asked Questions" section that may help answer your questions without the need to speak to a member of staff.

You might have got the impression that crime was increasing in Dersingham but this is not the case. There have been some high profile incidents which have featured in the newspapers recently but these do not reflect the general situation. Over the last year burglary of people's homes in this area has been reduced by 25%, vehicle crime by 42% and other burglaries by 42%. There have been increases in violent crime but these increases are directly related to our efforts to encourage the reporting of domestic violence and hate crime. Norfolk remains a very safe place to live and work and the Dersingham area is one of the safest within Norfolk. By reporting incidents you witness to the police, together we can help keep Norfolk safe.

*Inspector Colin Williamson Hunstanton Police Station*

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Maturity is often more absurd than youth and very frequently is most unjust to youth.

*Thomas A Edison*

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## The Historical Importance of Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve

Whilst there are no registered features of archaeological importance present on Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve (NNR), historically, the site has been used for a variety of uses, including: a commercial rabbit warren, carstone quarrying, sand quarrying, land fill (intermittently between 1948 – 1978), ground troops training, bomber pilot training, anti-aircraft gun/search-beam emplacement, peat cutting. To differing extents, all of these activities have left their mark on the site. The following provides a brief summary of each of these and their known locations:

**Rabbit warren** – whilst the exact boundary of the warren is not known for certain, the 1839 Tithe Map indicates that it occupied a position on the Greensand escarpment at the southern eastern end of the site.

**Ironstone quarrying** – thin seams of hardened ferruginous material outcrop within the Sandringham Sands. There is evidence that these were mined at two locations within the site: TF 665284 and TF 671280. It is possible that this is the origin of some of the material used to construct some of the older buildings in the villages of Wolferton and Dersingham.

**Sand Quarrying** – The white quartzose sands of the Middle Sandringham beds have been worked at TF 680293. The sands formally worked here were used for the glass-blowing industry. Old shafts and adits to this quarry worked the same beds. This quarry is now designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on account of its geology.

**A landfill** was opened in 1948 by Docking Rural District Council (TF769 294). Norfolk County Council used the site between 1974 and 1978 for category A (Inerts), B (Plastic and Wood) and C (Domestic waste), after which time it was capped. The landfill is situated directly on the Sandringham Sands. A leachate plume has been detected issuing from the SW corner of the landfill resulting in localised vegetational changes. The capped landfill has become vegetated by species-poor grassland.

**Military training** – a series of trenches, believed to have been used for ground troop training exist at TF 677288 and at TF 663 284. Two parallel ditches situated at the northern end of the site running from TF680295 northwards to TF683297 are believed to have been created as bomber training sight lines. An anti-aircraft gun/search light emplacement exists at TF 676 287.

Despite its rich and varied history, English Nature has few written records or photographs to document how the reserve was shaped. I have, however, heard some fascinating personal accounts of people's experiences of the reserve ranging from the wildlife they saw to the work that they did. In order to help us to build a more vivid picture of every day life on the bog and what it meant to local people, I am seeking to collect as many accounts and photographs as possible as a record for the future. If you have any personal memories of Dersingham Bog or photos you would like to share, I would be delighted to receive them.

Ash Murray, Site Manager, English Nature  
01485 543044 [ashley.murray@english-nature.org.uk](mailto:ashley.murray@english-nature.org.uk)

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Success or failure depends more upon attitude than upon capacity. Successful men act as though they have accomplished or are enjoying something. Soon it becomes a reality. Act, look, feel successful, conduct yourself accordingly, and you will be amazed at the positive results.

*Dupree Jordan*

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Care and Repair-West Norfolk is an independent, “not-for-profit” Home Improvement Agency now serving Breckland and Fenland, in addition to King’s Lynn and West Norfolk.

The Agency’s main aim is to help homeowners and private tenants who are aged 60 plus, or disabled, or on means-tested benefits to repair, improve or adapt their homes.

We provide advice on the work required to properties and the ways in which it could be financed. We can complete all the paperwork required for Council grant and loan applications, obtain estimates from reliable contractors, and supervise the works to be carried out. In fact we can take away most of the worry and effort involved and which often puts people off - having much needed work done to their homes. We also arrange for state benefit checks to help customers to claim their full entitlements, and can help households which are unlikely to obtain Council grants or loans.

In some areas we can also arrange for the installation of personal alarm systems and home security measures, and for small-scale handyperson jobs which could help reduce the risk of accidents around the home.

The Agency is funded by the Government, Breckland District Council, Fenland District Council, the Borough Council of King’ Lynn and West Norfolk, and the East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Primary Care Trust. It is also supported by a range of other organisations, such as Age Concern.

If you think we can help you, or someone you know, please contact us at:

*King’s Court, Chapel Street, King’s Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 1 EX*  
 Telephone::(01553) 616677 Mincom: (01553) 616705 Fax: (01553) 768999  
 EMail: [careandrepair@.west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:careandrepair@.west-norfolk.gov.uk) Web site: [careandrepair-wn.org](http://careandrepair-wn.org)

### **Additional & Corrected Information Related to Issue 34**

**DATAlink – Page13** – Should you wish to apply for this scheme the person to contact is Sandy Thorpe, ‘Red Cross Home from Hospital’ at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital – Telephone 01553 613613 Ext 2721

**Arts and Crafts Festival – Page 62** – The person to contact in relation to this event is Anne Hynde – Telephone 01485 540696

**A Dersingham Boyhood – Page 64/5** – The number of aircraft cared for in the desert by Michael Jolley should read ‘over a thousand’

### ICE - a very good idea...

East Anglian Ambulance Service have launched a national "In case of Emergency (ICE)" campaign with the support of Falklands war hero Simon Weston and in association with Vodafone's annual life savers award. The idea is that you store the word "ICE" in your mobile phone address book, and against it enter the number of the person you would want to be contacted "In Case of Emergency". In an emergency situation ambulance and hospital staff will then be able to quickly find out who your next of kin are and be able to contact them. It's so simple - everyone can do it. Please do. Please will you also advise everybody in your address book of this scheme, it won't take too many messages before everybody will know about this. It really could save your life.

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### 'Voice' Writer Receives Recognition in Guernsey

Village Voice's very own poet and writer has won acclamation for a musical about the Nazi occupation of Guernsey during the Second World War.



Hugh Mullarkey, a former English teacher at Glebe House School, Hunstanton, and a regular contributor to this magazine, received high praise after his work "Liberation Day" was performed at the island's One Act Play Festival in June by members of the Guernsey Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Club.

Hugh has spent many months travelling to and from Guernsey in order to research the subject matter for the play, and at the same time visiting his many friends on the island. The play won awards in the festival for the highest marks, best director, most promising actor under 15, musical play with the highest overall marks, and audience favourite. Further recognition is being given to the musical by a publisher of school shows with a view to it being staged as part of the National Curriculum. Hugh is not new to the literary world as he continues to write topical poetry for the 'Voice', wrote musicals during his time at Glebe, and has produced a book of poetry called "A Load of Mullarkey".

## Sandringham Flower Show

The Sandringham Estate Cottage Horticultural Society was originally formed in 1864 to encourage staff living on the Estate in the cultivation and care of their gardens.

A press cutting from 1896 says that the Show was 'particularly good' and it far eclipsed all previous shows. Special trains were laid on to Wolferton and Hillington railway stations and carriages conveyed the passengers to the Sandringham Flower Show.

This year has marked the 124th Annual Flower Show which has developed from this humble beginning into one of the region's most prestigious horticultural events attracting an attendance of more than 20,000 people and involving some of the country's leading nurseries and horticulturalists.

The success of the Show is due in no small way to its patronage and attendance of members of the Royal Family. For more than 50 years, the Queen Mother indicated it was a favourite event in her calendar and since 1990, The Prince of Wales has also attended, succeeding her as patron of the event.

The Show is run by a Committee of unpaid volunteers and the profits from each Show are donated to local charities. Since 1977, approximately a third of a million pounds has been donated.

An immense amount of work goes into the Show and the planning for the following year's event starts the day after the Show.

Whilst the Committee always strives to maintain the traditions of the Show, it is continually evolving and has developed into a major one-day family show. The introduction of Show Gardens in 2004 proved such a success that these have been increased to 8 this year and again popular television gardening presenter Chris Beardshaw will be judging these.

Also added in 2004 was "The Gardeners' Forum" featuring a continuous programme of horticultural talks by leading gardening experts, culminating in a Gardeners' Questions event involving all the horticultural speakers including Chris Beardshaw. The combination of all of this together with the recently introduced Craft Marquee and top-class ring events has added to the Show's success.

The Sandringham Grand Prix Lawn Mower Racing Event was introduced at the 2004 Show and has proved hugely popular with visitors to the Show. This year has seen an increase in the number of entrants for this event including some of the major lawn care and mower firms.

In October of each year, once the profits from the Show are known, the Committee meet to agree the charities who will benefit from donations. Traditionally, the Show donates to the local community and to charities which benefit the people of West Norfolk.

At this year's show on Wednesday 27 July, despite the inclement weather, some 20,000 visitors flocked to the grounds of Sandringham House to greet the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, who arrived in a horse-drawn carriage. The couple took the opportunity to chat to dozens of people during their two-hour walkabout. The crowd were also thrilled to see that also in attendance on this occasion were the royal couple's invited guests, actress Dame Judi Dench, actor/director Keith Baxter and presenter Griff Rhys Jones.



*Photograph courtesy  
of R Sykes © 2004*

## Greenish Fingers in Midsummer

Each summer seems the lushest, most weed-ridden yet. Not that we mind the weeds, as you will know, but in July you lose things don't you? Where's the clematis that was creeping up the climbing rose only a fortnight ago? And what has happened to the centaurea I planted amongst the geraniums and anemisis? You find things, too. What's that imbelliferous blossom waving around in the philadelphus? An elderberry? How? We love elderberries, but ...

For a few seconds, now and then, my heart sinks. But invariably I return to an acceptance of our style of gardening. There are rewards in a busky untidiness, I remind myself, as I struggle to free the clematis from the inexorable march of michaelmas daisies, as I stake the anemisis and cut down the spent geraniums to give the centaurea more light, as I stand and admire the sheer audacity of the elderberry, which will give berries this autumn. I shall cut down the philadelphus in early autumn and move it - if I remember.

I have a list of tasks for what I euphemistically call "the ornamental garden": prune shrubs that flowered in June or before; deadhead to prolong flowering; keep grass mown; leave only a few long grasses for the insects and birds; weed where absolutely essential, but leave the horsetail where it is supporting leggy plants. If I pull up the horsetail I'll have to support the slender stems of sweet williams and poppies - one more job I don't need.

Horsetail, "a most troublesome but admirable weed", has been around for thousands of years, tenacious in the face of human destructiveness. It's descended from a class of giant plants of long ago. In more modern times, in the form in which we know it now, it was used "by country people" to stop nosebleeds. "The juice ... solders together the tops of green wounds and cures all ruptures in children", wrote Culpepper. (I quote from *A Modern Herbal* by Mrs M Grieve FRHS, first published in 1931, and the new edition (1998), described by *The Listener* as "as comprehensive as the most exacting herbalist could wish".) Another name for horsetail is pewterwort: it will shine up a dull sink, if you'd like to try it!

It grows in the vegetable beds, of course. But despite its presence we harvested a respectable 9 to 10 kg of potatoes from our three-square metre bed. We grew the plants at 30cm spacings either way, but the spuds were quite large and tasted good!

As ever, our garden affords us both little griefs and greater pleasures. One nest box, five feet up in the silver birch, and protected by prickly twigs, was adopted by a robin pair. From a garden chair only a few paces away I watched the parents flying in and out, and heard the sounds of their young. Then, one day, I found a baby robin floating in our pond. A sad moment. A month later, though, a second young one, very chirpy, arrived at the porridge bowl in the shadow of the viburnum tinus. It was soon imitating the "resident" hen blackbird as she "breakfasted", waiting its own opportunity to fly into the bushes with a beakful of porridge!

July/August Tip: Leave at least one good bowl of water filled for the birds: they love to bathe as well as drink. Ask a neighbour to fill it if you'll be away.

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## V J Celebrations in Dersingham

This year is one of remembrance and celebrations, marking the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War Two. Firstly, in May 1945, of the ending of fighting in Europe (VE) and the final end of the war, in August, in Japan (VJ). After six years of conflict and great sacrifice, Great Britain and her Allies were victorious.

Readers will recall that Japan entered the war, in 1941, with a surprise attack on Pearl Harbour, Hawaii and then fighting followed in the South Pacific Islands. However, British forces were mainly involved in the more familiar names of Singapore, Burma, Hong Kong, Java, Siam (Thailand), Sumatra and others. Some servicemen were there from Dersingham. Japan finally surrendered on 14th August 1945.

Few realise that almost a third of all casualties in this devastating World War actually occurred under the dreadful fighting conditions in the Far East and Pacific. Indeed, we also first heard of the horrors of suicide attacks, starting with the Japanese 'Kamikaze', in January 1945. As an example of what our personnel faced in those days, who cannot remember the re-enactments of the terrible conditions in the film, 'Bridge Over the River Kwai', 'Tenko' on our televisions, or have heard of the exploits of the 'Chindits', in Burma?

As a result, many reading this will not only remember the happy parties and homecomings in those days, but also the irreplaceable loss of those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

To mark this 60th Anniversary, Dersingham & Sandringham Branch will host a Royal British Legion Group celebration at Dersingham Recreation Ground, on Saturday August 13th.

There will be music, stalls and events from 10 am onwards, with a final marching band, and salute, to close the day, at 2.30 pm.

Please come along on that day to have a good time and to show your gratitude to all our service personnel and all who support them.

*For more information contact Mr V Staples (RBL Secretary), on 541741*

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## An Introduction to Two of Our Local Parish Councillors

### Councillor Paul Burall



Born in Wisbech in 1940, I went to schools in Cambridge before going to the London College of Printing where I spent my final year editing the college magazine. This led to a job producing publications for the printing industry trade association. In 1963 I joined the Design Council as a junior press officer and remained there for 27 years, moving through running a large press office and launching a book publishing operation to managing the London Design Centre and heading a major campaigns team.

Having always been interested in environmental issues went freelance in 1990 to write and lecture on the links between the environment, business and design. This was not entirely new, as I had been contributing to national newspapers, magazines and radio and television programmes for nearly 30 years. I have written books and features on everything from 'green' design, vandalism, safety and security, land use planning, and the role of design in the economy and have spoken at conferences in the UK and abroad. In 1997 I was appointed a visiting professor at the University of Ulster.

I met Jenny at a Prom performance of Britten's *War Requiem*: despite 'our' song lasting 90 minutes, we married in 1965. We lived near King's Cross for a year and then moved to Reading before coming to Dersingham in 1979. We have two children and four grandchildren.

In Berkshire, I chaired a civic society, started a bus users' association, and was a County Councillor. After moving to Norfolk, I became a Borough and Parish Councillor in 1991. I am on the policy council of the Town and Country Planning Association and the Board of the East of England Development Agency. Our large garden, varied animals and visits to the family in the United States provide diversions from these other pleasures.

Born in Heacham on 16 May 1957, I lived in Heacham for 37 years and worked as a farm-worker and then as a milkman, following which I went to work for a seed company in King's Lynn. I have two sons one aged 16 and the other who is 13.

I moved to Dersingham in 1994 and joined the Parish Council about a year ago because I wanted to help the young people of the village. I am the Village Sports Co-ordinator for Dersingham and am on the Holiday Activities Committee, and, with the help of some youths and Council Members we have moved forward on getting the skate-park and a youth club for the older youths of the village.

### Councillor David Benn



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## From No Score to Threescore

Hugh Mullarkey © 25-06-05



From 0 - 60 in the fullness of time –  
 'But don't race the engine at first!'  
 As the parts settle in - You can start to begin  
 To distinguish ahead from reverse.

From 0 - 60 in the fullness of time - Before MOT Testing is due,  
 Feel a supercharged need - Like a ferret on speed  
 To check if all rumours are true.

From 0 - 60 in the fullness of time - Now in need of a Service and Test.  
 What a message this sends - To the Clutch and Big Ends  
 Is all motion now at their behest?

From 0 - 60 in the fullness of time - Now you're cruising along in top gear.  
 You are full of ambition - No amount of emission  
 Can stifle your onward career.

From 0 -60 in the fullness of time - Some suggestion you need to upgrade.  
 More cubic capacity - Boosting pugnacity  
 A big 4 x 4 on parade?

From 0 - 60 in the fullness of time - Now all cylinders don't always fire.  
 Your gaskets keep blowing - Your bodywork's going  
 And performance can't cope with desire.

From 0 - 60 in the fullness of time - No sporty Convertible you.  
 As your halcyon days Disappear in a haze  
 You realize you're just passing through.

From 0 - 60 in the fullness of time  
 And it feels like a tyre's going flat.  
 The engine is knocking - Is the steering now locking?  
 'SAME TO YOU!! - You cheeky young Brat!'

From 0 - 60 in the fullness of time - Now the tailgaters drive up your rear.  
 They honk and they flash - Seem determined to crash  
 Not a brain-cell between them I fear.

From 0 - 60 in the fullness of time - May your bottom hose never start hissing  
 May your fan belt not slip - May each clip keep its grip  
 Until you **find out** which bit you are missing.

From 0 - 60 in the fullness of time - Your Car-Tax is now out of date.  
 Your ignition's gone funny - You've run out of money  
 'Many Happy Returns me old mate!'

## Appleton Water Tower

In 1871, the then Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VII) fell ill with typhoid while at Sandringham. Three years later so too did his eldest son. Both royal illnesses must have vividly brought to mind the death of the Prince's father, Prince Albert, from the same disease while at Windsor Castle. Following that tragedy the engineer, Robert Rawlinson, was asked to report on the drainage of the Castle (it proved to be underlain by numerous foul cesspools, almost certainly the source of the Prince Consort's infection). The Sandringham water supply must have at once come under suspicion, and indeed tests showed it to be "unsatisfactory". As a matter of urgency, the house and indeed the whole estate had to be provided with a reliable and clean water supply.

The engineer responsible for the design of the new waterworks was James Mansergh (he is said to have been assisted by an amateur architect named Martin Ffolkes, but there is little evidence for this.) Rawlinson was appointed to supervise the construction of the new waterworks - he and Mansergh had previously worked together successfully on the Birmingham water supply.

It was decided to take the new supply from a chalk spring a mile or so from Sandringham House. The level of the spring was more than 20 feet below that of the house, so a pumping station was needed. Moreover, the highest point of the Sandringham estate was still only about 5 feet above the roof of the house, and in order to ensure that there would be sufficient pressure for fire-extinguishing purposes a service reservoir would be needed: this is the 32,000-gallon cast-iron tank that tops the Appleton Water Tower, and it is this tank that is the 60-foot Tower's *raison d'être*. Incidentally, the height and the elevated position of the Tower ensure that it is a conspicuous feature visible from many miles around.

Mansergh's polychromic design, described as "neo-Byzantine" and carried out in differently coloured red bricks and local stone, exploited this position in more ways than one. Realising that the upper levels of the tower would command a dazzling view of much of Norfolk, he reserved the second-floor room for the use of the royal family and their guests when shooting parties or picnickers required a base during the day. A floor above the viewing room accommodated the valve gear, and two lower floors made a dwelling for either the engineer in charge of the pumping station or perhaps the caretaker. A separate entrance and stair were made within the smaller tower to give independent access to the viewing room.

Work began in the summer of 1877 - the Princess of Wales, her brother and two of the young princes all laid foundation stones - and finished, about a year later. Water flowed from the spring under gravity through stoneware pipes for some 750 yards to the pumping station, where it was softened and pumped via a further 400 yards of pipes and a four inch rising main into the tank. (in winter the water in the tank was kept from freezing by the heat from the fireplaces below, the flues of which passed through the middle of the tank.) From here it ran under pressure for more than a mile to the house and the surrounding cottages, via branch mains that carried a dozen hydrants encircling the house. When all was complete the hydrants were tested by the famously energetic and strikingly handsome Captain Shaw of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (immortalised by Gilbert in one of the songs in *lolanthe*), "to his entire satisfaction", three or four jets being played simultaneously over the roof of the house. Not only, therefore, had the Prince of Wales now supplied his household with a "pure and



wholesome" water supply, but he had placed it in a condition of security from fire possessed by few of the great country houses of England".

### RESTORATION BY THE LANDMARK TRUST

The Appleton waterworks served the Sandringham estate well for many years as a private concern, but eventually came to be operated by the local water authority. By 1973, however, it had become surplus to their requirements, and stood empty for three years. It was then leased to the Landmark Trust, a charity that specialises in rescuing buildings of architectural and historic importance.

The Trust was delighted to be given the rare opportunity of saving a such a fully functional building of such high quality. The architects, Michael and Sheila Gooch, a husband and wife partnership from Norwich, were commissioned to carry out the restoration, the builders being the local firm of Fisher and Sons of Fakenham.

The old outbuildings were demolished, to leave the Tower free-standing in its clearing in the woods. The intricate details of the elaborate brickwork were all carefully repaired and repointed, and cracks in the tank's ironwork were repaired; in addition, replicas were specially made to replace missing details of the ornamental ironwork. New windows and doors were fitted, and a new kitchen and shower room formed on the ground floor. One of the most significant changes was the construction of an extended internal staircase linking the viewing room on the second floor to the two floors below, which meant that the Tower became for the first time a fully integrated dwelling. It received its first visitors exactly a century after the Princess of Wales laid the first foundation stone. Happily, if fortuitously, in the same year the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society restored the old steam engines in the pumping station.

As you see it today, however, the Water Tower has recently undergone a further rejuvenation, carried out in the light of twenty years of Landmarkers' experiences of living in this much-loved if eccentric "holiday cottage". Under the guidance of the architect Will Hawkes of Hawkes Cave and Edwards, Stratford-upon-Avon, and with Linfords of Lichfield as the main contractor, the building has been fully rewired, replumbed and redecorated, and a new heating system has been installed. The ground-floor shower room and kitchen have also been refurbished. Perhaps the most practical change has been that a way has been found to bring part of the top floor, the old valve room beneath the tank, into service as additional living accommodation in the shape of a much-needed extra bathroom.

The old sitting room next to the kitchen on the ground floor has now become the dining room, while perhaps the best room in the Tower - the viewing room on the second floor - has been redesigned as a bed-sitting room. As a result, while you are staying in the Tower you can, if you choose, spend as much as possible of your day here, gazing at the Norfolk landscape spread out below you, and in the evening watch the seabirds quietly flying home to the distant sandbanks of the Wash.

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## Dersingham Open Gardens

This year the Spring Bank holiday was the setting for the Open Gardens event. Hundreds of garden lovers swarmed over the 12 gardens opened this year much appreciating the efforts of their owners. With 3 tea points, bric-a-brac at the Church Hall and other attractions in the village ( The Methodist Flower Festival & an art exhibition in the Community Centre) the staggering sum of £1,463.32p was raised for Church Funds, a new record!

The "Island" competition was won by Mr Wigg of Ingoldisthorpe. For those still trying to puzzle out the clues – here they are with answers:

- |     |  |                  |
|-----|--|------------------|
| 1.  | I'm famous for drink and cake                    | Madeira          |
| 2.  | Come here for spuds and woollies                 | Jersey           |
| 3.  | Tweedy companion for "J"                         | Harris           |
| 4.  | Its capital is the place to get undies           | Cyprus           |
| 5.  | Here be dragons                                  | Komodo           |
| 6.  | Mercurial source of regal singer                 | Zanzibar         |
| 7.  | Will this do you Mr Christian?                   | Pitcairn         |
| 8.  | The thylacine rubs shoulders with the devil here | Tasmania         |
| 9.  | I'm a rude island in Hudsons Bay                 | Belcher          |
| 10. | My statue looks at the Custom House              | Vancouver        |
| 11. | I spy with my golden eye                         | Jamaica          |
| 12. | Land of the Renault 18 based coupé               | Tierra del Fuego |

Nobody claimed the "Lobby Lobster" prize, Lobby was lurking in garden No 1.

This seems to be a good time for gardens in Dersingham so next years event will be held on the same Spring Holiday Weekend 28 - 29th May.

We are always looking for new gardens to open. Please contact Neil Adams on 540857 if you would like yours included or know of one that should be.



## Solution to last issue's competition

The picture was that of a saucepan lid as seen from a different angle.



## REFORM PLAN FOR SUGAR GROWERS FLOUTS SPIRIT OF CAP



Reform plan for sugar growers flouts spirit of CAP. Brussels looks set to make huge, new, Common Agricultural Policy payments to Europe's sugar growers, despite widespread support for reform of the EU's farm subsidy system.

Up until now, most of the £1bn allocated to sugar in the CAP has been spent on export subsidies because Europe produces far more sugar than it consumes. Now, these export subsidies, which have a devastating impact on developing countries which grow sugar, will be phased out, but the European Commission is proposing that most of this money be paid directly to farmers instead.

CAP reforms in 2003 broke the tie between production and subsidy and reallocated some of the money to environmental improvements.

The RSPB believes some of sugar subsidy money should be used to reward sugar beet growers in the same way. Beet is an important crop for farmland birds in Britain, providing nesting and feeding sites and in winter, in Norfolk, providing food for almost half the world's population of pink-footed geese.

Dr Sue Armstrong Brown, Head of Agriculture Policy at the RSPB said: "There is no conceivable reason why the reform of sugar subsidies should so blatantly flout the spirit and intent of other CAP reforms.

"While some birds, such as pink-footed geese, are doing well on sugar beet fields here, they and others would do as well or better, if sugar growers were supported for using environmentally-friendly farming methods."

The reform proposal is due to be put to farm ministers when they meet this Wednesday in Brussels. If they agree, the 230,000 EU farmers growing sugar between 2000 and 2002 will receive a huge, direct subsidy.

In the UK, this will be equivalent to a mammoth £460 per hectare farmed compared to other arable farmers, who receive around £200 per hectare. In France, sugar growers will be paid the equivalent of £474.50 per hectare.

In southern Europe, subsidies have propped up the sugar beet industry, where it has helped cause desertification in southern Spain and parts of Italy, areas already at risk from drought.

If accepted, the proposal will mean farmers must do no more than keep their land in good condition. And if the EU exempts the sugar regime from its 2008 review of the CAP, as the Commission wants, there will no incentive for sugar growers to improve their practices, or even continue to grow sugar, until at least 2015 when the next review is due.

The EU produces between 125 and 150 per cent more sugar than is consumed in Europe and £1bn is spent annually on subsidies. The UK has 7,000 sugar growers of the 230,000 in Europe. Britain is the fifth largest producer of sugar in Europe, behind Germany, France, Poland and Italy.

There has been no reform of the sugar subsidy system since 1968. The reform of sugar is one of the final parts Common Agricultural Policy reform. Fruit, vegetable growing and wine sectors have still to be reformed.

In parts of England, pink-footed geese eat the discarded crowns and tails of beet after the crop is harvested. Ground nesting birds, such as stone curlew, skylark and lapwing, can also benefit because the spring-sown crop provides the open, sparsely vegetated habitat they need to breed. However, these birds have all declined on beet fields because farming methods have become more intensive and because farmers have no incentive to use environmentally friendly measures.

Almost 150,000 pink-footed geese over-wintered in North Norfolk this year, creating a wildlife spectacle that is difficult to match. Measures to help pink-footed geese are being developed for the new Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

The stone-curlew is a large (40-44 cm), long-legged bird with a large striking yellow eye. Its camouflage makes it difficult to see when it is still. In the UK, Stone-curlews are found mainly in the Breckland of Norfolk and Suffolk (two-thirds of the population) and around Salisbury Plain. Numbers dropped from 1,000 to 160 pairs in between the 1930s and 1985 although conservation measures have prompted an increase to around 290 pairs.

The numbers of stone-curlews breeding in beet fields have dropped from 24 per cent of all stone-curlews between 1989 to ten per cent in 2000. They need bare stony ground on which to build nests and will breed on arable land if it is cultivated in the spring and remains sparsely covered.

Skylarks and lapwing numbers have also dropped, the skylark by 52 per cent and the lapwing by 41 per cent in the last 40 years, declines attributed to intensive farming practices.



**These pictures demonstrate the progress which has taken place in Sugar Beet Harvesting - the main photo was taken in February 2005 - the inset is that which was included in Dick Stanton's article in Issue 34 of this magazine.**





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## FLOWERS FOR JAMIE



### Tragedy

Just before midnight on Friday 3 June a tragic road accident occurred alongside our garden, an accident that shattered the lives of several families and shocked and saddened the whole of Dersingham and far beyond. We slept through the rescue activity, and were very shocked to see the unexplained devastation the next morning.

The police were silent on the matter, but several members of Jamie Griffin's family called and gave us the sad details about Jade and the two Jamies.

The Griffin family was excellent. Their calm courage, dignity and generosity of spirit were fine examples of how to behave in the face of great sorrow and personal loss. People have remarked on the damage to our garden, but for us that is not a concern. Badly damaged plants can often recover, badly damaged people often can't.

The many young friends of Jamie and Jade were also considerate and kind, as most young people are. We did not meet Jade but her courage in writing her lovely tribute, and in coming to the funeral was outstanding. The huge numbers of flowers, candles and messages on the fence were a tribute to Jamie that showed not just popularity but respect as well. They were also a reminder to all of us that a motor car, inappropriately driven, is every bit as much a lethal weapon as a knife or a gun.

*Walter and Jane Blaney*

**A Three-Track CD entitled "GRIFF – A Tribute"** has been produced by vocalist Jessie Day accompanied by guitarist Rob Gosnell. This CD is available, priced £4, at outlets in the village, including the Spar Supermarket. The proceeds from the sale of the CDs, and from any other fund-raising events, are to be passed on to the Neuroscience Critical Care Unit at Addenbrooks Hospital in Cambridge.

**Terry Rose of Dersingham, is aiming to increase the Jamie Griffin Memorial Fund** by contributing the profits from a 14 track CD, which he has just produced to celebrate his 60th birthday, to the cause. The title of the CD is "Terry Rose, 0 to 60 In No Time At All, A Selection Of Songs From My Younger Days" and contains songs from the 60s. The CDs, at £5 each, are available from, amongst other places, Ingoldisthorpe Post Office, or by contacting Jean Judge on 01485 543066.

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## Dersingham Walking Group

As mentioned in the April edition of Village Voice three evening walks were held during the May to July period to see what interest there might be in forming a village walking group.

The response was very encouraging with the number of walkers ranging from 28 to 42: forms were given to the participants so that they could say what kind of walk they would like in the future. It is disappointing that less than 50% of the forms have been returned but those received show that a summer evening stroll of between three and five miles is the option preferred by most people. Although some way behind, Sunday afternoon was also shown to be a fairly popular time for a walk.

It is pleasing that some who responded volunteered to help and lead walks but, unfortunately, we still have too few leaders to mount a comprehensive programme. More are needed and, if anyone feels they could help, please contact me. I will help them with routes, planning and in any other way I can. In view of the interest in Sunday afternoon walks we have arranged two to see what support they receive. The first of these was in July. Walks planned from the publication date of this edition are:

**Wednesday 10 August** - a three-mile circular walk starting at 6.30pm from the lay-by up the hill from Wolferton Station led by Pat Reed (Te1 540757).

**Sunday 28 August** - A 4 mile circular walk starting from Fring Church (Please park on the verge on the east side of the road) led by Christine Taylor (Te1 542807).

We also hope to have an evening walk on Wednesday, 31 August but that depends on finding a leader. I await your call!

Details of walks are in the Parish Council Diary and Michael Smith has produced some impressive posters which are displayed in various locations throughout the village.

Any further information can be obtained by 'phoning me on 542268

*Keith Starks*

### **West Norfolk Volunteers' Training Partnership are offering a VOLUNTEERS TRAINING PROGRAMME**

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## The Adventures of the Postcard?

*With acknowledgment to the late Arthur Marshall*

There are many people who send picture postcards. Apart from receiving cheques, few communications are more pleasant to find on the morning mail, (if that still happens in your part of the world). These cards give brief news, are pleasing to the eye and they don't require an answer. There must still be hundreds of people who wouldn't dream of making one of their adventuresome trips without sending an informative postcard, even if the destination was just down the coast. In the days of the early postcards, they got home before the traveller. Nowadays that is true no more. Is it the postal service or our speed of travel?

There are people who send wonderful views of Scarborough (and many other places) who would write neat but excited scribbles outlining how much they miss the recipient (wish you were here!). Others would be short and sharp with their message but when it came to sticking on stamps, they were nothing but slapdash. No head the right way up. For a French *timbre* or a German *Briefmark*, any position would plainly 'do'. Who after all won the war, one may ask?

There was a French postcard called *Language du Timbre* ('*La position du timbre exprime le désir secret du coeur*'). It features a lovesick frog pair, entwined in a sea of tastefully tinted pansies with, all around them, drawings of stamps stuck on crooked and the secret meaning contained in each lopsided position.. Thus if you receive a postcard showing the harbour at Cannes by moonlight, with the *Timbre* off-handily tilted to the left it means '*Je vous adore!*' A hasty card to the milkman, asking him to start deliveries again on the 10th, with the stamp upside-down and crooked, says as plain as can be, '*Aimez-moi toujours!*'

Our knowledge of postcard history (they began in the USA in 1861) is enormously increased by witty Alan Wykes and his illustrated book "*Saucy Seaside Postcards*". In this book is the story of Donald McGill, the originator of that classic example of parental distress ('I've lost my little willie'). He was very much ill-rewarded, (at first he got an outright payment of 6/- (six shillings equates to 30p) a card) but was infinitely respectable. He relished the pleasing fact that at the old boy dinners of his public school he was always put next to the Bishop of Wakefield. In the field of saucy postcards respectability did shine through. Blackpool is noted to have sniffed disapprovingly at certain jokes, prior to banning them. Whatever can they have been? What went down well at Llandudno may well have been frowned on frostily at Lowestoft, but by and large the merriments of nudist clubs, chamber pots, Scotsmen's kilts and the mysteries that lay beneath, wedding nights and an enormously stout lady tumbling down a cliffside in a shower of boulders with a great display of knickers, were universally popular.

We all have our favourites. I liked the one of two tipsy gentlemen strap hanging in the Underground with the dialogue; "Is this Wembley?" "No it's Thursday." "So am I. Let's have another drink." Then there is another of a man giving helpful information to a distraught lady hunting her cat which had taken refuge beneath a

small car, (Miss Cox, I can see a little fluffy thing under your mini). There is also the hysterical male hospital patient racing half-clothed down a corridor pursued by a nurse carrying a steaming saucepan, while a doctor chides her with , "No, no, Nurse, I said prick his boil."

Since the advent of top-shelf magazines and the page three girls the day of the erotic and publicly saleable postcard was finally over. A dazzling pictorial round-up, moving from one fascinating book to another, produces aquatic fun in the pool, ('May I splash you in the deep end?', huge bare ladies stuck in the doors of bathing machines, shameles *Françaises* eating asparagus in a provocative manner, robust girls climbing trees or being peered at through key-holes. There are frilly garters galore, enormous pink behinds, and double meanings whichever way you turn. There is nothing nowadays to shock, unless it be the ugliness, the vulgarity and the total lack of wit.

*Len Matthews*

### Nightjar walk

Around 20 souls braved the Dersingham Bog midges and went on a nightjar walk in early June. After meeting at Wolferton, Ash Murray, the site manager, led us along the cliff top and down onto the bog. It was still broad daylight when we started so Ash stopped frequently to point out items of interest and to tell of the recent work carried out to bring the area back to the heathland it once was. We walked for some distance at the base of the cliffs with occasional



excursions on to the tops to admire the views. As it got darker we were able to hear our quarry, with distant calls coming from the undergrowth. However, fine evening though it was, it was also pretty chilly, so much so that the insects that the Nightjars feed on stayed put. So did the birds. Apart from one distant sighting, the little dears were noticeable by their absence. Although slightly disappointed, we all enjoyed a walk around unfamiliar territory and the evening concluded at around 11pm. Ash did offer to organise another attempt and this will be taking place in late July. We will let you know if the birds oblige.

### Olympic challenge

With the coming of the Olympic games to London in 2012, we in North West Norfolk should be giving some consideration to sending a team. Can you devise some new Olympic sports that a local team would excel at, giving us lots of gold for our unique local talents?

We will publish a selection of the wittiest.

## **That's My Business** **Angie And Ray Hindley**

*of the Coach & Horses Public House*

Ray and I are originally from Hertfordshire. We first met in 1981 when Ray had just returned from living in Australia. It was not long before we moved in together and bought our first business, which was a taxi and chauffeur company. We married in 1985 and moved to Buckinghamshire soon after, selling our family shares in the taxi company.

It was here that we bought our first pub in the town centre of Buckingham and turned it into a very successful pub with discos every weekend. As you can imagine it soon took its toll and on the birth of our son Jak we decided to buy a quieter pub in the same town. We moved into this one thinking it would be quieter leaving a manager in the disco pub.

This wasn't the case however and being a new mother I was soon after a much quieter life and safer environment for Jak to grow up in. We used to holiday in Heacham (we did in fact spend our honeymoon there) using my grandfather's caravan on North Beach. My grandfather was a very well known character in the area, Moss Evans, who was very well respected and sadly missed. We fell in love with Norfolk and the very "mañana" attitude to life, which was in complete contrast to Hertfordshire or Buckinghamshire. We took the plunge and decided to move here. Having family here it made the transition much easier. That was 14 years ago and we do not regret a minute.

I think the things that I love most about Norfolk are the vast expanse of sky, the huge sunsets and the darkness when night falls. Moss soon introduced Ray to the Bushel & Strike, which became a regular haunt of theirs. I was quite lucky that Moss's daughter Diane and her husband Paul lived here also with their children, Hannah and Megan, and later on came Holly so Jak had someone to play with, and I had a familiar face to talk to and socialise with. Ray used to travel back and forth to the pubs until they were sold and I worked part time for Mick Jennings in his shop just to get to know people in the village.

It wasn't long however before Ray wanted to get back to the pub trade and we ended up buying the lease on The Wheatsheaf in Heacham. This turned out to be a very successful and enjoyable business but unfortunately the brewery rents proved to be far too high and we seemed to be penalised for our success so we decided to leave and come out of the pub trade for a while.

Ray went on to become an accountant at Norfolk Green Buses for quite a few years. I didn't do much but, thanks to Diane who is now the proprietor of Park Farm Riding School, I went back to my great passion of horse riding. We used to ride together when we were kids and I ended up buying one of her horses and have since bought another one also. They use up all my spare cash and time but I wouldn't be without them. I think any horse owner will agree that we are so incredibly lucky here with all the excellent riding. We really do have it all with beaches, woods and bridle paths.

There is nothing quite like an early morning or early evening ride across Brancaster or Holkam beach. Having had enough of office work Ray took the opportunity to take the tenancy on the Coach & Horses. That was just over 12 months ago. It is owned by Oak Brewery, and, after much persuasion and arguments they have finally agreed to fully refurbish. This is currently taking place as I am typing and we hope to have everything finished by the end of July (better late than never).

We have decided to go back to the traditional style of pub, as they seem to be a dying breed, with a public bar and salon bar. We will be offering traditional home cooking with Sunday lunch a speciality. Nothing fancy, just good food at a good price and a good-sized portion. We offer 10% discount Mon to Fri between 12 and 3 to senior citizens. We also have live music usually blues fortnightly on a Friday with some excellent bands. We have a lovely big garden, which is fully enclosed and safe for children to play. A patioed area and shelter from the wind or drizzle with patio heaters for those chilly nights. Dogs are welcome also.

What we offer is a traditional pub with friendly staff excellent ales and food and a most warm welcome. Whether you are a visitor or local to the area please come in and see us. We think you may be pleasantly surprised.

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### **Dersingham Horticultural Society RHS Affiliated 17th Annual Show**

Preparations are well in hand for our 17th Annual Show on 10 September 2005. It will be held as usual at the Church Hall. There are classes for Flower Arranging, Cookery, Jams & Pickles, Vegetables, Flowers in own foliage, Pot Plants and Fruit. Children from 8 yrs up to 16 yrs are also catered for with 6 Craft Classes and 3 Cookery. These Classes are sponsored by Members and have cash prizes. Last year's Show produced over 380 entries from 92 Competitors. It only costs 50p to enter and this is for as many entries as you wish, whether 1 or 91! Schedules will be available from Thaxter's Garden Centre, Carole Brown Health Centre and the Library. They can also be obtained by calling 540601. We do have 32 Trophies for the winners of the various Classes, which they keep until next year's Show. The RHS Banksian Medal is awarded for most points in Horticultural Classes only and the winner gets to keep this one. Who can enter? Persons registered at the Carole Brown Health Centre, Residents of the Village and Members of the Society. The Show opens at 1.30 pm and admission is 50p, children under 16, free.

*Any queries, please ring 540601.*

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**The Parade will be lead by a Piper**

**The Service will be conducted by the  
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Band and a display of Vintage Cars and Military Vehicles  
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## Baby Boomers

The bittern was once a common bird of the East Anglian flatlands – where they inhabited the vast reedbeds that stretched out as far as the eye could see. They were so plentiful that many a medieval Christmas would have been celebrated with roast bittern and all the trimmings. They were still common in the early 19th century when shooting parties in the fens and broads regularly bagged twenty or thirty in a single morning. It was at this time that they were given the nickname ‘fenman’s turkey’. The draining of the wetlands put an end to this and by the 1990s, less than 20 pairs were recorded as breeding in the UK - mainly in Suffolk with a few pairs in Norfolk and Lancashire.



Bitterns are related to herons but are much harder to see because of their cryptic colouring and their habit of remaining motionless with their beaks pointing skywards, which adds to the camouflage effect against the tall reed stems. Their presence is usually given away by the unmistakable low-pitched booming call of the male as he tries to attract a female into his territory in the spring. This is the most far-reaching call of any European bird and can be heard up to three miles away in the right weather conditions. The closest sound to the call of a bittern is a foghorn (in Suffolk ship's foghorns are sometimes called sea bitterns). Many of the local names given to bitterns describe their call such as bog blutter, bog drum, boom bird, bottle bump, bull of the bog and butter bump. They feed mainly on fish but will also eat frogs and large invertebrates.

The government set about reversing the decline by agreeing to a Biodiversity Action Plan for the species with an ambitious target of 100 booming males by 2020. The RSPB have been doing a tremendous amount of work to both improve the quality of existing habitats and create new reedbeds for bitterns. Locally, this has meant physically lowering the level of the reedbed at the Titchwell reserve and digging out new feeding pools. This wetter reedbed has also been stocked with rudd to form the main food supply of the hoped for newcomers. Similar improvements have been made to the habitat at Minsmere in Suffolk where bitterns had hung on in greater numbers than anywhere else. The numbers at Minsmere are on the up and as I write the first successful breeding record of bitterns at Titchwell since the 1980s has been confirmed. These birds are giving excellent views to visitors as they fly in and out of the reeds with food for their young.

The 2010 milestone of 50 booming males has already been achieved 5 years early and the future looks even better for the bittern. The threat to coastal freshwater

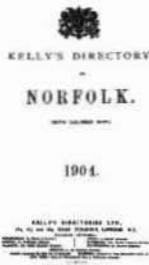
reedbeds posed by sea level rise means that new reedbeds are needed further inland. This has been done at the RSPB Lakenheath reserve near Thetford where a rich new reedbed has been created from what was a carrot field 10 years ago. Similarly, the gravel pits at Needingworth in Cambridgeshire are being given to the RSPB by Hanson Aggregates to be converted into reedbeds. This will form the largest block of reeds in the country when the scheme is complete. All this work will not only help the bitterns it will be of great benefit to other reedbed birds such as sedge warblers, reed warblers, water rails, reed buntings, bearded tits and marsh harriers – not to mention the dragonflies and innumerable other insects and plants. Anyone who has seen the excitement on the faces of visitors to Titchwell as they catch their first glimpse of an elusive bittern will realise how important these birds are for people too.

I had a phone call late last year from a man who wanted to see a bittern. It was easy to give advice about where to go in the spring and summer to see breeding bitterns. It came as a shock when he interrupted me and said he was not expecting to see the summer. It is unlikely that we will ever be in a position where the bittern replaces the turkey on our Christmas table. But within a few years, they should be common enough that seeing one won't be a last request but an experience open to all - particularly those of us who are lucky enough to live so close to their natural habitats.

*David Bingham*

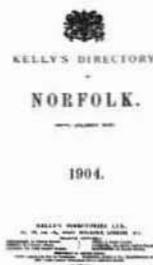
### What a Difference in 50 Years!

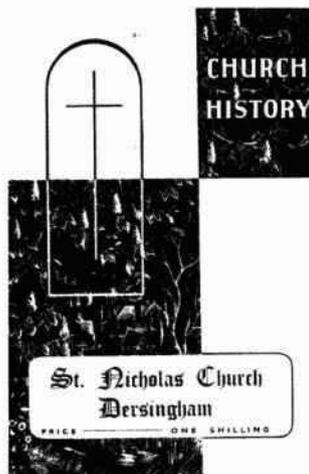
The following is an extract from the **Kelly's Directory of 1904** relating to the Post Office at Dersingham and mail deliveries and collections, and was sent to the staff at the Post Office by a resident in Spain!



Post, M. O. & T. O., T. M. O., E. D., S. B. & A. & I.

Office.-Miss Alice Maude Beckett, sub-postmistress.  
London & other letters are received through Lynn by Mail cart; arrive at 5.30 a.m.; delivered at 7 a.m. & 10.15 a.m. & are dispatched at 10.45 a.m. and 6.20 p.m.; Sunday delivery 7 a.m.; dispatched 6.20 p.m.  
Wall Letter Boxes.- Box near the Feathers Hotel, Cleared at 6.40 a.m. & 6 p.m.; sundays, 7.55 a.m.; At the Station, cleared at 9.50 a.m. & 5.35 p.m.; sundays, 8.10 a.m.





## A Short History Of St Nicholas Church

### Dersingham

#### Part One

Compiled in 1958 by The Rev W P Tippen, Vicar

Originally published (Price One Shilling (5p)) by Graham Cumming Ltd, The Church Publishers, Ramsgate and printed by Westwood Press Ltd., Broadstairs, and reproduced in Village Voice as a two-part series by kind permission of the publishers

### Foreword

In compiling these notes I would like to express my indebtedness to Mr Philip Hepworth, MA, of the City Library, Norwich, for access to various records concerning the history of Dersingham and also to the Librarian of the

Library at King's Lynn. The Proceedings of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society, Bloomfield's History, Munro Cautley's and Hugh Bryant's "Norfolk Churches," notes by the Rev J W Corbould-Warren and the Rev R W M Lewis have provided much information as has also the records in the Public Records Office, Norwich Diocesan Registry and Especially the Church Chest.

May, 1958

*W P Tippen, Vicar*

### The Parish of Dersingham

DERSINGHAM – variously spelt in Domesday Book as Darsingham, Dasyngham or Dersincham probably derives its name from the family of Deor possibly of Danish origin, though Bloomfield, the Norfolk historian gives the derivation as Dur-water. Ing or Einge is Anglo-Saxon for a descendant and Ham means a homestead. So Dersingham was the homestead of the descendants of Deor.

As late as 1655 a Godfrey Dorr appears to have owned Dersingham Hall and in the Church Chest is a document recording that he "did repair the second seat in the parish church at my owne cost ... for my wife to sett in and my family ... and noebody is to sett there but they that shall live in my estate."

It is difficult to determine when Christianity was first brought to Dersingham but an old document dated 1574 says that in the 7th century St Felix "landed at Babingley by Lenn, and there builded the first Church of these countries, which in his memory is at this day called by his name. The second he built at Sharnbourne then of wood and therefore called Stock-Chappell." It is not improbable that he passed through Dersingham.

There is no record of the Church here so far back but it is interesting to notice that in the lower part of the tower a number of worked stones have been incorporated, evidently at one time a part of an earlier Norman building. Not until 1106 when Roger was Presbiter de Dersyngham and probably ministered in the Norman Church have we any record of a priest. Then we come to 1306 and the appointment of Robert de Eggefeld before there is an unbroken list of vicars.

It will be noted that the parish is served by a Vicar and not a Rector. This indicates that the Greater Tithes were paid not to the parish priest but to another person or body who was

known as the Rector. The Prior of Binham Abbey was the Rector and appointed the Vicars of Dersingham in those far off days but the Prior was subject to the jurisdiction of the Abbot of St Albans.

The Priory was founded by Peter deValoins who came over with William the Conqueror and partly endowed by him with tithe and land in Dersingham. His son, gave "all the tithe to Bynham Priory together with the rectory and 580 acres of land, for the soul of his mother, which was confirmed by Pope Clement III and Urban III by three Bulls." In 1229 an agreement was made between the Bishop of Norwich and the Prior that the Prior should appoint the Vicar. When Richard de Secford was Prior of Binham "the convent exchanged land here with Sir Thomas de Gelham, lying near the Chapel of St. Andrew and in 1366 a considerable part of Pakenham Manor was conveyed to them. Valued in 1428 at £3.13s.8d per annum.

When the Priory was suppressed in 1539 by Henry VIII the revenues were confiscated. In 1552 "Nicholas Gymer and Roger Kylwarth, Churchwardens ther certyfy that thre yeeres past there was sold by the assent of the hool towne as followyth.

In Primus a payr of Chalyce, a payr of Censours, a shyp to the sum of LX unces at iij·viij<sup>d</sup> the unce.

Summa

XjLi

Wych seyd XjLi was employed upon the Church there."

The property and the right of appointing the Vicar of Dersingham was granted to a certain Thomas Paston, a member of the King's Privy Chamber. In time the patronage passed to Robert Read then to the Walpoles, Cobbs, Hostes and Mrs. Tylden and finally to the Bishop of Norwich who is now the patron.

In 1656 the living was only worth £16 per annum and from old documents in the Church Chest we learn that the Vicarage, "a small studded clay-house", which stood in the churchyard gradually fell into such disrepair that seventy years later, when the income still did not exceed £40 per year, Thomas Gill, the Vicar, secured from the Bishop a Faculty exonerating him and his successors from the cost of rebuilding the Vicarage. This Faculty, too, was preserved in the Church Chest. The parish remained without a Vicarage until the present house was built during the incumbency of the Rev. Ed. Penny, 1875-1901.

Ancient documents bear witness to the fact that Dersingham was probably at one time a busy fishing village on the sea coast. In 1338 fishing protection was granted to "Martin son of Peter and dam Scott of Dersyngham" for "two little ships of Martin and Adam made for fishing in the port of Dersyngham". Henry VI granted "the freedom of the seas" to certain sailors of the village and about 100 years later a document preserved in the Record Office in London gives, "A survey of all the ports, creakes and landinge places within the countie of Norff". From it we learn that "There is a haven or cricke called Dersyngham Haven to which the sayd towne adjoyneth and belongeth having habitations and householders therein to the number of LXXV ... and Ye shippes and other vessels yt lade or unlade there are licensed by 7 warrant ..." On an old map by Saxton in the Church Chest dated 1607 the Creek is clearly shown.

It is not without significance that the Church is dedicated to St Nicholas, the patron saint of sailors. From the Terrier or Inventory of Church Goods dated 1716 we learn that in addition to the other bells there was a "littell Bell which hange in the Broch thought to weigh about 2 cwt". From a pencil sketch made by the Rev Thomas Kerrich who was Vicar from 1784-

1828, and a collection of whose drawings can be seen in the British Museum, we can see that the "Brich" was a small round tower or lantern rising from the the present tower and surmounted by a little lead covered spire in which hung the "Littell Bell". The lantern was thought to have been used as a beacon to guide fishermen into the haven of Dersingham. Kerrich's pencil sketch is still preserved in church but, sad to relate, the little steeple was demolished during his incumbency. In 1798 the old Churchwardens Accounts record the items paid for this work.

There were six Manors here at one time, Brook Hall, West Hall, Pakenham, Snoring, Gelham and Shouldham, but nothing remains of the old Manor Houses except West Hall, part of which, just off Manor Road, was used 150 years ago as a Workhouse. Shouldham possibly stood on the site of the present Manor House. Nothing remains of the Priory at Shouldham. The Monastery at Shouldham was founded in 1135 by St Gilbert who formed the labourers in his estate into a monastic order and also founded a Nunnery for destitute girls. Shouldham Priory Manor in Dersyngham largely supported the Monastery and the Manor Rent Roll dated 1500 records that "Thomas Pell rented a house and 1' acres for which he paid 3d per annum and one hen at the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord". And Thomas Gelham held 13 acres and paid 5s 1/2d and for the help of the Vicar 1/2d and a hen!!

In Norwich City Library is an interesting document with seal, almost intact dated 8 May 36 Henry VIII 1544. It is the "Royal Licence of alienation by Henry VIII for John Dethyke, of Pentney, Esq. To alienate to John Pell." "manor of Dersyngham late belonging to the monastery of Shouldham messuages, lands and tenements belonging." "The sayed Mannor is a Mannor of Selfe and no parcel of any other Mannor, Lordshyppe or farme of yerely valew of £40 where in the fermor hath an estate and lyeth in distance from the King's Chase of Rysing iii miles or thereabouts." "John Dethyke requireth to purchase of the King's Heigness by vertu of the King's Commission the premises being of the yerely valew of Twenty and two shillings, and eight pence."

For many years the Pell family enjoyed great prestige in Dersingham. In the City Library there is a bond between Pell and Walpole that the latter should have the "quiet enjoyment of lands in Dersyngham."

Sir Thomas Gelham who held Gelham manor under the Valoins was granted permission in 1264 to build a Chantry Chapel in Dersingham Churchyard and to have his own Chaplain. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. From the "Liber albus of the Monks of Bury" in the British Museum we learn that Darsingham was taxed in 1254 for the "Decanatus de Lenn" for £24 and that the "Taxation of Pope Nicholas" amounted to £25.6s.8d. In 1497 Thomas Zarley, probably the priest attached to the Chantry, by his will, wished to be buried in the Chapel and left bequests for the benefit of the Church of St Nicholas. These bequests were confiscated by Henry VIII and the Chapel which stood south east of the Church fell into ruins. There was also a Chapel of St Andrew in the parish but the site has been entirely lost.

*The second and final part of this article will appear in the October Issue of this magazine.*

My experience is that as soon as people are old enough to know better, they don't know anything at all.

Oscar Wilde

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was submerged. On being questioned by the Commissioner the Rev. Bellamy stated that the value of cranberries collected from the fen was about £20 per year. On one occasion a tenant of Mr Cowper, Mr Chapman, had erected a shed on the Fen and the poor had, "very properly pulled it down and carefully deposited the materials on Mr. Cowper's premises." The arguments waged back and forth but a settlement must have eventually been agreed because in February 1862 a meeting was held in The Dun Cow for "parties entitled to commonable or other rights over lands in the Parish of Dersingham," to appoint a committee to deal with the Lynn and Hunstanton Railway Company, "for compensation to be paid for the extinction of such rights in or over lands called Cranberry Fen." The first public meeting of the Lynn and Hunstanton Railway Company was held in Lynn on January 24th 1862 when the wonderfully named Mr. Lightly Simpson was elected Chairman. Sir Henry Le Strange of Hunstanton was a leading force in the company and became Deputy Chairman. Other notable figures included Major Hare of Docking Hall. In Dersingham the construction of the station buildings, the cottages for the workers and the Railway Hotel to be called The Alexandra was well under way and must have been a great talking point in The Dun Cow, The Coach and Horses, The Cock and The White Horse. No doubt there were grumbles and the carriers and coach owners would be among those who worried for the future of their businesses. The line was completed by the summer of 1862. Before the grand opening the contractor Mr. John Valentine brought his wife and six children to view "his" railway. As a treat he organised a picnic and propelled them up the line on a manually operated trolley. Mrs. Valentine must have enjoyed watching the scenery pass and the children were no doubt thrilled by the whole adventure. That is until a plume of smoke in the distance ahead heralded a construction train approaching rapidly on the single line. The family had to scramble off while father hastily dismantled the trolley and dragged it off the line before the train thundered past. It was an ignominious end for the first passengers on the Lynn to Hunstanton line. The comments of Mrs. Valentine have unfortunately not been recorded. The grand opening was on October 3rd 1862. The death of Henry Le Strange on 27th July 1862 overshadowed the event. Nevertheless the weather was sunny and more than 100 people boarded the 12.30 train from Lynn for the 40 minute trip to Hunstanton. A reporter from The Lynn Advertiser and West Norfolk Herald was on the train and expressed considerable surprise that the line was "as picturesque as it actually is...." In fact he enthused about the line for the whole 15 miles. He wrote, "Crossing the Babingley River the Prince of Wales' estate is entered. This is perhaps the prettiest part of all. On the left the Lynn Roads are seen. On the right a series of hillocks and some undulating moorland, which on Friday looked warm and genial in its purple covering of heather. A hill further on covered in trees, reminds us of Derbyshire." This gives us some idea of the area around Dersingham when the heath was not covered in trees as it is now but more open to the Wash. Lunch for the travellers was in the Royal Hotel Hunstanton when sandwiches and champagne were in unlimited supply. Before the return trip at 4.30 the travellers could stroll along the beach although the reporter observed. "The sentimental sought the society of the other sex." The initial service provided three return trains from Lynn to Hunstanton, leaving Lynn at 9.05, 12.25 and 3.25. The return journeys left Hunstanton at 10.20, 2.00 and 4.45. It took one hour for the whole trip and the fares were 3/4d first class, 2/6d second class and 1/3d "Parliamentary.

*This article will be continued in the October Issue*

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We never know the love of the parent until we become parents ourselves.

*Henry Ward Beecher*

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## Dersingham Library Forthcoming Events:

An invitation. We cordially invite you to attend Dersingham Library on the afternoon of **15 August between 2 and 5 pm** for our celebration of VJ Day. We shall provide tea and biscuits if you can come and share your memories. Staff will be available to help you to access the 'BBC People's War' website if you would like to add your story. Stuart Hall will also be here from the Museums Service to talk to people about their experiences during the war.

### Art Competition

Dersingham and Hunstanton Libraries are having a joint Children's Sea Britain Art Competition during the summer holidays. The posters will be up shortly.

There are two age categories; Under 8 'Sea Monsters' and 8-16s 'Seascape'. Any media but must be on A4 paper.

Both categories will receive two 'good' prizes, to be announced!

The closing date is 20 August, one entry per person and the winner will be announced on Saturday 27 August. Entries will be exhibited in both libraries.

*Don't forget Summer storytimes on Wednesday 3 August and Wednesday 24 August at 2.30 pm. All children and parents welcome.*



### The 2005 summer reading challenge for children starts in Norfolk Libraries on Saturday 23 July

It's a fun challenge and it's open to all ages. Sign up and you will receive your pack, which includes a bookmark, sticker, and fridge magnet.

For each book you read (or have read to you) over the holidays, you can collect a sheet of special stickers, and you have 6 to collect. Look out for the Reading Voyage dumpbin full of fun stories to inspire you. Once you have read six books, you will get a special Reading Voyage certificate, a pencil and golden medallion.

You can also come along to our special holiday storytimes at Dersingham Library on Wednesday 3 August and 24 August from 2.30 - 3.30 pm and a fancy dress Pirate Storytime on Saturday 17 September from 10-11.30 am

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## Mobile Library – Timetable Information

Information about every mobile library route is now available on the Norfolk County Council website at [www.library.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.library.norfolk.gov.uk). Follow the link to the Mobile Library section. In this you will find information about all our routes plus the dates of the next few visits. This is available at any time.

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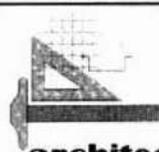
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## News in Brief

**It is 50 years since the Police Station building in Manor Road was completed** – It is interesting to note that the Parish Council Office is now based in the building, and one member of the Council, a former police officer, was employed in the premises when it was a fully functional police station with public access.

**Campaign Care 94 have raised over £1,000** for charities Bob Champion Cancer Trust and Tapping House Hospice following a sponsored cycle ride from Park House in Sandringham to Bircham Mill and back. The charity, started in 1994, has so far raised more than £80,000 for the two charities that they support.

**Dersingham War veteran receives French Honour** – Norman Cox of Woodside Close was honoured by the French Government when M Gerard Errera, French Ambassador to the United Kingdom, presented him with the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur in recognition of his service during the D-Day campaign. Mr Cox was also invited to attend a reception celebrate Bastille Day on July 14.

**A handbag containing personal documents**, a blue Nokia 6601 mobile phone and £10 in cash, was stolen from a vehicle which had been parked in Admirals Drive for a matter of only 15 minutes whilst the driver was on the school run to St George's Middle School.

**Some £1,300 has been raised by volunteers at the Park House Hotel Sandringham** at events which have included a concert of Gilbert and Sullivan excerpts performed by the "Wandering Minstrels." The money will be put to good use by the Leonard Cheshire Charity which is responsible for the management of the hotel.

**Crane Sheds and Summerhouses of Manor Road** was one of the companies chosen to exhibit their products at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in July. The company, which has been trading for 30 years has gained the Forest Stewardship Council certification and has a royal warrant to produce timber buildings for the Queen.

**Once again 11-year-old Kurtis Green of Hunstanton Road has raised cash for charity** by entering into a Heroes Return sponsored walk enabling him to present a cheque for £230.70 to the Dersingham Poppy Appeal.

**Well done Derrick Worth and his helpers** for having raised £226 on Alexandra Rose Day, 30% of which has been returned to the organisation the remainder (£158) going to the Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly.

**We have been requested to advise you of an important date** A Local Crime Community Sentence Presentation will take place at St Cecilia's Church in Mountbatten Road at 7.30 pm on 5 September 2005.

**The Green 240-litre Wheelie Bins** issued by the Borough Council on a trial basis to 950 homes in Dersingham have proved to be such a success, increasing the collection of recyclable materials by 100%, that plans are under way to supply them to all remaining homes in the village during the month of September.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Mr William Ernest (Bob) Laws, a well-known and respected supporter of St Nicholas church building and the Church grounds in which he has been buried. Amongst other employment Mr Laws was a former RAF aircraft fitter and gardener at Anmer Hall, and has been involved in the village in many things including running a youth club, raising funds for the sports pavilion, serving behind the bar at Park House and helping out at the Day Centre. A former member of the Parish Council and village correspondent for the

Lynn news Mr Laws had also served as a volunteer with the Samaritans and as a hospital visitor. He will be missed by his family and his many friends in the village and in the district. How gratifying it is to hear that a charitable business has been formed by Duncan Goose (a former Dersingham resident, brother of actress Claire, whose parents are still resident in the village) which donates the profits from its sales of bottled water to provide funding which enables inhabitants in third world countries to extract and save clean drinking water through the provision of children's roundabouts which function as water pumps whilst in use.

**St. Nicholas Church**  
**Dersingham**

*Arts & Crafts*  
*Festival*

**Bank Holiday Weekend**  
***Saturday 27th - Monday 29th August 2005***  
**12.00 - 6.00pm**  
Church Hall Refreshments etc

**Featuring**  
**Photographic Competition**

 **Norfolk - Nelson's County** 

Also to mark the start of the Festival  
***Saturday 27th August***

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Proceeds to Church Funds

**Arts & Crafts Festival** - If you paint, have a hobby or pastime and would like to take part please get in touch. We also welcome local organisations who would like to publicise their group to potential new members.

For further information please contact Anne Hyndes Tel: 01485 540696

## DIARY OF NOTIFIED EVENTS

Full details of some of these events will be found inside this magazine

Day	Date	Month	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Wed	10	Aug		6.30 pm	Dersingham Walking Group	Lay-by up from Wolferton Station
Sat	13	Aug	10 am	Dersingham & Sandringham British Legion Social Club	V J Celebration	Dersingham Recreation Ground
Sat	13	Aug			Missing Link Disco	Social Club
Sun	14	Aug	10.30 am	Dersingham Minors	Annual Mini-Soccer Tournament	Dersingham Sports Ground
Mon	15	Aug	2-5 pm	Dersingham Library	V J Day Celebration	Library
Sat	20	Aug		Dersingham Library	Closing date for 'Seascape' Art Competition	Library
Wed	24	Aug	2-30 - 3.30 pm	Dersingham Library	Holiday Storytimes	Library
Sat -	27-29	Aug	12 noon - 6 pm	St Nicholas Church	Arts & Craft Festival	St Nicholas Church & Church Hall
Sat	27	Aug		Social Club	Exile (Band)	Social Club
Sun	28	Aug		Dersingham Walking Group	4-mile walk	Fring Church
Wed	31	Aug		Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police	Budgen's Car Park
Sat	3	Sep	10 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Coffee Morning & Hand-made Cards	Methodist Church
Sat	3	Sep	10 am -	Flying Geese Patchwork & quilting Group	Coffee Morning	Memorial Hall
Sat	3	Sep		Social Club	Disco/Karaoke	Snettisham Social Club
Tues	6	Sep		Dersingham Schools	New Term starts	St George's & Infant & Nursery Schools
Tues	6	Sep	7.30 pm	Village Voice Live	Forty Years of Norfolk Vetting	St Cecilia's Church
Sat	10	Sep	1.30 pm	Dersingham Horticultural Society	17th Annual Show	St Nicholas Church Hall
Thu	15	Sep	7.30 - 10 pm	Senior Youth Group	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
Sat	17	Sep	10 - 11.30 am	Dersingham Library	Fancy Dress Pirate Storytime	Library
Wed	21	Sep		Dersingham Village	Deadline for copy and adverts	
Sat	24	Sep	10 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Coffee Morning and Stalls	Methodist Church
Sun	25	Sep	10.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church	Harvest Service	Methodist Church
Sun	25	Sep	6.30 pm	Dersingham Methodist	Harvest Songs of Praise	Methodist church
Mon	26	Sep	7 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Council Meeting	Infant & Nursery
Wed	28	Sep		Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Station	Budgen's Car Park

Day	Date	Month	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Tues	4	Oct	7.30 pm	Village Voice Live	East Anglian Film Archives	St Cecilia's Church
Thu	6	Oct	7.30 -	Senior Youth Group	Meeting	St Nicholas church Hall
Wed	12	Oct		Dersingham Village Voice	Publication day	
Mon	31	Oct	7 pm	Dersingham Parish	Full Council Meeting	Infant & Nursery School

### Dersingham Senior Youth Club

We are now taking a break for the summer holiday and due to popular demand we will be re-opening on Thursday 15 September and every first and third Thursday of each month.

All young people from the Smithdon catchment area are very welcome to come along and see for themselves what happens in THEIR club. Without them this club cannot exist.

A committee has been formed consisting of five young people who, together with the adults, help in deciding future plans and policies for the club. Your people's views on what they require from their club will be very welcome and the committee will try their best to provide these, subject of course to funds being available.

Volunteers to help out on an occasional basis are URGENTLY needed, so if you can spare a few hours each month the small band of dedicated adult helpers will be very pleased.

The club meets at St Nicholas Church Hall from 7.30 pm to 10 pm. The dates for future Thursday evenings are: 15 September, 6 October, 20 October, 3 November, 17 November, 1 December and 15 December.

*If you need any further information, or would like to volunteer, please contact either Mrs Clark on 543902 or Sarah at the Parish Council Office*

### Dersingham Minors FC Annual Mini Soccer Tournament

**Sunday 14 August 2005 commencing at 10.30 am**

**Under 7s - U8s - U9s - U10s - U11s**

Come along and support the local side - Refreshments and BBQ on sale

Bouncy Castle, Tombola, Raffle and other stalls

If you want to run a stall or other information please contact

Karl Bowman on 01485 543228



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## Norfolk Constabulary Western Mobile Police Station

West Norfolk Constabulary advise us that the Mobile Police Station will be open in Budgen's car park as follows; Wednesdays – 31 August and 28 September 2005, when Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forder and Pete Shaw will be in attendance along with PCStan Cobon. Services include: Advice, Crime recording, Information, Lost and found property, Crime prevention advice and Literature. Useful contact telephone numbers are: Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111 and Norfolk Constabulary: 0845 456 4567

Please also note a new number on which to report crime which does not require the urgency of 999, this being 0845 456 4567.

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## Advertising in, and articles for, 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 advertising in Village Voice to be very cost effective.

**Advertisements for inclusion** in the next newsletter should be in the hands of Sarah Bristow, Parish Clerk, Dersingham Parish Council, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH **by Wednesday 21 September 2005** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

**Articles for publication in the October edition of Village Voice** must reach the editor at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, before the **deadline date of Wednesday 21 September 2005 for publication on Wednesday 12 October 2005**. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication).

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

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

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

Editor: Bob Tipling

In-house Photographer and Illustrations Editor: Tony Bubb

Layout Artist and IT Technical Consultant: - Stella Caunt

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