

Dersingham Village Voice



It must be spring!



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Editor's Notes

When I was about 15 I spotted a printing evening class advertised and not only did I think it sounded interesting but I also wanted an excuse to ride my bike at night using it's lights, so I went and signed up for it. I learnt how to set type using a "comp stick", set it out in a chase using quoins and reglet, set it up in a press and print from it. They also taught us how to clean down a press afterwards which is a messy job involving much rag and paraffin.

I moved on and got into a group printing leaflets for charities using not only letterpress but litho's as well. More things to learn - making plates and using an enormous guillotine etc. After a few years in the wilderness I joined a publishing and printing firm and following a spell on the retail side I moved into the production side and used much of what I had learnt.

We had one of the first computer typesetters. It was huge. It lived in a climate controlled room about twice the size of the church hall. Those who were allowed to enter, I was only permitted to look through the window, had to wear hats and overalls lest they create dust. All it produced were paper strips of words which then needed to be pasted onto sheets, photographed, made into plates and then printed. It could take a week for your original text to be ready for printing.

Fast forward about 40 years and most of the work that that vast machine and big print works did can now be done on my computer and be printed and bound into Village Voice in a few days. I sit her for a while tapping away and you get a magazine produced by Clanpress who are the subject of this edition's "That's my business" page.

The gremlins struck at the letters page last time with the loss of the sender's name of the second letter on p6. It was Bernie Twite who became anonymous - sorry.

We have had a lot of favourable comment about the cover picture 'Winter Lavender' on the recent Dersingham Data. In light of this the artist, Stephen Martyn, has produced some A4 prints of it mounted and ready for framing at £25 each. He can be contacted on 01485 571523 or at his on line shop at: www.learnwatercolour.com

It is a pity that Dersingham has no coast within its boundary. This is possibly down to the shifting line of the waters edge. The sea used to come up to roughly the foot of the hillside and approximately follow the line of Chapel and Manor Roads. As the sea retreated our parish elders neglected to move the boundary. Still, we only have to cross the border into Snettisham to have a paddle in the briny. I therefore make no apology for featuring Snettisham Sailing Club as you are not going to find a Dersingham one.

Talking of things watery, can you help out with our drainage enquiry? We really need to sort out the surface water problem that grows as we get wetter weather. However, do stay afloat long enough to get to the back cover.

Tony Bubb

WHATS HAPPENING*

April

4. Gala, 10 -2, Budgens Car Park

6. Village Voice Live, The Wash-
Brian Howling, 7.30.

16. West Norfolk Singers
Concert, 7.30, St Nicholas
Church

24. Grand Sale, 9-12, St
Nicholas Church Hall

25. Open Garden, 1-5, Croft
House, Manor Road.

28 Lifeboat Guild AGM, 10.00,
Lifeboat Inn, Thornham

May

4. Village Voice Live, Brazil -
Walter Blaney, 7.30.

30 & 31. Open Gardens 2 - 6
St Nicholas Church Hall or any
open garden

* This, and all other information, is listed in good faith. We cannot accept responsibility for inaccuracies or if an event does not take place.

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Dear Village Voice



On reading about the coal washed up on Snettisham beach, I was reminded of an incident that happened when I worked with the American air force at USAF Sculthorpe in the late 50s early 60s.

I was one of two civilian electricians that worked in the Air Installations Operations section, this consisted of electric, plumbing, carpentry, welding shops and "roads and grounds" which contained bulldozers, graders, cranes and diggers. One morning a very large truck pulled up outside our workshop and the driver got out and said "Where do you want this coal?". As there was nowhere on the base that used coal we said it would have to be returned. He said he couldn't take it back to the colliery as it was already paid for. We then contacted the captain in charge of A.I.O. who called roads and grounds who were told to dig a pit out on the airfield and bury the coal! I assume it must still be there, so if we ever get short of fuel there's about 25 tons of coal at RAF Sculthorpe (near the Dog Handling section).

Barry Beales

Charles Whisker, who was mentioned in VV 62, went into business as a motor engineer towards the end of the 1940s. My late father, who was an accountant with Hayhow and Co in Lynn, was giving financial advice to him on setting up Heath Garage, on the edge of village in Lynn Road, and made occasional visits there. Dad had obtained his first car in about 1947 and, if a visit coincided with a non-school day, I would take a ride out with him from our Lynn home. As a lad of 14 who had spent much of his childhood in the shadow of the second world war and who had hardly ever ridden in a car, the family's new-found mobility opened up exciting prospects of travel - if only from Lynn to Dersingham!

Charles had a son of roughly my age with the unusual Christian name of Ruthven (pronounced 'Riven') with whom I palled up in a casual way. I am told that he still lives in Dersingham. I believe the Whiskers lived in the bungalow butting on to the driveway down to Heath Garage; I know that a man called Little, who was a later owner of the business, did so.

Charles told me that one of his leisure pursuits was to walk up the hilly slopes of the Open Common facing his garage to the seat at the top known then as Queen Mary's seat, as the royal lady used to enjoy the view from there. At that time it was possible to see out to The Wash, as the trees on the fen and heath towards Wolferton had either not been planted or were merely saplings. Charles must have used extremely powerful binoculars, as he claimed to be able to identify ships entering and leaving Lynn port. His son must have inherited his maritime interest, as he later had a naval career.

The advertisement you reproduced in VV62 either appeared in the Lynn News or was printed by them as a handbill - as a former employee I recognise the old type faces!

Bryan Tann

ON YER BIKE!

I am a 76 old grandad who loves cycling. I did my serious cycling over 50 years ago, racing etc., then in 1957 I got married with different priorities - financial and time - so cycling was pushed to one side. We have two daughters, but now the children have flown the nest and we are both retired (well, from paid employment) I have been getting down to putting a few "miles in" for leisure.

Recently, I have been considering doing a worthwhile ride for a charity, so I contacted Cancer Research. By return post a huge envelope of paraphernalia relating to charities came. I have decided to do a 500 mile ride to raise funds for Cancer Research UK in early May.

For anyone who would like to sponsor me with a donation I have the official sponsor forms so the more money we can raise the better. Call me on 01485 540672 or at Springfield, 15 Pansey Drive, Dersingham.

John Lambert



Thank you for putting our request for T F S R (Tools For Self Reliance) in the "WANTED" section of the August Village Voice.

We were delighted at the response we had to our appeal for hand tools and sewing machines and would like to thank all those who gave us these items.

This is an ongoing charity, so we are constantly in need of used hand tools, hand and treadle Singer sewing machines as well as any haberdashery items; so that our contacts in Africa can distribute them to people there so that they can make a living and hence be self reliant.

We can collect anywhere in the area and look forward to hearing from you on 01485 541780.

Michael and Lorna Bowden

If you want something let us know and we will publish. Ed.

I note that it has been proposed by Norfolk County Council and Dersingham Parish Council that village lighting should be switched-off from midnight until 5.30am. My response:-

WATT SAVING.....What saving?

So it's back to the Dark Ages with the Powers-that-be
our street-lighting post-midnight switched-off by decree.

With H & S waived
and £1500 saved*

lower Council Tax bills!.....or 'green' futility?

*but not yet

One is tempted to ask why was street-lighting deemed necessary in the first place?

Ben Mullarkey

Fred Smith's letter in the last Village Voice upset me, and I'd like to explain why. Dersingham Bog and Fen is beautiful and I am glad that other local people feel as passionately about it as I do. However, strong opinions should be based on sound information, and unfortunately Fred is mistaken on several counts. Some of the inaccuracies are easy to set right:

- as the editor pointed out, we don't have pine martens here;
- bogs and heathland support far more insects than pinewoods, and are great for foraging bats;
- trees dry out rather than protect the bog, and shade out heather and the rare heath and bog plants;
- grass snakes need open areas where they can bask in the sun, something that they need to do because they are cold-blooded; and
- I am pretty sure that TPOs do not cover land controlled by the Crown, or commercial tree crops (though I am not a planning expert).

Aside from the inaccuracies above, the general assumption that trees are 'good' is in this case misplaced. I need to give more background to this statement, and I hope that the following information will explain why the trees might even be considered 'bad' in this situation.

Heathland has been an important UK habitat for many hundreds of years, which has allowed many species to become dependent upon it. Heathland started to form as the ice-caps retreated, around 14,000 years ago. As the climate warmed it began to be replaced by trees until the Stone Age (around 5,000 years ago), when trees were cleared for grazing livestock, and large areas of heathland re-established where there was sandy soil. Heathland habitat relies upon management by man to keep it open – this was originally through grazing (first livestock and later rabbits), but sometimes also burning (fires caused by steam-trains kept Dersingham open for some years) or fuel-cutting.

In the last century the loss of heathland has been dramatic. Since 1900 over 90% of north-west European heaths have been lost to forestry, agriculture or neglect and what is left is fragmented

and generally in poor condition, particularly suffering from encroachment by bracken, trees and shrubs. Dersingham Bog is protected by International, European and National designations, which shows just how valuable it is.

Dersingham Bog is the largest, most intact example of lowland acid mire (wet heathland) in East Anglia, but was once part of a vast tract of heathland between King's Lynn and Heacham. Many rare plants, insects, birds and other animals are only found in heathland and many are now endangered because they have been squeezed into ever-decreasing areas.

For these reasons, it is vital that we do all that we can to retain what is left of our heath, and to make every effort to keep it in favourable condition. This does involve clearing the trees and keeping the area open. The pines were planted as a commercial crop, probably around 1940 – only 80 years ago. The species is not native to this part of England, and it supports few species of a nature conservation value. I'm afraid that pine trees simply do not compare with heathland when it comes to nature conservation value.

So, I hope that this information will help Fred Smith to understand why the trees are damaging this rare habitat, and why they have to be cleared to ensure that it survives. Maybe a few more people will also become passionate about this amazing area on our doorsteps and appreciate its open, sometimes windswept, character.

Sarah Harmer

I read Dick Melton's article and must correct him on one point. Parishioners are not allowed rights over the Fen since it was declared a site of special scientific interest to protect the area. It has since been upgraded to a special area of conservation and any work has to be approved by Natural England (formerly English Nature) who manage the whole area.

Common rights are still applicable on the open and 'shut up' commons.

Ruth Mountain, clerk, Dersingham United Charities



The pageant photo in the last edition was, I think a group called the Dersingham Players, and they were run by Sidney Willis the man in the centre of the photo. He was headmaster of St Georges School and was very involved with drama, he wrote plays and acted and directed, so the pageant was probably something he put together. From the background it was probably performed at the Manor House or The Oaks and was part of a fete or some other village activity to do with the village celebrating the coronation. Sitting at front from left,

Doris Goff, Dora Houchen, Gwen Willis, ?. Middle row, on left Edna Walden, ?. boy Peter Goff?, Mrs Bird Mrs Linford. Joy Soanes?. back row. Bodica, Miss Peeling, Knight Aubrey Bell.

And now to the fen. Having lived in Dersingham for sixty five years I have been following with interest the various comments about the fen. I always knew it as the fen not a bog. The definition of a bog is an area of wet spongy ground and a fen is low lying flat marshy ground. As the area in question fits the latter why call it something it isn't. The fen is sited at the end of Wolferton marsh and is what could not be turned over to agriculture. Close by, Pott Row and Leiziate both have fens and there are larger ones at Wicken Fen at Cambridge and Flag Fen at Peterborough. As far as I know nobody wants to rename them.

In my younger days if I was going to that area I would say I am going to or on the fen, not I am going on or to the bog, which says something totally different. As Dick Melton has said the fen covers seventy nine acres which is only a part of the reserve area. As the access to the reserve is from Wolferton it would perhaps be better to rename it and leave Dersingham's name off, or does the present name create a better image to the visiting public.

Having said that I thought about how I remembered it and as a lad what we did there.

In early spring Silver Birch trees would be trimmed of twiggy branches by villagers for pea sticks. This would be done before the trees came into leaf. They would be tied in bundles and carried home across bikes or in home built carts. Birch would also be cut for firewood, the wood is very wet when cut but burns well when dried, although it can spit. Most of this would be gathered between the last house leaving the village and eight milestone corner, this being the closest to the village for carting. This also kept the area from being overgrown.

Before the by-pass was built the house at the start was a pair, there was a track along the side which led into the fen and was a way of getting to the rifle butts. There was an observation post there made of heavy timber. Climbing to the top gave a view over the fen. Talking to a friend he thought the home guard might have used it during the second world war or perhaps soldiers stationed in the area. He had also been told that bullet cases were collected and sold for scrap in King's Lynn.

Along side the house, on what is now the road, was a flat grassed area. We boys played football and cricket on it. The Borley family lived in one house and in the summer the grass would be full of cars parking, some having a break on the way to Hunstanton or just out for the day. Mrs Borley sold tea and snacks and was always busy.

Next to that is the sand pit. This had a track running round it and up to the time the by-pass was built Docking R D C had a rubbish tip there and also the honey cart was emptied there. This killed off most things growing there and was a bit smelly. We also roamed in the sand pit and in the summer the pit had Sand Martins nesting. These did disappear, have they returned?

Then there was the fen. This has paths running across to Wolferton, which were used quite often. In summer there were Shelducks nesting, these disappeared but I think are starting to come back also what we called cotton flower would be out making every where white. In winter when we had heavy snow we would take sledges onto the hills, would Natural England allow that I wonder?

Every year whilst there was a railway line the fen would be set on fire by the trains which helped to keep growth in check. With the closure of the line the fen gradually got overgrown, so it has to be said that the work done there has brought it back to more as it used to be, it's a pity Natural England don't like being asked too many questions about what they are doing. At some great expense the reserve was fenced in and cattle put in, it was said the cattle would help reinstate the ground and encourage plants etc but they seemed to spend most of the time in the trees and were not there very long. Nobody ever said if it worked or not. I suppose the gate near the sand pit is for vehicles to gain access to the fen, I wonder who holds the key to get in? If a villager wanted to exercise their right to go to the fen or sand pit with a vehicle can they? Would it not be a good idea for an easy access gate for walkers to be put in.

Although Natural England manage the fen , the Trustees oversee the area for the village. In the good old days, when the parish meeting was held at the church hall, the room would be full and there were always questions asked about the commons and fen things, getting very heated at times. Some of the old village boys were very keen on their rights.

Having said all that I wonder how many local people use the area these days or are that bothered about it. I certainly have some happy memories.

Since writing the above I have looked at an AA Road Atlas, in it the fen is called Dersingham Bog, and the symbol describes it as a National Nature Reserve. So I suppose that is the name it will be known as. I seem to recall in an earlier V V in a Bog News article, the area was described as lowland heath, another name? Perhaps in the future Natural England might care to respond to some of the items raised.

Bernie Twite

I was interested in the information Dick Melton gave about Dersingham Fen in the last edition of 'Village Voice' and I should like to thank him for giving me the chance to comment, once again, on access from Dersingham.

Continued on page 10

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Dersingham born, Dersingham bred, Dersingham based!

The area covered by the National Nature Reserve (NNR) includes both Dersingham Fen and Wolferton Fen (in which, confusingly, Dersingham Bog is situated). When the Reserve was established, it was called Dersingham NNR (as can be seen in English Nature's excellent 2003 booklet entitled 'Nature Reserves in Norfolk'). Somehow, in recent years, the word 'Bog' has been inserted so that Natural England now call it 'Dersingham Bog NNR'.

About ten or twelve years ago, the whole of the NNR was surrounded by a 'cattle-proof fence' (at what cost and who paid, I wonder!). For a short while, cattle could be seen grazing in the Reserve but I understand that they were taken back to the farm they came from when the man looking after them was no longer able to do so. Natural England are still considering importing some suitable stock to keep the unwanted, invasive, growth under control (although the invading deer are helping with this at the moment!): there is, therefore, a need to keep the fence intact. They are also loath to augment the two gates they have at the southern end for easy human access. This is, however, to the disadvantage of people wishing to access the NNR (and Dersingham Fen, in particular) from the northern (Dersingham) end.

Furthermore, as both Wolferton Fen and Dersingham Fen have been designated open 'access land' under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, there is a requirement under the Act for 'reasonable access' to be provided. I doubt whether climbing a five-bar gate was quite what parliament had in mind!

I appreciate that Natural England have their reasons for wanting to restrict access to the Reserve from its northern boundary but it does seem unreasonable from the point of view of people who would like to walk in Dersingham Fen. Perhaps one of these reasons is their fear of an invasion by 5000+ inhabitants of Dersingham seeking to exercise their rights to 'dig, cut and cart away, let, sell and graze' which Dick Melton says we still have!

Keith Starks.

I think enough opinion has now been aired on the subject of the bog and fen. Seldom has a subject provided so much opinion. Ed.

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AUG THURS 26th	SKEGNESS	£12.00	9.25

Fare to be paid in full on booking and is non returnable if cancelled by you. Trips subject to minimum numbers, please book early. For further details please contact 01485 544514

DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

At their meeting in January the walks' leaders agreed a programme of nine walks for the summer and details of the first two of these are given below. They also agreed that we should have a walk at **SOUTHWOLD** on Thursday, 22nd July. Full details of this and the later walks will be given in later editions of Village Voice but you may find it useful to have prior warning of the Southwold trip so that you can book a place on the coach. We are taking advantage of 'Maureen's Day Coach Trips' (as advertised elsewhere in Village Voice) and bookings (£15.50) can be made by contacting Maureen on 01485 544514.



The next walks are:

WEDNESDAY 14th APRIL

Start 6.00pm from the lay-by off the A149 near Burnham Deepdale church (map ref. L132 804 443). A 5 miles circular walk including part .of the Norfolk Coast Path and Burnham Norton led by Lindsey and Steve Davis (543138).

WEDNESDAY 12th MAY

Start 6.30pm from Crossbank Road, by the side of the River Ouse in King's Lynn (map ref. L132 612 212). A 4 miles, circular walk by the river to Point Green led by a guest leader, Brian Payne (01485 532669).

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

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

If you would like anymore information about any of the above please contact me.

Keith Starks (542268)



Our February walk, led by Steve Davis, was a 4 mile circuit of Roydon Common.

A chill wind nipped the participants on the open parts of the route.

Then our sadistic leader took us past this "lake" making sure he was far enough ahead to take pictures of anyone taking an early bath. Rest assured that if one of us had, he would have had one as well. The walk

finished off with a fine blizzard for our return trek to the car park. □



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CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE (CBHC)

PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) NEWS

From: T G Morris, PPG Committee

NEW PRACTICE MANAGER.

At a recent PPG Committee meeting, members were introduced to Mrs Ana Weston MA, FCIPD, our newly appointed Practice Manger. Ana started her NHS career in 1994, working in Child Health medical records. She had previously worked for Tesco, where she completed her Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) foundation course. She moved into Medical Personnel to complete her three year Human Resources (HR) qualification. Following qualification, she worked for local Primary Care Trusts and Mental Health, eventually gaining a Senior Management post as Head of HR. During this period, Ana was awarded a Masters Degree in Law and Employment by Leicester University and attained 'Chartered Fellow' status from the CIPD.

Early in 2007, Ana moved into the pharmaceutical industry to work as a Development Consultant, where she learned to be an executive coach, facilitator and development specialist. Ana was keen to expand her personal portfolio and she also found herself missing the NHS culture of care in the workplace, so she applied for the post at Vida Healthcare. She was very happy to be offered the opportunity to work as Practice Manager.

Ana has been married for 12 years and enjoys the company of good friends and card and jewellery making in her spare time.

QUALITY PRACTICE AWARD.

The Gayton Road and Carole Brown Health Centres have been awarded the prestigious Quality Practice Award (QPA) by the Royal College of General Practitioners. The award follows a criterion-based quality accreditation process undertaken by Primary Health Care Teams across the United Kingdom over recent months and culminating with the attendance at the practice of an evaluation team conducting rigorous examinations and interviews of staff and patients at the health centres. The purpose of the award is to improve patient care by encouraging and supporting practices that deliver the highest quality care to their patients.

Our practice becomes one of only about 60 GP Practices in England to hold this award which recognises 'the delivery of the highest quality of care to patients'. The award will remain valid for five years, and the practice is permitted to use the QPA logo on letterheads etc., during this period. A side benefit is that it will probably encourage high calibre clinical and administrative staff to apply to join the practice should vacancies occur.

TELEPHONES.

The practice is considering scrapping the 08444 telephone number and with that goes the call queuing system and other messages for patients. The management is in discussion with the current phone providers and there is no guarantee that they will be able to get out of their current Agreement. If the system were to be changed, it would mean that patients ringing for an appointment would get an engaged tone if and when all eight incoming lines are busy. At the peak times, say Monday mornings, it could mean a lot of re-dialling as opposed to waiting in a queue as is currently the case. It can take up to ten minutes for the first fifty or so calls to be dealt with and with each call lasting about 1.5 minutes, that's 75 minutes of call time. Between the eight lines that makes 9-10 minutes for the longest wait. Re-dialling may be cheaper but is it more patient friendly or any less frustrating than the current system? What do you think? Please convey your views to the PPG. □



The Dersingham Beat

In the last issue I hoped that I could be the bearer of good news and it appears that I can do just that.

I would like to take you back a couple of issues where I thanked those residents that were keen eyed and able to assist us with local enquiries? This was regarding a man who was seen wandering about in people's gardens and sleeping rough in a car. The good news is that he was identified and recently charged with committing a burglary to a house in Dersingham.

Unfortunately, no further action was taken in relation to two attempted burglaries where foot wear marks were obtained by our Crime Scene Investigators. There simply was not enough detail to secure a conviction although we believe these were committed by the same man.

In the last two years the village has experienced 4 burglaries and 2 attempted burglaries. All 4 burglaries were detected and offenders charged to court. This is not meant to alarm you, quite the contrary. There were not six separate offenders, only two..... Again, I wish to thank those of you that took the time to call us or make a note of what you saw. Without your involvement we could not have achieved these results. Well done all.

Should you wish to become part of the success of "Home Watch" please get in touch with PCSO Jackie Smith who is collating the details of all those interested in preparation of a re-launch. I hope to have more information about "Home Watch" in my next contribution to the 'Dersingham Village Voice'. You can reach Jackie via the contact details listed below.

During the evening of the 22nd of January, 21 youths from Heacham, Docking, Dersingham and Kings Lynn were stopped in the village and alcohol seized/disposed of. These youths were heard being loud and anti-social in the area of the Dersingham Sports Ground. When challenged by PCSO Sally Calaby and PCSO Katie Richardson they "bomb burst" and were rounded up in various locations in the village. Clearly they thought they could come to 'sleepy ol' Ders'nam' and get away with their antics – how wrong were they?

All 21 youths have had Anti-Social Behaviour Intervention letters sent home to their parents making them aware of their 'little darlings' unwelcome conduct. These letters are the first step towards an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) then ASBO's etc.

Here is another little "snip-it" of good news from a crime report I recently provided the Dersingham Parish Council that I will share with you.

"Between 14/12/09 and 23/1/10 there were 10 crimes committed in Dersingham, 7 of which were related to the snow whereby windows were damaged by snow and ice. Compare this with the same period twelve months ago when there were 23 crimes and no snow!" Quite an improvement wouldn't you agree?

We simply could not achieve this performance without a committed team and the support of you the residents. We are constantly developing new links within the community to help us reduce crime and Anti-Social Behaviour by working together. I personally wish to thank you for that support.

On the 30th of January my team and I executed a search warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in Dersingham. Nothing was found. Flyers were distributed in the vicinity to highlight the fact that we were taking a positive and pro-active stance towards drug related activity.

If you have an address near you and suspect drug related activity i.e. regular callers making short visits all day and night I would like to hear about it. You can call us via 'Crime Stoppers' and leave a message (anonymous if you prefer), post a note in the mail box at Dersingham police station, contact me via the 0845 4564567 or e-mail (see below) the choice is yours.

And finally, here is a tip for all of you that have a chain link fence around your garden. Some of you will have unfortunately experienced damage to your chain by youths stamping on them and causing the chain to break, bending the hooks or snapping the posts. I recommend that you cut through the end of one link using a saw. This provides a "weak link" that will give and allow that

chain to part minimising the damage and expense of repairs. These chains can simply be put together again. I realise that this isn't the answer and we should be dealing with those responsible, however proving who has caused this damage is extremely difficult without seeing them do it.

In the meantime I look forward to hearing from you, until then I hope you remain reassured that we are doing all we can to help you feel safe.

Andy

sntdersinghamgayton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk Crime Stoppers - tel no 0800 555 111

Village Drainage

The parish council's Environment committee is looking into the problems regarding the watercourse that flows from near the St Nicholas Church Hall to the end of Manor Road to where it runs under the Lynn Road.

There have been reports of flooding near the sports ground, and that at least one of the ditches that flow into the main dyke has been interfered with.

It has been mentioned that the Borough Council intend to rule these watercourses 'Riparian' which means that those properties with boundaries adjacent to it will be responsible for its free flowing and general maintenance, as their properties' boundaries will end at the centre of these watercourses and even if the landowner has erected a fence on their side of the dyke, the boundary of the property will still be in the centre of the relevant Dyke or it's tributaries.

Can you please help us by submitting any information you may have relating to the following?

- (a) Where your deeds show that your property's boundary ends near the watercourse?
- (b) Do you know of any work, i.e. alteration, or filling in that may impede the free flow to these dykes or ditches?
- (c) Do you have any information on the history of their past maintenance, or anything that may be of assistance to us regarding these watercourses?

Please send by mail or email or deliver to the Parish Council office any information, photographs etc., you may have but please include your name, address and phone number to enable us to contact you if necessary. □

Ron Brackstone

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In aid of St. Nicholas Church

There will be a large selection of good secondhand books (plus jig-saw puzzles, videos and C.D.s). There will also be a varied and interesting collection of Bric-a-Brac, plus a range of well-presented Nearly New clothing.

We are not able to sell large pieces of furniture or anything that is upholstered. Unfortunately we are not able to accept any electrical goods. All items for the bric-a-brac stalls should be delivered to the Church Hall as early as possible on Friday, 23rd April, from 9.00a.m. onwards. Books and clothing can be received at any time during the coming weeks and can also be delivered to the monthly Coffee Mornings at the Church Hall. Alternatively you can contact one of the people listed below.

Clothing contact: Mary Sharp, Tel: 01485 540350.

Bric-a-Brac contact: Doreen Asker, Tel: 01485 540601.

Donations of Books and general enquiries about the sale, contact: Neil Adams,
Tel: 01485 540857

Please make a note on you calendar. Tell your friends, and come to the sale.

DERSINGHAM OPEN GARDENS

30th and 31st May 2010. 2.00pm to 6.00pm

Fascinating Gardens - Art Exhibition - Cream Teas 2-5pm

This local event is increasing in popularity each year. Please note the date and also bring along friends and family. When relatives are visiting on a holiday weekend it is good to have a special attraction to take them to.

The gardens that are open are inspiring and all uniquely different. Added to this, the Art and Craft Exhibition in the Church Hall displays local work of a very high standard. Cream Teas and a variety of other refreshments will be served in the Church Hall from 2.00 to 5.00p.m.

We are always interested in including new gardens for viewing, as well as the several favourite ones. Do *you* have a special garden feature that you would like to show others. If you would like to discuss the possibility of opening, please give me, Neil Adams, a call on 01485 540857.

Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes

On Tuesday 26th January 2010 in the Feathers Hotel, Manor Road, Dersingham, Ken Conley, ably assisted by John Evans, Mark Evans, Fred Hart, Colin Lloyd, Doug Gravener, Geoff Stewart, Edward Venemore, Reg Stagles and Frank Jacklin, (all members of the Sandringham Lodge, of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes), presented a £1000 cheque to Paul Jacklin for his appeal for Leukaemia research. Also in attendance were Paul's wife and daughter in addition to John Herbert, Grand Primo 2005, to witness the ceremonial handover of the cheque.

Paul, also a member of the Sandringham Lodge, thanked his fellow members for their most generous gift. Paul initially set out to visit 50 lodges and has covered just over 30 collecting donations towards his appeal since his son-in-law contracted and subsequently died of the disease. He has currently raised over £3000.

The Sandringham Lodge members have in the past 12 months, handed over £3000 to Charity causes. □



Sudoku No 10 Solution

3	8	5	4	1	6	7	2	9
1	7	2	8	9	5	6	3	4
6	9	4	2	7	3	8	1	5
7	4	6	9	5	2	3	8	1
5	3	9	7	8	1	2	4	6
8	2	1	6	3	4	9	5	7
2	5	3	1	6	9	4	7	8
9	1	7	3	4	8	5	6	2
4	6	8	5	2	7	1	9	3



Sandringham and Hillington have relocated to the middle earth & Sherborne floats above?
Note the new "pre-vandalised" sign light.

That's my business

Clanpress Ltd

Clanpress started as J.C. Bird and Son, this was an old family letterpress printing company which had been at King's Lynn for almost a hundred years. The name was changed to Clanpress mainly because the previous partners were Scottish.

In the 1950's Clanpress won a contract to produce foreign language versions of Campbell's soup labels and within a short time had become associated with colour printing, not only for large, household names, but for other, much smaller companies. The specialisation in publicity print meant that letterpress had to be phased out and full commitment to lithographic print was introduced.

In the mid 1970's Clanpress became a limited company and moved to a larger premises on the North Lynn Industrial Estate.

The lithographic printing process was much lengthier in the 1970's, all pre-press artwork was prepared by hand. The artwork was created from film which was then 'cut and pasted' together. The required image was then transferred manually onto an aluminium plate for the printing press. Technology has improved this procedure tremendously since the 1970's. Today the artwork is computer generated and in most cases approved via email which enables a much quicker turn around. Aluminium plates are made at the click of a button which is far less labour intensive, producing accurate plates in record time and keeping waste material to a minimum. These days we all take our environmental responsibilities seriously and Clanpress is no exception, recycling at every opportunity.

At the heart of our operation is the lithographic Heidelberg 5 colour press. This machine produces full colour work in a single pass. This ensures our client's work attains the highest standard of colour fidelity possible and increases production volume. A two colour press is also used for such work as letterheads. This press has a 'perfector' which means it can print single colour on both sides of paper in one pass. These machines enable work to be turned round at a fraction of the time needed in the 1970's. The Dersingham Village Voice is printed using both lithographic presses.

As well as lithographic printing Clanpress also provides a Digital service. This enables short run prints from business card size all the way through to A3 posters. Collating can be included in this process as well as high volume photocopying.



The directors are John Drohan and Peter Lemon and currently Clanpress has 9 employees. Our company over the years has built its reputation by producing high quality colour print and has received loyal support from the King's Lynn area enabling it to remain a local independent company. □

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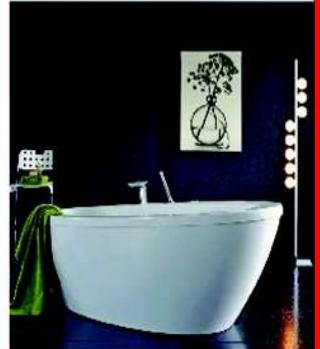
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The Sandringham Newsletter

by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate



Snow fell some inches deep a week before Christmas and lasted for almost a month. It caused some disruption on the Estate, as it did for homes and businesses across East Anglia, but staff came to work in a wide variety of vehicles and work carried on almost as normal.

On the Fruit Farm there was nothing to be done in the orchards and blackcurrant fields, but tracks in the snow showed that hares, muntjak and fallow deer were out and about, and large flocks of fieldfares and redwings were feeding on the windfall apples beneath the trees. On the Farm, lorries continued to haul sugarbeet for processing into sugar, and to collect grain from last year's harvest. There are still 20 acres of sugarbeet to be lifted but while it was impossible to get into the fields, staff spent time on machinery maintenance instead.

In the Gardens, both the Upper and Lower Lakes froze over completely, which hasn't been seen for a long time. They could probably have been skated on, although nobody seemed quite to have the courage (or the skates) to try. Curlews came into the grounds of Sandringham House to feed – the first time they have ventured beyond the parklands, and an indication of the difficulties they must have been having to find earthworms and other food beneath the snow. Gardeners spent a lot of time shaking snow off the branches of trees and shrubs; a heavy snowfall weighs a great deal and can snap quite large branches, so this effort prevented widespread damage, particularly to the yew hedges. In addition, while it was cold, we didn't have a really penetrating frost over a long period, so the Head Gardener is hopeful that the gardens will have escaped quite lightly and without any major losses.

By contrast, a great many woodland trees were damaged and had to be felled – Scots Pines in particular seem to have suffered badly. The logs went to the Sawmill to be turned into firewood, for which there was, not surprisingly, a huge demand over this period. Christmas trees were also in demand, and the Sawmill had sold out ten days before Christmas. Forestry staff continued the Estate's programme of hedge planting; about 4 miles of hedge, mainly hawthorn and blackthorn, have been planted in total this winter. This is part of an ongoing project to improve wildlife habitats across the Estate, with these hedges providing food and shelter for insects and birds.

Work continued in the Country Park (where snowmen sprouted in almost every open space) keeping paths and rides trimmed back. A new sculpture, of an owl, has appeared on the Sculpture Trail close to the Visitor Centre. The Visitor Centre itself was open every day as usual, including Christmas Day, although it proved a bit of a struggle for both staff and customers to reach it. Shop and restaurant staff used this quieter period as a chance to get deep cleaning done – walls have been washed, carpets cleaned and paintwork touched up.

The weather continued cold and intermittently snowy through February, but at last snowdrops and aconites are in bloom in the Gardens and in the local villages, so spring must be on its way.

Work is now well under way to have Sandringham House and Museum ready to be re-opened to the public on Easter Saturday, 3rd April. The House is being spring-cleaned with small repairs and refurbishments being carried out, and the Ballroom Exhibition is being laid out. The Exhibition in the Ballroom changes each year, and is used to display objects from the collections in the private rooms of the House which visitors would not otherwise be able to see.

This year's exhibition is called "Family Treasures" and is made up of a small part of the quantities of family gifts and memorabilia that Queen Alexandra and Queen Mary collected and treasured; there are locketts and photographs, mourning jewellery, children's letters and home-made cards and several family autograph books, as well as paintings, tapestry and objets d'art – many possible solutions to the problem of what to give a King and Queen as a present!

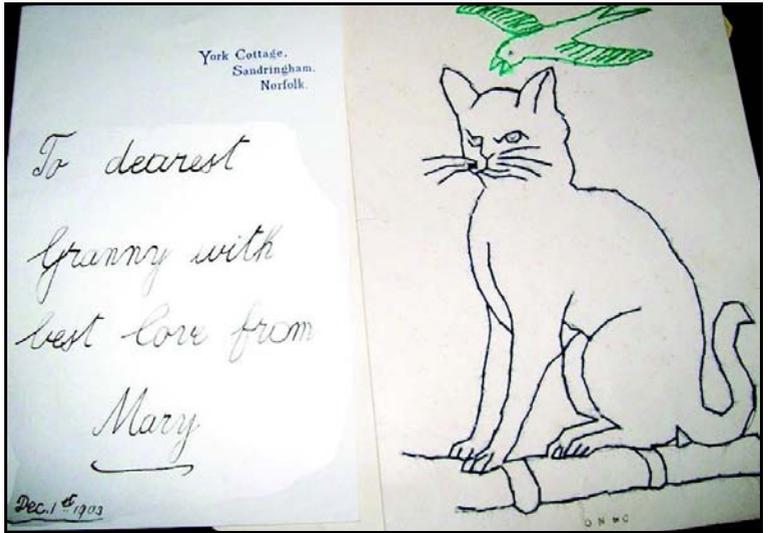
Estate staff and local contractors were also busy in the Museum complex this month; the Museum displays are being laid out in a slightly different order which has meant repainting and rewiring, and the Stables Tea Room next door has been given a facelift with repainted walls, new

tablecloths and a better layout for the service counter. We hope that both the Museum and the Stables Tea Room will feel brighter and fresher this year for our visitors.

The Terrace Coffee Shop at the Visitor Centre was the venue in early February for a coffee morning held by West Norfolk Befriending; this is a partnership between Age Concern, the West Norfolk Carers' Association and West Norfolk Deaf

Association which recruits and trains volunteers to enable them to visit people who are isolated as a result of age, hearing loss or because they are a carer. For this coffee morning, the guests of honour were Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, who found time to call in on their way back from an engagement in King's Lynn to meet clients and befrienders over a cup of coffee.

Also at the Visitor Centre, we were fortunate to receive photographs and paintings of Sandringham House and Gardens from our talented season ticket holders; these are now on display in the Restaurant.



This is a birthday card made for Queen Alexandra in 1903 by her granddaughter Princess Mary (sister of King George VI) when she was 6 years old.



The studs are a pair of clover leaf shirt studs given by Princess Alexandra to Prince Edward in 1896 on the anniversary of their engagement day. The little label reads "Wear these for good luck on the St Leger Day. In remembrance of our engagement day, Sept 9th '62 - '96." Prince Edward's horse Persimmon won the St Leger that year.

Finally, regular visitors to the website may have noticed a new page in our "Estate Produce" section; this is because Sandringham beef and lamb are now available online through the Great Bircham Foods website as well as at the Great Bircham and West Newton village shops – more information and a link to the website are on the new page. □

Old Picture Corner - past and present



This hand coloured view dates from the 60's. A scene that is largely unchanged but gone is the handsome name sign exalting one to drive slowly. Most noticeable is the widening of the road. In the lower picture you can still see the line where widening took place. When was this?

They were no better then at getting utility poles upright and the speed limit discs have yet to appear. Maybe they were behind the camera.





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Village Voice Cover Photo Competition

this years subject:-

Dersingham Wildlife

Get one of your pictures on the cover of the October Village Voice. You may submit entries as prints or electronically, on a disc or by e-mail for the closing date of **Wednesday 1st September**. Pictures must have been taken within the parish boundary, not have been previously published and not have been digitally manipulated. Remember that the cover is portrait (upright) in format so we may have to crop your work to make it fit. Good luck and happy snapping!



Send your entries to:-

Village Voice photo competition
Dersingham Parish Council
7b Hunstanton road
Dersingham PE31 6HH

or e-mail to:-

villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

Dersingham Community Lunch

Dersingham Methodist Church

Thursday 28 January 2010

What a warm welcome awaited the 64 guests, in more ways than one, when they arrived for a luncheon sponsored by the Methodist Church in Post Office Road, who not only covered the cost of the event, but also did the catering, which is where the warm welcome comes in, for a buffet had been laid on which offered hot soup, jacket potatoes with an assortment of fillings accompanied by salad items, followed by a selection of sweetmeats, tea and coffee – what a spread, and so well presented by the team of volunteers and most readily received by those present.



It was therefore in a replete state that the assembly were addressed by the secretary of the Methodist Church, Elizabeth Batstone, who made an appeal for assistance in getting the County Council to agree to having directions signs placed in such a way as to indicate the location of the church, she having had a more or less negative response to her request. As is usual at these lunches, there were people attending who were in a position to offer help, and the writer has since heard that there is likely to be a successful outcome – this is what the lunches are all about!

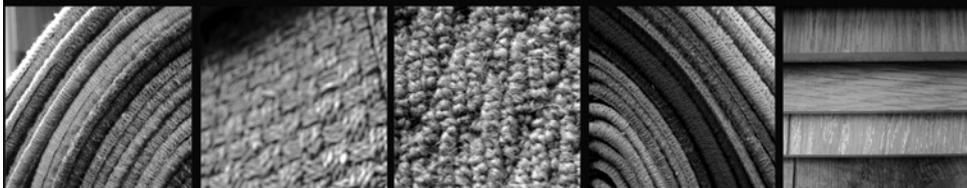
Following Elizabeth's address it was the turn of Andrew Barbour, East Anglia representative of the 'First Responders', aided by our own 'First Responder,' Yvonne Fuller, to inform the



audience of the essential purpose of the volunteers who freely give up their time to attend emergency calls before the attendance of an ambulance, in most cases helping to prevent a fatality. An appeal was made during this presentation for more volunteers, as, at the moment, Yvonne is the ONLY one in the village, is it something that you may wish to do? If so, you could always contact Yvonne at 'Flowers by Yvonne' in Manor Road who will tell you how to go about it. During the lunch period a collection was made on behalf of the Haiti disaster appeal which raised in excess of £70.00 – All in all a most satisfactory occasion! □

Any queries regarding the lunches can be addressed to Bob Tipling, Co-ordinator, Dersingham Community Lunches, 45 Queen Elizabeth drive, Dersingham, Norfolk PE31 6JQ Tel: 01485 541347 or e-mail: communitylunches1@btinternet.com

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Dersingham Infant and Nursery School

Egg-citing News!

Easter came early at our school with the arrival of different eggs!



A giant egg appeared in Nursery Role Play Area after the Half Term break. The children thought that it might hatch into a dinosaur, dragon, snake or a crocodile.

The large egg turned out to be Humpty Dumpty and the children enjoyed playing in this area where there was also a castle, a wall to build and dressing up clothes to become a soldier or a princess.

To add to the excitement, Nursery also took charge of an incubator for hatching eggs and watch chicks develop.

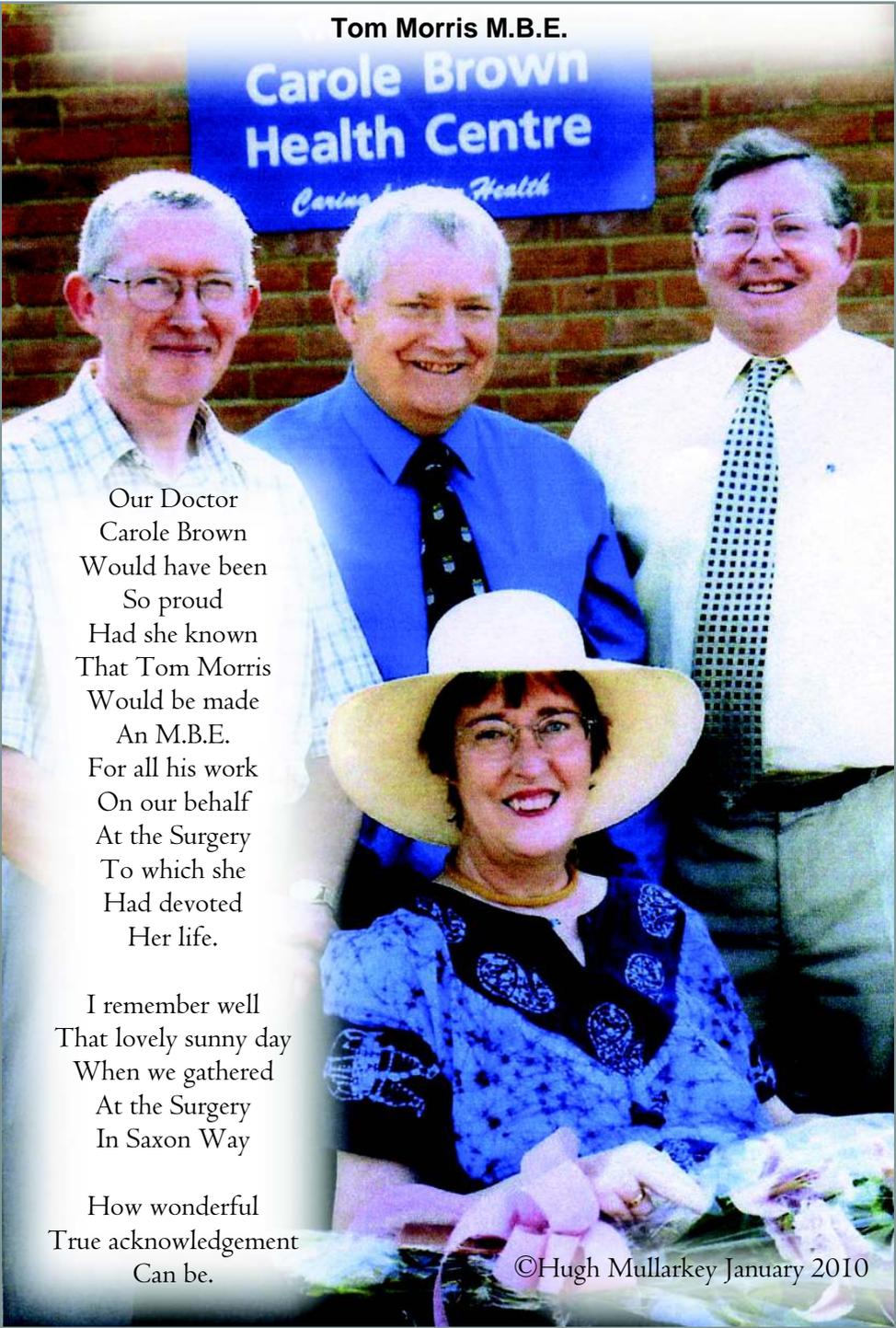


With Easter approaching the whole school were invited to enter an egg decorating competition and join in an Easter egg hunt.



Happy Easter everyone!

P.S. We run a variety of 'After School' clubs including a sports club, a gardening club and a choir. If anyone has a talent to share (eg. knitting, sewing, pottery etc.) and would like to run a club, even for a few weeks, please contact us via the School Office - 01485 540022. We can then arrange for the appropriate CRB checks and discuss times.



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When we gathered
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Can be.

©Hugh Mullarkey January 2010



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Dick Melton

It is always very nice to get a response to my articles in the Village Voice, good or bad. The first people to get in touch with me about the February issue were Fred Easton and Mrs English. They both told me a bit more about Hoddy Middleton who lived in a hovel on the common just past Pleasant Place. He had a family and went to live in Sedgeford when he left Dersingham. I looked in a Kellys for 1925 and saw there was a shopkeeper in Dersingham by the name of Mrs Agnes Middleton, but it does not say what shop she kept. Fred also reminded me about a man that lived in the old pump house at the top of the Shut-up-Common, and I have also been told about another man who, in the 1970s, lived in a make-do shelter down The Drift in the Little Wood.

Photographing the Royals

With the shooting season just finishing and the Royal Family staying at Sandringham, it brought to mind something that happened to me in 1961. I was on leave from the army and having a drink in the Albert Victor pub in Manor Road (Peter Rogers was the landlord at the time), when a smart looking gent in a suit came up to me and asked if I knew my way around the Sandringham estate. I said, "Yes", and this gent turned out to be a Daily Mail photographer. It was just after Christmas, the Royals were down shooting and I drove him around for four days taking pictures of the Royal shooting party whenever we could find them. For doing this he paid me £5 a day. This was a fortune to me in 1961 as I was only getting about £5 a week in the army. He did not get any photographs printed in the Mail, but I got my 20 quid so I was very happy. He did take a picture of three elderly gentlemen, Mr Grimes, Mr Easton and Mr Patterson, who every lunchtime would sit around the fire in the Albert Victor and have a drink and this was printed in the paper.

Dersingham garages

In the Village Voice there was an advert for Charles Whisker's garage, which was named Heath Garage and is right next to Babingley House on the right hand side of the old A149 as you go out of Dersingham towards King's Lynn. This garage was built around about 1920 and the first person to keep it was a Mr Eric Hyner, when it was called the Sandringham Garage. Eric also ran a fleet of coaches. Charles Whisker took the garage over, I think, in the late 1940s and he then renamed it Heath Garage and carried on with running the coaches for a few years. Whilst he was there he was main agent for the Messerschmitt three wheel bubble car: this was a two-person bubble car with the passenger sitting right behind the driver. To get in, you lifted up the glass doom roof and climbed in. Heath Garage was very busy for petrol sales them days as it was the first garage you came to after leaving King's Lynn. There were three other garages that sold petrol in Dersingham those days: Twaites Garage, later called the Gainsborough Garage, at the corner of Post Office Road; the Red Pumps in Chapel Road; and the Auto Service station along the Hunstanton Road. When Ted



Cox had the Auto Service garage this was the first garage in West Norfolk to have automatic pumps fitted where you could serve yourself. When Charles Wisker gave up the Heath Road garage it was taken on by Mr Vic Greyson, who kept it for many years. Of course, the garage is still there today but it is many years ago since it sold petrol. One thing I remember well about the late Charles Whisker; he would save up all his old rubber tyres and then give them to Joe Painter who lived opposite next to the common. This was how Joe would have the biggest and brightest bonfire in Dersingham on November the fifth.

Lindford's Corner

Now that picture of Lindford's corner. I would say that it was done around about 1908-1910. The reason, I think this, is that you could not see the war memorial nor Ben Douran, the house on the hill, but no doubt one of the readers of Village Voice will come up with the right answer as they usually do.

Wolferton Fen

What do you all think Wolferton Fen (Warren) looks like now that they have taken so many trees down? It looks more like a picture from a World War One battlefield. I know I always keep on about this area of land and Dersingham Fen, but it is only because I can remember it when it was such a wonderful place 50-60 years ago. Last week I had a nice young lady student come to see me and get some history about the fen as she is doing a ten thousand word thesis on it and she wanted all the local information that she could get. She has visited the fen several times and someone told her about the old smugglers' cave/tunnel in the woods; she went to try and find it but unfortunately she could not. I just wondered if any Village Voice readers have been in that area of late. It is just inside the woods opposite the George Pratt roundabout and to the right of the path that leads to the house in the woods. I know that the last time I went to it a lot of it had caved in and it was well hidden in the undergrowth. My father used to tell me that when he was a boy it was high enough and wide enough for a man to ride down it on a horse, but it could have caved in altogether now, as it has been there I believe for well over four hundred years.

Community lunches

Last Thursday, the 28th of January, I once again went to one of the very good community lunches organized by Bob Tipling. This time it was at the Methodist Chapel in Post Office Road and a very interesting two hours it was. It is nice to meet some of the new people that are coming to live in the village, but it is also nice to see a lot of the old faces. I have not lived in Dersingham since 1966, but I lived there for twenty years before that and I have lots of family and many friends who still live there and I always regard it as my home.

Well by the time you read this the Mart will be over and taken the rough weather with it, we hope. Keep on reading the Dersingham Village Voice but most off all keep writing those letters. □

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DERSINGHAM FLOWER CLUB

We began our 24th year in February with our AGM at St Nicholas Church Hall. The first Thursday of the month is our meeting night starting at 7.30pm with a varied programme of practice evenings with new ideas, hints and tips .

Demonstration Evenings are arranged with NAFAS Demonstrators when we welcome anyone to join us on these special meetings and help us to fund raise for charity. In 2009 we donated £70 to Macmillan Breast Cancer Appeal, £100 to Tapping House and £100 to the Norfolk Division for Teenage Cancer Centre at Addenbrookes Hospital.

Our March Demonstration Evening was fund raising for Dersingham Day Centre for the Care of the Elderly and April's meeting will be a practice evening.

Outings and weekend breaks have been arranged in the past to Hampton Court Flower Show, Chelsea Flower Show ,Botanical Gardens Wales , Gardens of the Lake District , Monet's Garden in France, various gardens in Holland,the RHS Garden at Wisley and the Horticultural Society's members have joined us on many of these, being organised by Ruth Mountain in her very efficient way.

The Flower Club Trophy awarded Annually at our Christmas Social Evening was presented to

Hazel Rouse (right) for gaining the most points, With Anne Rose of Ingoldisthorpe being presented with The Mollie Bridges Trophy (Runner up).

The first Thursday in June will be our next Demonstration and Fund Raising Evening. Many members will be Arranging Flowers at various Flower Festivals in particular St Nicholas Church Flower Festival "Trips , Travels and Adventures". Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.□

For information please call 01485 540601.

Doreen Asker, chairman.



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*The information that you provide will only be used to administer the Reward scheme.

Road closure

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL has made a temporary Traffic Order affecting the B1440 Manor Road for 150m from Tithe Barn to the church hall access in the PARISH OF DERSINGHAM because of carriageway haunching.

The road will be temporarily closed (except for access) from 29th March 2010 to 16th April 2010 for the duration of the works, expected to be about 3 weeks within the period.

(If necessary the restriction could run for a maximum period of 18 months from the date of the Order)

Alternative route is via: B1440 Sandringham Road, C79 Wolferton Road, A149 Queen Elizabeth Way, B1440 Lynn Road/Chapel Road.

Penalty: £1000 maximum fine on conviction and/or endorsement.

In the event of the start date being delayed the new start date will be displayed on site in advance.

The person dealing with enquiries at Norfolk County Council is Eric Nye (Planning and Transportation Department). Telephone 0344 800 8009.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Once again the Committee has been dealing with litter and dog bins – they are both regular features at our meetings!

Concerning litter bins – this seems to have been quite a saga, starting in 2008 with the news that the Borough Council would no longer collect from the concrete style bins around the village. However, the change would be gradual, on an as required basis. Then we got the news that all bins would have to be of the new style from April 2009. A reprieve followed, but once again, we are faced with the need to have all new style bins, from April 2010.

At the meeting in January of this year, the Full Council voted to reduce the number of bins around the village, and to monitor the impact. The new bins should start to appear around the village in the next few weeks or so. Please let us know, via the Parish Office, if there are any problems with the reduced number of bins.

Dog bins are always contentious, with half the village saying we have too many and the other half wanting more! Dersingham certainly has a generous number of these bins around the village, but sadly, we still have problems with irresponsible owners. Once again, a plea for people to pick up the mess – a bit of consideration would make such a difference.

Andrea Smith

THE DERSINGHAM INSTITUTE BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club is now preparing to open for the 2010 season. Saturday April 17th is the big day with the first tournament of the year starting at 2 p.m. All members will be welcomed back and there is always a welcome for new members. As mentioned in the February Village Voice, anyone who would care to try their hand at the sport are invited to come along and join in. There is always equipment available on loan and members to give help.

For those people who do not know, the Bowls Club is situated on Manor Road next to the Church Hall.

All club members and visitors should park on the south side of the car park near the tall hedge leaving the rest of the parking area for church hall visitors.

Norfolk Knowledge

Are you a retired or semi-retired person looking to pass on your business and management knowledge and experience?

Are you a business, charity, voluntary organisation looking for help with the challenges of business?

If so, Norfolk Knowledge can help you!

Norfolk Knowledge is a new organisation, led by Norfolk County Council and Norwich Business School at the University of East Anglia and is putting the experience of retired people to good use. It also gives individuals a chance to maintain a presence in the business community and make a difference to organisations who need help.

When Matt Locke of Name in a Hat Productions needed help on the direction of his business, Norfolk Knowledge connected him with Barry Dennis, former CEO of Archant. Matt was delighted with the support, commenting: *“Barry gave us many good suggestions on how to improve our marketing and provided introductions to many interesting and useful people. By raising our profile through effective marketing we hope to increase our sales from the advice and help Barry was kind enough to provide us with.”*

Norfolk Knowledge interactions are also worthwhile for the individual involved. *“It was really good to be involved with a young venture and I was very pleased to have given this positive input into their future direction”* said Barry.

The help provided is drawn from experience rather than just qualifications; what better way to solve the present financial problems than be guided by someone who has already successfully navigated recessions?

The project is a great opportunity to remain active in the county’s business community and meet people from similar backgrounds for professional and social reasons! Our quarterly members functions are as much about social interaction as they are about business networking.

So, whether you are a business looking for help or a retired or semi-retired individual Norfolk Knowledge can help you, www.norfolkknowledge.com provides more details about how you can join the membership or request some support. Alternatively our admin team at Norwich Business School are always happy to discuss your requirements in more detail.

For more information about Norfolk Knowledge contact Luke Spanswick on 01603 597202 or email: info@norfolkknowledge.com or visit us at www.norfolkknowledge.com

The Events Committee of St Nicholas Church present:-

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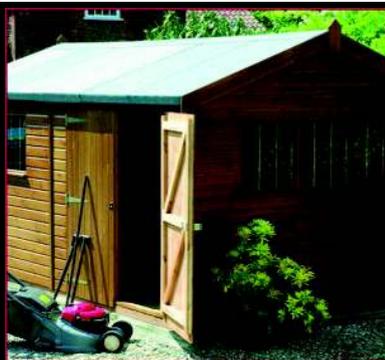
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Dersingham Community Centre

The end of an era....

Dersingham Community Centre, once a busy place used by many of the villagers, has been preparing to close over the last few months. This involved regular user groups looking for and acquiring new facilities, a difficult and laborious venture, but I believe the majority have been successful. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of the Community centre over the years.....some as long as 30! You made my sometimes difficult job a pleasure and I wish you all the best of luck for the future.

It was decided that half term in the middle of February was an ideal time for the groups to finish allowing them a transition period. The Day Centre being the last users on the 17th Feb.

From the 22nd a huge clearance and removal operation began. From jigsaw puzzles to range cookers, office equipment to pottery wheels.....they all had to go! NO SMALL TASK!!!!

I would like to thank EVERYONE involved in this massive process. It took a lot of time, effort and hard work. There are too many of you to mention individually, but you know who you are and it was greatly appreciated. Plenty of furniture has been re-homed and is being put to good use at various village locations. Other unwanted or unusable items were either re-cycled or disposed of. By March 1st nothing remained.....every room was empty! The end of an era.....On the 2nd March I handed the keys over to Sandringham estate.

So, Dersingham Community Centre is no more.....Just an empty shell of a once very busy building!!

Mrs Suzanne Daniels.



Dersingham Day Centre

The Dersingham Day Centre had its final meeting in the Community Centre on the 17th February, prior to our move to the Church Hall on the 3rd March. The Community Centre had never been known for its warmth in cold weather but it surpassed itself that day by having no heating at all (the oil had run out) and on a day when the temperature was only just above freezing. The decision had to be made to either take all the Members back to their homes or try and find some means of keeping them warm. The Members were determined they wanted to stay and as one of our 90 year old Members said "it's the blitz spirit", they weren't going to let it spoil their day out. Whilst our woollen blankets were handed out and they were served with hot drinks, the Chairman and Secretary of the Community Centre contacted HSS in King's Lynn and by lunch time a large industrial heater was up and running, and within a very short time the room was warm and people began to thaw out. It was then we realised what a blessing it was that we didn't have to face another winter there.

On the morning of the 24th February the volunteers met at the Community Centre to start packing all the equipment that had to be taken to the Church Hall. By lunch time we were all finished and ready for the Hunstanton Lions, who had kindly volunteered to move everything at 6.00pm that evening. They were there on time and with great efficiency and good humour they made numerous trips to the Church Hall, the last load leaving just after 7.00pm.

The team waiting in the Church Hall worked hard unpacking and putting everything away in cupboards etc. The kitchen equipment had already been decided upon by Ruth Mountain for the Day Centre and Pat Moss for the Church Hall and everyone concerned had co-operated and worked together to achieve a very smooth transition.

Wednesday March 3rd and the Day Centre Volunteers were ready to start setting up tables etc., at 9.00am. We arrived to find the Church Hall warming up nicely and then Pat Moss appeared in the doorway to say WELCOME - a lovely gesture. At 9.15am, as promised, our 20 new stacking chairs with arms were delivered, the driver having come all the way from Leeds that morning. We placed them round tables and their bright blue upholstery looked so cheerful and welcoming. The kitchen was soon a hive of activity with Ruth getting on preparing the lunch and others getting ready to welcome our first bus load of Members with coffee and biscuits.

By 10.40am everyone had arrived and all were making themselves comfortable and taking in their new surroundings. During the morning we were delighted when several of the friends and supporters of the Day Centre popped in to see how we were doing. They were pleased to see things going so smoothly. At lunchtime Members enjoyed a piping hot casserole followed by jam sponge and custard, tea/coffee and, as usual, everyone said how much they had enjoyed it.

All the usual activities carried on throughout the afternoon, including craft work and scrabble. Two birthdays were celebrated with cream cakes and tea and then David our driver arrived and it was time to go home.

As we waved cheerio to the last bus load it was with a feeling of sheer joy and happiness that what only a few months ago we had thought would be impossible to achieve, had actually happened - Dersingham Day Centre had survived and hopefully would continue to be there for the elderly people of Dersingham, as it had been for the past 28 years.



Centre goers enjoying their first lunch in the new location

The Day Centre Committee would like to say thank you to those who had helped to make this possible:-

- The Rev Michael Brock and the Church Hall Committee who offered us a new 'home' just when we were almost giving up hope.
- The Hunstanton Lions for their generous help in moving all our belongings so efficiently. Without them we would have struggled.
- Pat Moss representing the Church Hall Committee who, throughout the whole operation, has worked quietly in the background organising space for our equipment and furniture, working with Ruth Mountain to organise the kitchen equipment etc., liaising with Committee Members on a variety of details and keeping things as trouble free as possible for our move.
- Finally, to all the Day Centre Volunteers who have helped in so many ways to make this move possible and who never gave up their belief that the Day Centre would continue to operate somehow, somewhere. A big "Thank You" to you all.

PS Would you like to be a part of the Day Centre, which is run entirely by Volunteers? You would be welcome for any time that you can spare between 9.00 am and 3.30 pm. each Wednesday. I feel there must be someone out there who could spare even as little as an hour on a Wednesday. As we don't meet in the summer holidays, perhaps there are some young mums too who would be willing to help in term time. I can guarantee you won't regret it. Pop in and see us any Wednesday in the Church Hall and see for yourself how worthwhile it is. For more information contact Alice Worth on Dersingham 544673. □ *For a report of the last function in the Community Centre go to page 53.*

CONFLICT, CONSPIRACY AND ESPIONAGE

The strange affair at Appleton Hall by Elizabeth Fiddick

As you drive from Sandringham along the B1440 towards Hillington you pass on the left hand side a small road leading up to a ruined ivy clad tower. At the entrance to the road is a sign for Appleton Farm. This is the only reminder that a small Tudor Manor House called Appleton Hall once stood somewhere nearby. The house was built by Sir Edward Paston in 1596. The Pastons were a very wealthy, influential family in Norfolk from the fifteenth century but most of their estates lay to the east of the county near Caister. They were soldiers, lawyers, landowners, courtiers and members of parliament and all their private correspondence for nearly three generations was kept. From this comprehensive collection we gain an incredible insight into everyday life of the time. It was some time in the early seventeenth century that the entire Paston family converted to Roman Catholicism. It was a dangerous decision as they risked fines and imprisonment like many other Catholic families who had faced such persecution. At this time the fear of papacy was paramount and even Henrietta Maria, the wife of Charles 1, was viewed with mistrust. As a practising Roman Catholic she was suspected of trying to persuade the King to convert.

William Paston, the grandson of Edward, was living at Appleton Hall in 1642 as the great conflict between Parliament and Charles 1 broke out. In Dersingham the principal family was the Pells. Their wealth was based on the wool trade and they owned several ships that operated from the ports of King's Lynn and Wolferton. They lived in their rambling Tudor mansion in the pastures behind the present Institute Hall and bowling green. The moat of the house is still clearly visible. Neither Dersingham Hall, or Jannoch's Court as we now know it, nor the Great Barn in front of the church had yet been built. However a "*small studded clay house*" that served as the vicarage was probably standing where the Memorial cross in the Churchyard can now be found.



Sir Valentine Pell was appointed High Sheriff of Norfolk and the whole family were Puritans.

Henry Scrimger was our vicar during this time when the Puritan movement had gathered strength in Norfolk. Since the reformation of the previous century churches had changed. Painted walls had been whitewashed and a simple cup and cover replaced the gilt and silver chalices previously used. Crosses, candlesticks and representations of the Virgin Mary were forbidden. Many new instructions were issued like that which stated “*no man do presume to have his hat on his head in the time of service.*” No pews were built, “*so that they which be in them cannot be seen how they behaved themselves*” Sir Valentine Pell supported Parliament in the great conflict and commanded a troop of infantry. Puritanism and support for parliament would seem to have been established in our village. Yet there must have been considerable tension. The villager’s allegiance would have been tested for William Paston of Appleton was not the only Royalist supporter close by.

Sandringham Hall and its estate was owned by the Cobbes, a well known Catholic family. It is possible that in 1616 they were one of the families who gave shelter to Thomas Tunstal, a priest who had escaped from imprisonment in Wisbech Castle. He was later captured and put to death in Norwich. He was, I believe, the only priest to suffer for his faith in Norfolk. Colonel William Cobbe was a loyal supporter of the King and fought in several engagements so that at the end of the war he suffered heavy penalties from which the family fortunes never recovered. The Hovell family at Hillington and the Yelvertons at Grimston were also Catholic and Royalist supporters. They had nothing but persecution to face if the Puritans gained complete control; so they supported the Royalist cause without question since under Charles I many regulations against them had quietly fallen into disuse. Then, of course, most well known to Dersingham folk were the L’Estrange family of Hunstanton Hall who were staunch Catholic supporters of the King. It was Sir Hamon L’Estrange who in 1643 with Richard Hovell of Hillington, the Mordaunts of Massingham and sympathisers among the townsfolk took control of King’s Lynn and raised the Royal Standard there. They strengthened the defences, cut down trees in the area that would have provided cover for the enemy and assembled arms and ammunition. Puritan sympathisers were imprisoned although one called Toll managed to climb out of a window and escape from the town by boat. The situation could not be ignored. An important port like Lynn could not be allowed to become the rallying point for the King. Ships of Parliament’s fleet were sent to the Wash to blockade the town. Only one ship succeeded in breaking the blockade. It approached flying the Parliamentary flag. The blockading ships parted to allow it into the line whereupon it hoisted the Royal Standard and sailed through to Lynn. The Earl of Manchester brought troops and set up camp at Setch Bridge. Artillery was sent to West Lynn from where it kept up a daily bombardment of the town which according to reports “*kept the town in continual alarms.....the shot flying daily into the houses in Tuesday market-place.*” The sound of the gunfire must have been heard here in Dersingham. There were a few skirmishes outside the town as raiding parties were sent out for supplies. One night Captain William Poe described how several horsemen rode out from Lynn towards Setch to try, “*to take me and my troop as also three or four hundred beefs from Setch Market, but by God’s Providence I prevented it all.*” However in spite of these brave attempts the siege did not last very long. On 16th of September Manchester sent word that he would storm the town if the garrison did not surrender by nine o’clock. The defenders sent word that they would capitulate. Both sides met at Gaywood that evening to arrange the terms of the surrender and so the heavy guns ceased firing and all the surrounding villages knew the siege was over.

Now a very curious event took place. Sir Hamon’s son Roger, who had stood with his father throughout the siege, made his way to the King at Oxford. He was an enthusiastic if hot headed young man but he convinced the King that the spirit of resistance was still alive in Lynn. He persuaded everyone that he was the man who could organise an uprising of the King’s loyal

subjects not only in Lynn but throughout West Norfolk. The King agreed and wrote out a commission for Roger in which he agreed that on the success of the enterprise Roger would be Governor of Lynn. Money would be provided and a powerful force sent to hold the town and regain control of the area. Roger went straight to Appleton Hall. William Paston was not there but his wife welcomed Roger to the house. Once there Roger sent for a sea captain from Lynn called Leaman whom he had met while at Oxford. He believed that Leaman if not a committed Royalist could be easily bribed. He offered him £1000 to help form a group that would take over Lynn and raise the Royal Standard again. This was a very substantial sum so it was no surprise when Leaman agreed and promised to return to Appleton the next day with plans to help. However on his return to Lynn Leaman went straight to the Governor, Colonel Valentine Walton, and told him what had happened. The next day when he arrived at Appleton he was accompanied by a Corporal Hagar who was disguised as a seaman. Hagar told Roger he was a poor man living at Fisher's End in Lynn where he kept an ale house. He was disgruntled as the Roundheads owed him £40 but he needed to be sure Roger had the authority from the King that he claimed. Roger took the commission from its hiding place in the canopy of his bed and showed it to Hagar. At the same time a Lieutenant Stubbing and five soldiers, all disguised as poor seamen, arrived at the house and pushed their way into the courtyard. They pleaded for alms as they were all so poor and had suffered so much in the troubles. Mrs. Paston went upstairs and told Roger about the six poor seamen from Lynn who were begging for alms. Roger sent down a shilling and asked the men to leave but at that point the "seamen" rushed up the stairs and after a brief struggle seized Roger and arrested him. A search quickly discovered the commission which he had not returned to its hiding place but put in his pocket. Roger was taken into custody. One can only imagine his thoughts as he was escorted under guard to Lynn where he was imprisoned. A few days later he was sent to London to be tried as a spy. Roger's position was extremely perilous. During the course of 1644 Parliament had dealt very severely with others who had acted against them. Sir Alexander Carew who commanded the fortress island of St. Nicholas in Plymouth Sound and Sir John Hotham of Hull having initially declared their support for Parliament both men subsequently conspired to surrender their posts to the King. Sir Alexander was tried by Court Martial in November and beheaded the next month. Sir John and his son were also condemned and executed. Roger was duly sent for trial and the prosecution swiftly established that he was a spy and a traitor as he had come, "all alone in a secret clandestine manner and made choice of a solitary place near Lynn to obscure himself and better effect his treacherous design." Roger put up a stout defence arguing that Appleton was not garrisoned by Parliament's troops and that he had come as a "fair and open enemy never pretending to be other than he was." He considered that he should be treated as a just enemy and prisoner of war. It was a strong argument but he was found guilty as a spy and condemned to be hanged by the neck until he was dead.

His execution was fixed for January but he petitioned Parliament for a reprieve. In fact a good deal of compassion was aroused by his case. A letter was sent to the Earl of Essex, the commander of Parliament's army, from Prince Rupert of the Rhine, the flamboyant nephew of the King, pleading for clemency. Roger was reprieved and sent to Prison in Newgate where he remained for more than three years. Early in 1648 he was out. According to Roger he escaped but the official version was that he had been released. Roger went immediately to Kent where he took part in an uprising during the events known as the second Civil War. When this uprising collapsed Roger quietly went abroad and did not return to England for several years.

It was in 1707 that a shepherd spotted flames at Appleton Hall and alerted the family who made good their escape. The hall however burnt to the ground so now we cannot see the place where Roger L'Estrange tried to rally support for Charles I.

Only the ruined church and a farm notice remain. □

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Old Girls Patch

by Meetze

It is snowing. Isn't that lovely. Am I glad it is nice and cosy on my window sill. Stumpy, it turns out, is cat I can live with. She does not even attempt to nick my seat by the window. Instead she sleeps on the corner bench below me. She does not move much. From the bench to the toilet, from there to the food bowl (to fill up again) and back to the bench. Nice round trip. Of course she hisses at everything that comes in her way on the way. That has not changed.

It is still snowing. Big flakes now. I feel like I need to throw some big Z-s in the air.

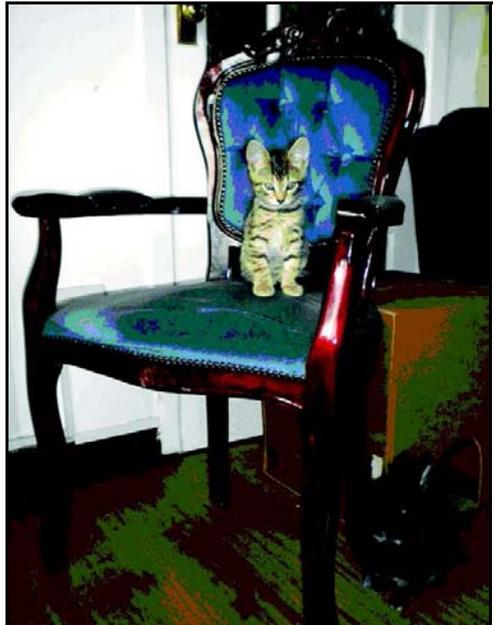
Oops, how long have I been asleep? The room is empty and 2 big people that I have never seen before are putting some fluffy stuff all over the floor. And there is that noise again. Like a knocking. Those 2 stump on the edges of that fluffy stuff. Stumpy could have done that – where is she anyway. She is gone too. I had better get down from my seat and check out where everything and everybody is.

Ah, here it is and here they are. In the kitchen. All there, no panic than. Nice walking on that fluffy stuff by the way. The roly poly is nicer too. I think I like it. Stumps is coming as well now. Oh how boring, she just lays down and curls up.

I can feel I need to finish my nap. Better not to do that too close to Stumpy. She may wake up and hiss at me. Here we go. ZZZZ, ZZZZZ, ZZZZ

Now what? Loud bang again. Like a door closing. Can't I have a proper cat nap these days anymore? Stumps is awake too and looks around. At least it is not just me hearing things. But I cannot make out what that bang was or where it came from. A look out the window just tells me that it is still snowing. Well, let's have a look then. Yawn, Stretch.

My big friend is in the kitchen and has a bundle in her hand rubbing it. What on earth is she doing??? And now she puts it on the radiator, but still holding on to it. Sniff, sniff??? Smells of, hmm, cat actually. Well, it would as it is my towel, but I do not smell like that. And now a squeak from that towel. ??? And then something pops out of the towel. A head. It looks like my boyfriend, but much much smaller. Was his last bath too hot that he shrank? Looking at Stumpy, who has arrived in the kitchen as well, is not any better as she looks as puzzled as I already am. My big friend is talking to that mini head now, but I do not understand a single word she is saying. She puts the bundle on the floor onto that fluffy stuff (Stumps told me later that it is called carpet). Almost simultaneously Stumps, Schoko (the rabbit that lives with us) and I are moving closer to it, nose to the ground, neck very long for a closer sniff. It is a cat alright, a very tiny one I might say. It looks very rough and well, cute. Stumpy and Schoko are sniffing from one side, I from the other. And whootch.. we all got lashed and hissed at. Now, that was unexpected. Stumpy looks just as surprised as I am and Schoko is already at the other side of the room. What brought that on? We didn't do anything!! Not sure what to do now. Stumpy however knows. She hisses back at that little creature and walks to her bench and Schoko runs off. I think I might do the same, or shall I lash back? Or hiss back? Or both of it? Or shall I just walk off? Hmmm? Any suggestions??





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'PRIVATE HEALTH RECOGNISED'

GLIMPES OF LIFE IN A NORFOLK VILLAGE

By Maggie © 1.3.10

WILL THERE BE TROUBLE ON T'HILL?

Well, perhaps to call the slight bump on the horizon a 'hill' would be to endow it with a greatness it doesn't deserve. As most people know, Norfolk is flat, but in places, that's not strictly true. There are some pretty gentle undulations, even some slightly bigger, from the top of which you are nearly always guaranteed enough breeze to fly a kite. One such is Primrose Hill I think it's called, near the coast, Cromer way. But in this area the landscape is a bit smoother, and not far away there is an area of raised ground, with several acres of old orchards and a small copse, a couple of small outbuildings, in the midst of which stands an old farmhouse, Orchard Farmhouse. Built in the late 1800s, and lived in until the late 1990s, when the last owner died. He had no family, and nobody seemed to know what was going to happen to the house and land.

It was the cause of many a discussion in the local pub, the possibilities were endless it seemed, but months passed by and nothing happened, the months then turned into years and eventually other subjects became the main topic of conversation. The house stood alone, looking sad with no lights inside, flaking paint and all around it the land untended. Not many of the windows have been smashed, there seems to be little damage done to it, probably because you'd have to be a pretty determined vandal to make your way up the rutted track, full of muddy potholes in winter and packed hard and dry in the summer, that leads to the house, several hundred yards from the road into the village.

But last Monday, as people made their way to work, passing by in their cars and on the little green bus that makes its way along the coast, those who were in the habit of casually glancing to look at the house on their way past were horrified. The one thing a lot of villagers dread, if there is any spare land in their village which nobody seems to claim, is the arrival of travellers, gypsies, call them what you will. The sight of a caravan and pick-up parked on some derelict unused land can strike dismay into the hearts of even the most liberal-minded local. So it was hardly surprising that there was a larger than usual crowd in the local that night, and that the main topic of conversation was the arrival of travellers, in not one, but two caravans by lunchtime, as it turned out. The fact that one was an old Airstream caravan, quite the noblest of American caravans and much beloved by aficionados of caravans, the other a large modern one, and that there were two four by fours parked alongside also, didn't seem to make much difference to the panic that seemed to be rising.

It was the Major, of course, who was the first to say he had got on to the local council 'first thing' about the arrival of the travellers, but he got short shrift from the person he spoke to, which led to yet another tirade about 'little Jobsworths they employ in the council these days' and so on, an argument the regulars had heard many times before. Then 'Farmer Giles' as he's known had to have his say, since his land is alongside the old farmstead. He could remember a family of travellers arriving unannounced in one of his fields many years ago, and it was 'a devil of a job to get the



blighters moved' . Several other opinions were thrown into the discussion, with plenty of suggestions for how to deal with the interlopers.

Halfway through trying to decide between the serious and sensible solution (getting legal advice from the CAB) and the downright stupid and emotional solution (going up there mob-handed with flaming torches and the like) the door to the pub opened and in walked a couple in their forties, accompanied by two labradors. Being strangers they were stared at of course, treated with a little caution by everyone, except Polly, the landlady, who is friendly to everyone.

Whilst the regulars carried on with their discussions, rather quieter this time, it was Polly who managed to find out that this couple were Leonard and Pru, and they had just bought Orchard Farmhouse, living in their caravan whilst they renovated it. You could almost hear the bodies sagging with relief when the locals heard this, their visions of flaming torches vanished with their sighs, along with the visions of hordes of travellers with an assortment of caravans, lorries, cars, animals and children running wild, washing hanging on makeshift lines strung between the caravans.

The weather hadn't been conducive to working on an old house lately, a couple of feet of snow and below freezing temperatures kept the couple snug in their caravan, the modern one that is (the Airstream they use for trips to see family around the country apparently), poring over plans, and colour charts, catalogues and brochures, but they intend making a start soon as it's warmed up considerably over here in Norfolk. □

News from St Cecilia's

At the time of writing we are enjoying a fruitful, if busy, Lent. It is good to join with our fellow Christians in the area for the Wednesday Lent Services and we look forward to the Good Friday Walk in Dersingham.

St Cecilia's is being well used by the various groups from around the area but it still remains a place of worship and prayer and is appreciated by many of our visitors as well as our own congregation.

As Easter is early this year I, like many of you send you our greetings and our prayers. We are very happy to welcome new members to our congregation, and extend an invitation to those of you who may have once been members here but for some reason don't attend now. In God's good time it is never too late to begin again and if you come and see, I'm sure you will find us a welcoming Church!

Every blessing in the Risen Lord.

Fr James Fyfe.

Services for Easter 2010

St Cecilia's, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham

Maundy Thursday	April 1 st	7.30pm 11.45pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper & Vigil Compline
Good Friday	April 2 nd	3.00pm 6.30pm	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion Stations of the Cross
Holy Saturday	April 3 rd	9.30am 8.30pm	Morning Prayer Solemn Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	April 4 th	9.00am 11.00am	Mass of Easter Day Mass of Easter Day

The Grumpy Bit

Gripes from a grumpy old man

Characters in soap operas who speak with their mouths full of food.

Motorists who wait until the lights change green before indicating to turn right - then move forward half a car's length.

The H.G.V driver on a dual carriageway doing 56mph. while overtaking a line of H.G.V's doing 55.5 mph.

The farmer who pulls out 100 yards ahead of me when the road behind is clear as far as the eye can see.

Words beginning with the letters EURO.

Television programmes where the names of the cast, the producer, the director etc. are flashed up for the first ten minutes of the show.

Motorists who park quite unnecessarily on footpaths and grass verges.

The new religion Global Warming thrust on us morning, noon and night.

The quite unnecessary enforcement of metrication.

People who pay a £14.56 bill with every coin of the realm, find they are 5p short, shovel it all up and pay with a £20 note (Always the one in front of me!)

Garages that still show petrol prices as 110.9 per litre when there is no such coin as .9p.

Motorists towing caravans who do not adjust their headlights for night driving.

Shops in King's Lynn who leave their doors wide open in the cold weather while we are told to turn down our heating and wear an extra cardigan.

The H.G.V in front doing 40mph. that suddenly does 60mph when it comes to the one bit of road where its safe to overtake.

Comedians who cannot tell a joke without resorting to 'strong language'.

People who give a mile-by-mile account of their journey to all their friends and family the minute they get on a train or bus.



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Last bash at the Community Centre

The last event to take place at the Dersingham Community Centre, before it is handed back to the Sandringham Estates, was the 90th Birthday Celebration of Mrs Vi Woodbridge of Lynn Road Dersingham, on Saturday 20th February 2010.

Family and friends gathered at the Community Centre in the evening and some 70 people sat down to a hot meal supplied by the Flying Chef of King's Lynn. The dining-room was tastefully decorated and the tables beautifully set out for the meal. To celebrate this special occasion Vi's daughter Joan and Vi's eldest son John and his wife, had travelled from Australia. They were joined by sons, Michael from Lynn and Stephen and his wife from London, together with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Joan made a moving speech outlining the various stages of her Mother's interesting life. After the meal music for dancing was provided by Mr Leigh Murfet of Hunstanton and Vi, with her guests, sang along to her favourite songs and joined in the dancing. Later in the evening Vi cut her beautiful birthday cake, made by Mrs Ruth Mountain, and everyone joined in singing Happy Birthday to her.

Vi had asked that she receive no presents but that those who wished to could make a donation to the Dersingham Day Centre. Vi had been a helper at the Day Centre many years ago before she herself became a member. She is the longest serving member and very much loved.

Vi wishes to thank all her family and friends for their cards, flowers and donations and to report that she was able to hand over the sum of £577 to the Dersingham Day Centre. □

Chocolate Fudge Pudding

A recipe from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen by Lindsey Davis

This is one for those of you who gave up chocolate for Lent, very rich and sweet. If you don't have a microwave it could probably be cooked in an oven but I haven't tried doing so.

Ingredients

100g (4oz) self-raising flour
100g (4oz) caster sugar
pinch of salt
25g (1oz) cocoa
50g (2oz) butter
1 egg, beaten
60ml (4tbsp) milk
5ml (1tsp) vanilla essence

Sauce:

100g (4oz) soft brown sugar
25g (1oz) cocoa
150ml (1/4pt) hot water

Dish: 20cm (8") soufflé dish **Serves:** 4

1. Place flour, sugar, salt, cocoa and margarine into mixing bowl. Beat well.
2. Add egg, vanilla essence and milk. Beat well.
3. Pour mixture into soufflé dish. Mix together brown sugar and cocoa and sprinkle over mixture. Pour over hot water (do not stir) and cook on HIGH microwave power for 5 mins or until set on top. The pudding will separate on cooking, giving a chocolate fudge sauce at the bottom.

lindsey@daviscraft.co.uk

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The Dersingham Weather observed by John F. Murray



I don't think I need to tell anyone what a long winter this has been. By long I really mean it has been much colder than previous winters for a longer period of time. January was a continuation of the weather we had in December with snowfalls that took a while to thaw and that was followed by a cold and very wet February.

Although the lowest recorded temperature in January this year was exactly the same as last year, namely -5.3°C the average, or mean temperature this year was 1.9 whereas last January it was 3.3. That's quite a difference. Incidentally in January 2008 the average was a huge 7°C ! Once again it's the swings and roundabouts thing. In 2008 it must have been much more overcast, thereby keeping it warmer, but overcast means rain.

January 2008 produced 94.2mm and last year 70.9mm. This January produced a comparatively small amount at 51.8mm. I know you will find this hard to believe but a very small amount of precipitation can produce large amounts of snow. Remember that water expands when it freezes. Also those snowflakes are really fluffy, beautifully shaped things and when they land and lay its like piling up lots of feathers; a little goes a long way. Please don't think that I love snow, I'm just telling it like it is!

February's weather was really miserable. Dull, overcast and really wet. We had a mixture of rain and sleet throughout most of the month and the last few days were particularly wet. The lowest recorded temperature was -5°C . It was -2.9 last year and -5.9 in 2008. As with January the mean temperature made the difference. This February it was 2.8°C . Last year it was 4.3 and in 2008 it reached 5.3.

This low average temperature throughout January and February ensured that the ground had no chance to dry out and the rainfall in February made the ground a quagmire. This year we had a total of 80.8mm of rain which is a third as much again as last February at 60.7mm and a lot more than 2008 at 33.8mm.

I hope that March will show some positive signs for the end of winter. The first day was sunny and a little warmer than it has been for some time. Fingers crossed.

Positive news on the website. If you go to the Dersingham website at www.dersingham.org.uk you will find a link on the left side marked 'weather'. That will take you to the weather page and at the bottom you will see a link to the current weather here in the village. This should make the information more accessible. There were 330 hits in January and over a hundred in February. □

murrayjohnf@btinternet.com

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Hunstanton Lions Club

The new decade has now set in and Hunstanton Lions Club is looking forward to another ten years of activity. Starting in April our 'Car Boot Sales' will be held every alternate Sunday morning at Glebe House School. They start at 8.00am and are very popular, so come early to grab some of those bargains. We are also holding some Car Boot Sales in Snettisham this year and we will let you know the dates soon. Future plans for summer events are being formulated. Our 'Open Bowls Championship' will again be held at Old Hunstanton Social Club probably in August, and we will be at

the 'Hunstanton Carnival'. We are hoping to hold a talk in the Town Hall to coincide with the anniversary of "D Day" on June 4th, so look out for details of that.

The Lions motto is "We Serve" so if you know of anyone or organisation who may need our help do let us know. Recently we laid out a back garden with two raised beds, pathways and a paved area for swings in a local hostel. For this we are very grateful to Messes Ridgeons of Snettisham who arranged at no cost to us for the supply of nearly all the materials. Without this great help this project would have been far more costly. We are in the process of supplying a new kitchen for a Scout Group and in February we helped move the Dersingham Day Centre for the elderly into new premises.

We are an International Club serving in nearly every country in the world. In the early days just after the tragic Haiti earthquake Lions International sent \$1.5 million US to Haiti, and the European branch sent £14000.00. There will be more financial help sent from both organisations after needs have been properly identified. Lions International have instant access to large sums of money so they can react very swiftly when needed.

Hunstanton Lions sponsor a young child in Zimbabwe, Shepherd Tenser, for his education, and we are active in helping build a school in Nepal. During 2010 we hope to give you more information on all the work the Lions do, we think you'll be surprised.

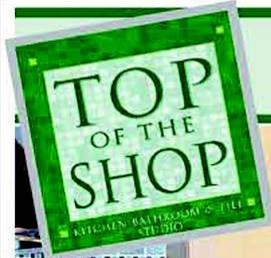
"200 Club"

Our 200 Club is run by 'Friends of Hunstanton Lions' This is extremely important to us to enable us to keep going and continue to raise those important funds for all the people and organisations we help. The "200 Club" year has now come to an end, but will start again in May. The monthly cash prizes are £100.00, £50.00, and two at £25.00, so well worth winning. Draws are held every month from May to February. The cost of a number is only £15.00, and entries are available from Peter Sutton at Suttons Estate Agency, 29 High Street, Heacham, or any member of Hunstanton Lions. Now's the time to get your tickets as it's always oversubscribed. The lucky winners in January were Paul Beale, Jean Anger, Keith Dennis and Val Rybak, and in February Paul Jones, Robbie Bloy, Mrs. R. Nobes and Richard Bird.

We are an active club and always willing to provide help or financial assistance. Our area covers from Brancaster, through Docking, to Dersingham and all the villages encompassed within, but unless we are told of people and organisations who need help, we can't help. □

Village Voice Sudoku No 11

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**Snettisham Beach
Sailing Club**

Snettisham Beach Sailing Club

by Guy Playford

I have been a member of Snettisham Beach sailing club since I was twelve years old and began sailing Enterprises with my brother Tim as crew. Forty years later, I now sail a Dart 18 Catamaran with my son Thomas who enjoys all the fun of Snettisham beach as much as I always have. As Vice Commodore, I am now involved in the day to day running of the clubhouse but first and foremost I am a sailor who enjoys everything that Snettisham beach sailing Club has to offer and I would like to tell you a bit about it.

Our club continues to be a popular sailing venue with facilities that appeal to all ages and abilities.

The sailing season, which runs from Easter until October, welcomes various types of dinghy including Dart 18 catamarans, Toppers, Enterprise, Laser 2000 and others too.

Three years ago we became recognised as a RYA Training Centre and more recently were awarded Volvo Championship Club Status in addition to becoming an On Board Centre.

Our racing is friendly and competitive; some of our club members are national champions, some are new to sailing, some just like to potter about in boats of all shapes and sizes and we have an excellent social calendar.



The clubhouse is open every weekend throughout the sailing season when food is available and also at other programmed sailing times.



During 1937 a group of Snettisham Beach bungalow owners interested in racing their various craft, came up with the idea of forming a sailing club. At that time there was no clubhouse and events were organised on the beach or in member's properties. In the following year 1938, the idea was realised, Snettisham Beach Sailing Club was officially registered and Mr. F. G. Kirkland became the Club's first elected Commodore; he went on to stand for 21 years and was made an Honorary Life President in 1959.

Unfortunately sailing was short lived due to the outbreak of WWII. All Club funds were blown on a "knees up" at the near-by Harrison's Holiday Camp, the Club put on hold until after the war and mines cleared from the area. Soon after, in 1946 the Club became affiliated to the R.Y.A. and sailing resumed. A mixture of boats raced under the handicap system, but Firefly and National 12 classes quickly became the preferred type of racing. A disused Army Hut was hired as the clubhouse from the local shingle company and for the next few years it became "plain sailing" until the devastation caused by the Great Flood of 1953. Lives & property were lost; to this day the Club still races memorials to members that perished, such as Peter Beckerton who lost his life trying to save others. His Mother, brothers and sisters clung to survival in a boat moored to their bungalow on the beach front that brutal January evening.

Once again the club re-opened, and grew year by year with additional classes of Enterprises and International 14's. In 1955 the Beckertons property was sold to the Club and became the first freehold clubhouse. During the winter freeze of 1962 a hardy member built a Fireball from a set of plans in the veranda of his beach bungalow. Once launched, this new "planing" hull was a sensation and would change the preferred racing fleet at Snettisham for nearly two decades. The fleet quickly grew to over 50 boats. Snettisham boasted one of the largest Fireball fleets nationwide and the club went on to host European and World Championship Qualifiers in the late 70's and early 80's. The likes of Laurie Smith and Eddie Ward-Owen lead the fleet amongst over 100 other competitors at our events.

In 1966 the Sailing Club decided it needed larger premises and eleven members donated £200 each to the club to help fund the move. Together with proceeds from the sale of the Clubhouse the American Field Hospital site was purchased from the Snettisham Holdings Co. and the existing larger clubhouse was opened in 1967.

Dart 18's and Lasers had replaced the Fireball fleet by the mid 80's and developed into the dominant racing fleets until the turn of the century. The Dart Fleet staged National Open meetings and many of the Club's members travelled the circuit. Snettisham sailors produced impressive results with champions at National, Inland National and European championships.

In the new millennium Enterprises re-emerged and are now the strongest fleet. The Club also has a developing Laser Group fleet, a large Junior Topper fleet and the Dart 18's still remain a force to be reckoned with.

During the sailing season which runs from Easter to October the club hosts open meetings including Enterprise Area Championships, Dart 18 Grand Prix, Topper ITCA Travellers, NWNSEA and the "Snettisham Open Handicap Regatta".

Our racing is friendly and competitive and some of our club members are national champions, some are new to sailing, some just like to potter about in boats of various shapes and sizes and pretty much everyone enjoys the bar! (sensibly of course!)

So whether you are just starting out and looking for a club that will encourage your enjoyment of the sailing or you are a seasoned dinghy racer looking for good racing, you will find us friendly, helpful, supportive and competitive. Currently the Club has a broad range of members and boats enjoying a very buoyant period.

Feel free to visit the club during the season, to ask questions, talk to the members and find out more about us first hand. Ask at the bar about membership or for more information. Alternatively contact Guy Playford on 07074 542384 or guyplayford@hotmail.com for further details. □



David Bingham

Felling trees for nature conservation.

"To recline on a stump of thorn, between afternoon and night, where the eye could reach nothing of the world outside the summits and shoulders of heathland which filled the whole circumference of its glance, and to know that everything around and underneath had been from prehistoric times as unaltered as the stars overhead, gave ballast to the mind adrift on change, and harassed by the irrepressible New."

Thomas Hardy - The Return of the Native



Trees good, chopping down trees bad. Almost every wildlife programme we watch reinforces this belief. The penultimate shots of chainsaw wielding employees from some greedy multinational company are usually followed by a scene of desolation. And if they can find a homeless cuddly thing to wander around looking mournful so much the better. The message is well worth hammering home for rainforests but can cause confusion when it comes to nature conservation in England. A good example is the work being done by Natural England to restore the heathland on the Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve.

Lowland heath is a rare and precious habitat confined to the countries surrounding the North Sea. It develops on light sandy soils where trees have been removed and livestock put out to graze. These conditions existed in large swathes of Norfolk from prehistoric times. I don't know how much heathland the first traders to use the Icknield Way saw on their long treks, but it is more than likely that the Roman legions marching along the Peddars Way would have been crossing wide-open heaths for much of their journey. Queen Boudica would have driven her chariot over Norfolk's heaths and Queen Isabella looked out over a sea of purple heather during her long stay at Castle Rising. Robert Kett and his followers camped on Mousehold Heath during his rebellion of 1549 and pilgrims arriving in King's Lynn will have had to walk across miles of heath on their way to Walsingham. These characters from the past gradually come into focus as we approach our own time. I can remember seeing a black and white film from the sixties where John Betjeman was on a train from Lynn to Hunstanton. The heaths around Dersingham could be clearly seen through the grimy windows of the carriage.

Norfolk's heaths are now far smaller and more fragmented than they were in the past. Much of this destruction took place in the twentieth century when they were planted with conifers or 'improved' for agriculture. Those that remain have a lot of wildlife interest, including special birds like the nightjar and woodlark. Ash Murray and his team from Natural England are doing a great job in restoring the heath on the Dersingham nature reserve. It is a simple choice between heaths and trees because heathland plants will not grow when shaded by a woodland canopy. The trees are mainly Scots pine and silver birch and a sprinkling of these are a natural part of open heaths. In fact, lone trees are a valuable part of heathland ecosystems providing perches for breeding tree pipits and shade for grazing stock. Dense plantations, however, have next to no wildlife value. In the north of Scotland, where native pinewoods hung on into modern times, the planting of dense conifer forests gave a lifeline to animals such as pine martins and wildcats. These charismatic creatures are definitely not found in Norfolk so losing most of the trees from the reserve has very few negative impacts on wildlife.

Of course, as its name implies, the national nature reserve is more than just heath. The ‘jewel in the crown’ is the bog and this is even more ancient than the heath with origins dating back to the last ice age. There is a transition zone between the heath and the bog where cross-leaved heath grows. Out on the bog, sphagnum moss dominates but interesting plants such as the carnivorous sundew and the attractive bog asphodel can also be found. Cranberries are quite common, which led to the local name of Cranberry Fen (it is technically a bog and not a fen). Black darter dragonflies are special insects of the bog and so, unfortunately, are myriads of biting midges.

Trees are also spreading out over the bog, particularly Scots pines, and their presence not only shades the natural vegetation they also upset the water balance. Having dense Scots pine plantations growing close by also provides a ‘seed bank’ from which new trees can generate adding to the management problems.

The heaths of Norfolk would have waxed and waned throughout history as grazing pressures and wood cutting fluctuated because of the ‘black death’ or changes in agricultural practices. The losses in the last century were on a far larger industrial scale and putting things right requires a similar industrial scale response.

A walk around the Dersingham Bog NNR is rewarding not only for the wildlife, even though there is plenty to see particularly if you look closely, but also because heathland gives us a window into the past. Norfolk’s history was played out against a backdrop of wilder landscapes than the neat farmland we see today.

It is worth making a final point on just how ‘green’ this operation is. On the face of it not very because of the fuel needed to power not only the chainsaws but also the large plant and equipment used by forestry contractors. It is also true that trees will sequester carbon as they grow and whenever I lend a hand cutting down the small trees on the heath and bog this thought does cross my mind. The situation is rather more complex than it appears at first sight. To begin with, trees, particularly dense stands of conifers, are much darker than heaths and therefore absorb heat that would be reflected by the light coloured heath. It is also true that the lower vegetation of the heath and bog will take in carbon dioxide. Some of this will remain ‘locked up’ in the dead vegetation underneath the living surface of the bog, whereas trees release their carbon when they rot. The calculation would be complex and I don’t know on what side the answer would fall. However, even if there is a net increase in carbon dioxide the importance of the reserve for biodiversity far outweighs this negative impact. Once the major work has been done it may be possible to arrive at a sustainable position were the heath and bog are maintained by grazing. Of course, we would still have to worry about flatulent cows! □





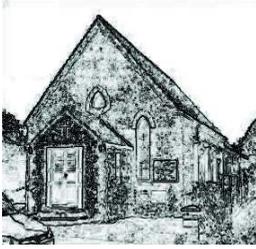
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Greetings from the manse

Methodists love to sing and of course they never sing louder than lovely! Whether in a small chapel setting with a handful of folks or in a bigger gathering with choir and congregation, hymn singing is an essential part of the make up of Christian worship. In particular, for Methodists, hymns to a very great degree express what we feel and think and know about God and His love and grace revealed in Jesus. We also say something about the calling to the holy life and our commitment to others. Hymns and songs, modern and traditional, with contemporary images and language, or older and longer-established ones, that are less familiar and accessible to the modern mind, all have their place in worship and praise of God. Worship, the word comes from the Old English to honour, to give “worship” to the Almighty, is what hymns and songs are about. Our hymns from Charles Wesley and Isaac Watts to Fred Pratt Green and Graham Kendrick keep us on song so to speak!

I noted from the News recently that a Methodist Church in Goole was the home for a different sort of musical gathering. Not a few folks with loss, bereavement, depressive conditions and problems of one sort or another, get together for a right good sing. I’m sure that simply getting people together outside the normal routine and environment is quite therapeutic in itself. However, it was clear that the singing added a brilliant new dimension to people’s journey to recovery, closure, health and well-being. One lady said she felt like she had had a work out in the gym after singing and a bereaved gentleman said he had found confidence to go on with life. Singing can indeed be good for body and soul, something that we have thought and believed.

All Christians find in the Easter message abundant reason to sing and give “worship” to God in the Crucified and Risen Jesus. We sing and prayer our thanks and joy in the forgiveness we have in Christ. We celebrate Jesus’ victory over sin and death for us in music and hymns and songs that both thrill and humble, and often it is the singing of faith and belief in hymns and songs that expresses what many have come to know personally.

*Christ the Lord is risen today;
Alleluia!*

*Sons of men and angels say:
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens,;thou earth, reply:*

*Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death is now thy sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
Where’s thy victory boasting grave?*

*King of glory! Soul of bliss!
Everlasting life is this,
Thee to know, thy power to prove,
Thus to sing, and thus to love.*

Charles Wesley 1707-1788

If you could do with a good sing, see you there! You will be very welcome!

With every Easter blessing to you and yours. □

Kim Nally



Bog News

from Tom Bolderstone

As I am writing this article the sun is shining and spring feels as if it is just around the corner. This winter has been a particularly harsh one but the winter snow has given the reserve a different feel. If you didn't know you were in Norfolk you would probably think you were on an upland moor.

Woodcock have been a big feature on the reserve this winter with resident birds and birds from the continent being found in many different parts of the site. Alongside the road to Wolferton I noticed at least 8 woodcock drinking from the gulleys on the side of the road. To see eight birds in a fairly short space of time is normally very hard but with the snow and ice on the ground they have been more noticeable. Woodcock tends to be a fairly secretive bird and fairly well camouflaged but with the snow they have stood out fairly well allowing brilliant views of this otherwise secretive bird.

The skeins of pink footed geese that have been flying over the reserve this winter have slowly begun to disappear back to their breeding grounds. You can still hear the odd skein going across the sky but the numbers are a lot smaller than in the peak of winter.

This time of year is filled with expectation for birdwatchers and ourselves as managers of nature reserves. There is always the anticipation of the return of our spring migrants as this is normally a sure-fire sign that spring is well on the way. Although our migrant birds are a sign of spring there has been a notable change in our resident birds. The mornings have been getting lighter and with the light comes the melodious songs of our resident birds. Blue tits, Chaffinches, Dunnocks and Wrens plus a whole host of others have begun singing from the treetops and bushes across the site trying to assert themselves in their territories and impress the females.

We have begun our annual bird surveys on the site and we will be recording all species of bird that we see on the reserve over a period of at least ten visits. We are then able to put these onto a specific species map and this will hopefully show us where the territories of our breeding birds are. This data is very useful in recording changes to the breeding populations of the birds but also where they are breeding. This knowledge can influence our management works as well as the success of the breeding year on year.

One of the first migrant birds to arrive back on the heath is the woodlark. The woodlark winters in southern Europe but some do winter further north. The woodlark is mainly found on heaths such as Dersingham and the Brecks as well as conifer plantations and clearings in woods. The woodlark is related to the skylark but is a lot smaller bird with a pale eye stripe over the eye. The woodlarks song is one which is instantly recognisable and difficult to confuse with the skylark. The flight of

the woodlark is quite characteristic of the bird and can often be seen gliding with closed wings.

The woodlark is a ground nesting bird and as with all ground nesting birds is very vulnerable to disturbance. Between the months of February and September all dogs must be kept on a short lead (i.e. less than 2 metres) or close to heel.

Woodlarks are amber status birds. This means that they have an unfavourable



© Bengt Lundberg / naturepl.com

Woodlark are found on the reserve

conservation status across Europe but their population, although it has declined in the past it has made a slow recovery over the last 25 years. Although there are many birds on the amber list the breeding status of these birds can be finely balanced and by doing as much as we can to safeguard these birds we will hopefully protect them for future generations to come and enjoy at Dersingham Bog.

I hope that many of you will come and visit the reserve this spring and maybe you will be able to see or hear some of our migrants such as chiffchaff or even the two tone call of the cuckoo.

I look forward to seeing you around the site. □



© Mark Hamblin / www.osfimages.com

Cuckoo, a true sign that spring is with us

thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk

Easter Sunday Gala in Dersingham – Free Pitches

The James Graven company are celebrating 150 years in business and wish to include the local community in their celebrations.

One of the means of achieving this is that, on Easter Sunday - 4 April 2010 - the car park at Budgens Supermarket in Dersingham will be used for a Gala Day between the hours of 10.00 am and 2.00 pm, in which events will take place (the store will not be open at this time).

To complement the planned events, your organisation is invited to be involved by being allocated a site on the day, free of charge, at which to promote your activities or raise funds, this could be by holding a raffle or tombola or by setting up a stall for such games as Splat the Rat, Roll-a-coin, Ball in the bucket, etc.. Please note that you would need to provide your own table or stall.

The number of stalls available will, of course, be limited by the size of the car park, it is therefore essential that if you wish to take up the offer of a pitch you must contact Bob Tipling by e-mail at bob@jamesgraven-retail.co.uk or by ringing 01485 541347. □

Good news - goose news

The peak winter count of pink-footed geese at the Snettisham RSPB Reserve was made on the 14th of December when 28,700 left the roost at dawn. This was also when the peak combined count of all of the 'pinkies' in Norfolk was made. There were 77,056 and this means that almost one in every three of these birds was in Norfolk on that day. The numbers were not record breaking and the severe winter weather probably affected them. We seemed to see more flying over Dersingham in February and this is quite unusual. It is possible that some sugar beet was left out in the fields and this is where they were heading for. □

David Bingham

**NEW DATE for the St Nicholas Church monthly Coffee Morning for
April - 9th April
10am-12noon in the Church Hall.
Usual day for May, the first Friday in the month, 7th May.**

APRIL ANNIVERSARY

by Steve Nowell

At the age of 24 Tim Carbridge was quite content with his lot. He wasn't married so had few responsibilities. He was quite happy to live a very untidy and disordered bachelor existence and had no craving to have a permanent woman in his life being quite satisfied with the occasional mad, passionate, but not over-lengthy relationship. Tim was confident that he was always in control of himself and his liaisons. It was always he who terminated an affair when he suspected that things were becoming too serious.

But some people were more concerned about his well-being than he was. His parents, for example, could see a steady decline in his standards of living. Mrs Carbridge was convinced that her younger son wasn't eating properly and was rapidly heading towards a gastronomically induced illness; and it was obvious to Mr Carbridge Snr that Tim was becoming increasingly scruffy in various aspects of his life.

Tim's brother, Alec, was five years older than him and had always felt some responsibility for looking after him. When Tim got into scrapes as a youngster it was invariably Alec who had to pick up the pieces. So it was no surprise to him when his parents asked him to visit them to discuss Tim and his situation. The outcome of the meeting was that Tim definitely needed a permanent woman in his life. It was unanimously agreed that he needed a 'motherly' sort of partner who could love and look after him and generally keep him on the straight and narrow. Alec did not relish the task of sorting out his younger brother's problems but he would try.

Weeks passed by and Alec was making no progress. He had been married for three years and was no longer in the 'classy functions for singles' set that he had enjoyed during his early twenties. But he still kept in contact with some of the people from his past. Eventually he had a lucky break. The well-to-do parents of the friend of a friend were throwing a 'bash' for their daughter with the intention of finding a suitable young man for her, leading, they hoped, towards a permanent relationship. Alec was invited to bring his young brother along.

Tim went to the party and was impressed. So many young ladies, all under one roof, and according to the number of rings he could see on the third fingers of left hands, they were nearly all eligible. He would have to watch his step; he felt vulnerable. One young lady in particular gave him her undivided attention. Everywhere Tim wandered, she followed and there was no doubt about it, she was a 'stunner'. It wasn't long before they began chatting and it didn't take either of them long to realize that the attractive force between them was more than purely physical. They talked; they danced; and they laughed. She was older than Tim but who cared anyway; he had fallen for her in a big way. The lady's name was Emma and Tim had been correct when he guessed that it was her parents who were giving the party.

At twelve o'clock the couple were engrossed in each other's company sitting on a large leather settee in the drawing room of the mansion which was the home of Emma's parents. Suddenly she jumped up. "Got to go now; and on my own before you get any naughty ideas" she announced" Tim was staggered. "But I thought..." he started. "Don't bother to think" she replied "we *might* meet again; some day."

Tim went back to his flat brokenhearted. He had found the one woman in a million he could share his life with, that was for certain. It had all been rather whirlwind-ish but it was real. At one o'clock in the morning Tim woke with a start when his phone rang. Were his mother and father OK? "Hi Tim. It's me; Emma. I *do* love you and I'm sorry about the April Fool" It took a few seconds for Tim to realize what had happened. Yes it was April 1st. He wanted to blow his top - but couldn't. Instead they both enjoyed a long 'mushy' chat.

Tim married Emma and their marriage was happy. But Emma had a snobbish streak. She had little time for anyone who had fallen on hard times and as for people who had to go to court, for example? People just didn't do that sort of thing in her circles. It was not surprising therefore that to some extent she expected people, including Tim, to be subservient. He once suggested that it would have been more appropriate if her parents had christened her 'Just-ine' (*Just* do the Hoovering while I'm out. *Just* empty the dishwasher when it's finished. *Just* do the ironing when you get a minute.) Tim wasn't unduly upset though; he thought the world of Emma and was prepared to make sacrifices to maintain the strength of their relationship. Also, as Alec had forecast, Emma had done a lot towards smartening up her husband in many respects. He became much tidier in appearance; in keeping their flat neat and tidy; and even in the way he thought about things. Emma had made a far more respectable person of him than he was when they had first met.

As time went by Tim became better adjusted to his new way of life. It could even be said that to some degree he actually enjoyed dinner parties when he could chat to 'Sir-somebody-somebody' about stocks and shares; or advise 'Lord-so-and-so' as to which classic car he should invest in. This was a new world for him. But was it really a better world? True he had moved into a higher social stratus and he had become more polished as a whole person. He had Emma to thank for this. But in his heart he did not want to lose all touch with his old world and its theme of independence. To leave Emma and his new-found lifestyle was unthinkable but the more he thought about things the more it became obvious that it was he who had made all the adjustments. Tim was beginning to believe that this continuous upper-class way of life was not good for Emma either. Maybe it would do her good to see how lesser mortals coped with life..

On the anniversary of meeting Tim, when she left him in the lurch, Emma went to the local supermarket to buy groceries in general, but particularly a bottle of good red wine for their celebratory dinner. She had nearly finished when she heard, booming from the loud speaker system "This is a customer announcement. Would Mrs Carbridge please report to the customer information desk immediately." Emma was shocked. The announcement couldn't be for her; it had to be for her mother-in law. She didn't know she was coming here today. Then the loud speaker blared forth again. "This is a customer announcement. Would Mrs Emma Carbridge report to the customer information desk immediately. Repeat, immediately." Emma couldn't believe what she was hearing. She, Emma Carbridge, had been virtually ordered to report to the customer desk. What did these peasants think they were playing at. She would go to the desk but they would surely feel her venom. As she arrived she was greeted by a man in civilian clothing (who was introduced to her as the store detective) and two uniformed policemen. "We have reason to believe, madam, that you are in possession of property which you have stolen from these premises" said one of the policemen. Emma switched from being absolutely furious to being completely petrified every few seconds. "There's my trolley! Do what you want; you won't find any stolen goods in there!" she stormed. "It's not your trolley we're interested in" said the policeman. "Please empty the contents of your shopping bag on to the counter." Emma complied, shouting abuse at the same time. But her fury instantly turned to fear. On the counter lay a large tin of caviare carrying the store's trademark.

Emma pleaded her innocence but the policemen were not convinced. They were set to take Emma to the police station to be charged with theft but they allowed her to ring home before leaving. "Tim, you must do something. I'm being taken away and charged with theft. Please, please tell them I'm innocent!" Emma was in tears. "Put me on to the police" said Tim, calmly. He spoke to the policeman and explained that he had planted the tin of caviare in Emma's bag, hidden from view under her scarf, then he had rung the store and told the store detective he had witnessed the theft. Yes, Mrs Emma Carbridge was innocent. Tim would make a substantial donation to a police charity for their trouble. In the meantime "*Just tell her today is April 1st!*" □

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I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING CUSTOMERS OLD AND NEW

The Garden Farmer - dig for the future.

I am writing this in late February and the dreadful winter weather is still with us. My greenhouse is full of seedlings sown with gentle heat over the last couple of weeks; lettuces, spring onions, summer caulis and cabbages and plenty of leafy salads. The heat is needed for germination, but once the plants are showing through the compost they need sunlight to grow fast and strong, so I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

One of my customers recently asked what I mean when I describe myself as an organic gardener; what do I mean by organic? This seems like a reasonable question.

Most people, I think, understand what organic growing is not: it is not using herbicides to keep weeds suppressed; it is not using pesticides to control slugs and aphids; it is not using man-made fertilizers to give the plants a quick fix of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus. Organic growers choose not to use these things for a number of reasons. Any compound with "cide" in the name is, by definition, a poison and even the most selective of poisons will affect non-target species and leave residues in soil and water and the food that we eat. The price of man-made fertilizers is closely linked to the prices of oil and gas as their production consumes a huge amount of energy to extract nitrogen from the air and turn it into a soluble form. Also there is a huge wastage as fertilizers are washed out of the soil with the effect of unsettling the natural nutrient and chemical balance of rivers and eventually the sea.



Perhaps the biggest failing of these products from an organic grower's point of view is that they do the soil no good at all and in the end rob it of its ability to store naturally occurring nitrogen. The soil becomes lifeless and wildlife is forced to seek a living else where.

The main aim of the organic grower should be to feed and develop the soil to make it rich in essential minerals and nutrients. This gives the plants a larder of food to tap into as and when they need it and increases the water retaining capacity of the soil. This is done by the incorporation of naturally occurring organic materials such as compost and animal manures and green manures.

By creating a rich and healthy soil with plenty of decayed and decaying plant material you also create a place for soil wildlife to thrive. An organic garden should be a haven for life from the smallest micro-organism, to worms, beetles and many other beneficial creatures. Admittedly, it can also make the garden very attractive to animals you don't want; slugs and aphids. But, by creating a diverse ecosystem, you will also attract their predators including birds, hedgehogs, hoverflies and ladybirds. The organic aim is to maintain the balance between the pests and their predators.

This is the time of year to be incorporating compost or animal manures (preferably well rotted) and green manures into your soil, just as the weather starts to warm up and biological activity starts to increase. If you prefer to do this in the autumn, as many people do, then it is a good idea



to put a cover over the soil to stop nutrients being lost to the wind and the winter rain; this could be a plastic sheet or even an old carpet. In March I shall be sowing my early carrots, broad beans and plenty more salads and setting out potatoes and onions. I'm really looking forward to the spring now; once the weather does change, things will start to get very busy in the garden and there will be little time to stand still. It's always a great feeling to see the new spring shoots showing through and every year feels like a new beginning.□

Bryan Beers - The Garden Farmer



Steve Davis

...going to work on an Easter Egg!

Was I really suggesting in my last article that Spring was just around the corner? Well, what a hefty corner it turned out to be! Certainly I was beginning to rue the day of my rather premature facial spring clean! Still, here we are at last and with the focus of Easter upon us to seal the deal!

What are your thoughts about Easter? And how about Lent? Have you been giving anything up at all? I have been trying to give up second helpings! Unfortunately I blew it right from the start at our Friday Lent Lunches at St Nicholas Church Hall, giving in to second helpings of the delicious soups on offer! There may be just one last Friday Lent Lunch left, by the time you read this in case you feel inclined to do the same! Giving up chocolate is of course a favourite with the more virtuous. Last year our house group embarked on a five-week study based around the award winning film *Chocolat*, all about a woman who set up a *chocolatier* shop in a small French town



Photo - Pauline Martin

during the season of Lent, incurring the wrath of the town's mayor and overseer. In an amusing way, it unpacks no end of peoples' attitudes and prejudices to life, many of which come too close to home for comfort. We must have watched it several times over in stages, each time drawing more from it. Do try and see it if you can; giving up chocolate will never seem the same, and you can find it (apparently quite legally) on *YouTube* in 15 episodes.

Of course the Church has made Easter its own and they certainly have something worth celebrating, though when you start to delve into it, there is much pagan origin and tradition there too as any *Google* search will soon reveal, even for the season of Lent (ie when the days *lengthen*). Indeed many religions and cultures have celebrated and still do celebrate a festival around the Spring equinox, which is hardly surprising with so much evidence of new birth and new growth all spurred on with themes of fertility, and love in the air! Even the very word Easter is thought to derive from the Saxon goddess of fertility *Eostre*, from which we also get the word *oestrogen*, so it all hangs together with this egg thing!

I suppose that Good Friday is arguably the most exclusively Christian part of the festival, and there are many traditions associated with this too. Hot cross buns are of course a must, though quite why they need to be on sale in the shops from January onwards is a more recent mystery! Looking up *Good Friday traditions* online highlights quite a few ranging from services of *Three Hours Devotion* leading up to the time of day when Jesus is thought to have died on the cross to the more bizarre practice of parading a burning effigy of Judas Iscariot around the Liverpool streets of Dingle and Toxteth. Most popular though seem to be the *Walks of Witness* around towns and villages throughout the world, our own included of course, (which leaves from St Nicholas Church at 9:30am following a short service at 9:00am). Some of the more spectacular of these include re-enactment scenes of *The Stages of the Cross*, at points throughout the procession. In Mexico



they take these very seriously, and I have followed such large processions whilst staying with my brother on the Island of Cozumel, Mexico. Though much simulated, the person playing the part of Christ is nonetheless flogged, tied to, and lifted up on a cross for some considerable time causing unthinkable discomfort and even collapse. It is a practice that the government and church do not really endorse and certainly not a spectacle that sits comfortably with me, though somehow I warm to these people who are not afraid to give resourceful and exuberant public expression to their commitment and faith.

Good Friday is a Bank Holiday, and many of us remember when shops were closed and people generally did not work. Back in the 50s (or possibly 60s) however, I remember my Dad saying that as a carpenter, he along with other carpenters had to work on Good Friday, because Jesus was a carpenter and had to carry his cross on that day. Now I cannot find any reference online as to how generally accepted this practice was. Maybe we just needed the extra money, but I would be keen to hear if anyone else could confirm the fact. For myself, I like to treat Good Friday as special and try to do something a bit different and of a peaceful thought-stirring nature. The best Good Fridays I remember were occasions of taking the train to London Victoria Station, then walking via Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens all awash with daffodils, to the Royal Albert Hall to hear the annual Good Friday afternoon performance of Handel's Messiah by the Royal Choral Society with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. For a few shillings you could stand in "the gods", the uppermost circle and be free to wander around, sit or lie on the floor during the performance as the most awesome, moving and tear-inducing harmonic strains filled the auditorium. Up there nobody minded the odd punter enthusiastically jerking their heads in time or tapping the notes through the pages of their music score or even practicing their skills at conducting! Sadly now "the gods" are out of bounds and it is seating only from around £15 for restricted viewing, but still well worth the experience! On the other hand you may like to watch a rather less awesome though reverently amusing extract from *Handel's Messiah*, by searching *YouTube* for a video of the *Silent Monks Singing the Hallelujah Chorus*. Several renditions exist, but my favourite can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCFCEJTEzNU>.

No doubt many of you will be working hard on your gardens over Easter. I know how impressive some of the gardens around Dersingham are, especially those that will be opening up for public view for our Open Gardens weekend at the end of May. Much as I appreciate gardens, I would be the first to admit that I am not (yet) much of a gardener. In my last article I mentioned that rather than upgrading our *Wii Fit* system to the new *Plus* version, perhaps I ought to keep fit by spending more time gardening. I have to confess that with the weather and everything, we did go for the *Wii Fit Plus* upgrade, though in defence it has greatly spurred on our exercise regime; the cross-country cycling, juggling and even simulated flying, flapping your arms up and down from platform to platform dressed in a chicken outfit have to be experienced to be believed! However, I do enjoy my garden and when at this time of year, through little or no effort on my own part, I see wonderful varieties of daffodils appearing all around it, I have been known to utter the prayerful thought "I really don't deserve these!" Then as if the Creator has planted a response in my mind comes the thought "Actually Steve, there's quite a lot you don't deserve, but I'm glad that you appreciate them anyway!"

Whatever our thoughts and feelings about Easter, whether we spend any time in Church or elsewhere around and about, or possibly indulge in another zany Mexican Easter Day tradition of breaking colourful confetti-filled eggs over the heads of friends and family, we can discover even in the midst of all the potential doom and gloom so much evidence of *resurrection, revival, renewal and restoration* integrally woven into the very fabric of our existence. I hope that your Easter will break beyond that egg and find plenty more to appreciate too!

Email: steve@davista.co.uk or visit: www.davista.co.uk,



SJP

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Monday - Friday

Dersingham Cricket Club

For all the latest information check our website www.dersingham.play-cricket.com



Dersingham Cricket Club 1st XI Fixture 2010

All matches to start at 1.00pm at The Pastures (Behind The Feathers)

SAT 1st MAY	THETFORD	HOME
SAT 8 th May	Kirkley & LR	Away
SAT 15th MAY	SWAFFHAM	HOME
SAT 22nd MAY	GT WITCHINGHAM A	HOME
Sat 29 th May	Horsford	Away
SAT 5th JUNE	MUNDFORD	HOME
Sat 12 th June	Ashmanhaugh	Away
SAT 19th JUNE	ACLE A	HOME
Sat 26 th June	Hethersett & Tas V	Away
Sat 3 rd July	Thetford	Away
SAT 10th JULY	KIRKLEY & LR	HOME
Sat 17 th June	Swaffham	Away
Sat 24 th July	Gt Withcingham A	Away
SAT 31st JULY	HORSFORD	HOME
Sat 7 th Aug	Mundford	Away
SAT 14th AUG	ASHMANHAUGH	HOME
Sat 21 st Aug	Acle A	Away
SAT 28th AUG	HETHERSETT & TAS V	HOME

Followed by end of season Hog Roast

Dersingham Cricket Club 2nd XI Fixture 2010

All matches to start at 2.00pm at The Pastures (Behind The Feathers)

Sat 1 st May	Beeston	Away
SAT 8th MAY	HILLINGTON 2nd XI	HOME
Sat 15 th May	Heacham 2 nd XI	Away
Fri 21 st May	Sandringham (Cup Match)	Away
Sat 22 nd May	Gooderstone A	Away
SAT 29th MAY	DEREHAM 3rd XI	HOME
Sat 5 th June	Fakenham 4 th XI	Away
SAT 12th JUNE	DOWNHAM TOWN 4th XI	HOME
Sat 19 th June	Castle Acre 2 nd XI	Away
SAT 26th JUNE	NORTHWOLD 2nd XI	HOME
SAT 3rd JULY	BEESTON 2nd XI	HOME
Sat 10 th July	Hillington 2 nd XI	Away
SAT 17th JULY	HEACHAM 2nd XI	HOME
SAT 24th JULY	GOODERSTONE 2nd XI	HOME
Sat 31 st July	Dereham 3 rd XI	Away
SAT 7th AUG	FAKENHAM 4th XI	HOME
Sat 14 th Aug	Downham Town 4 th XI	Away
SAT 21st AUG	CASTLE ACRE 2nd XI	HOME
Sat 28 th Aug	Northwold 2 nd XI	Away

Under 16 Fixtures 2010

Mon 10 th May	Swaffham	Away
MON 17th MAY	WISBECH	HOME
Mon 24 th May	Downham	Away
Mon 7 th June	North Runcton	Away

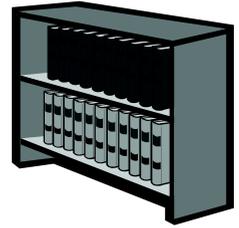
Under 14 Fixtures 2010

FRI 14th MAY	STOW	HOME
Fri 21 st May	Denver	Away
FRI 4th JUNE	WISBECH	HOME

Under 12 Fixtures 2010

MON 10th MAY	SWAFFHAM	HOME
Mon 17 th May	Stow	Away
MON 24th MAY	DOWNHAM	HOME
MON 7th JUNE	NORTH RUNCTON	HOME

Dersingham Library



What's on

April 12th 10.30-11.30 - Holiday storytime

April 27th 10-12 or April 30th 10-12. An introduction to Microsoft Word 2007. Learn how to create documents such as posters, using pictures and clipart, and find out how you can progress your skills using books and online tutorials. This course is ideal for learners with little or no knowledge of using a computer. Places are limited so please book in advance by calling the library on 01485 540181

May 6th 10.30-11.30 - Storytime for under 5s

May 14th from 10-12 - Adult Learners' Week - Learn to make a fabric postcard, a mini postable work of art. Costs £5 and all materials are included. Just bring along fabric scissors and a basic sewing kit if possible. Limited to 10 places so please book ahead by calling the library on 01485 540181.

May 17th 10.30-11.30 - Storytime for under 5s

May 20th 4-6pm Adult Learners' Week - Wii demonstration - Come along, watch how it's done, and borrow a game!

June 3rd 10.30-11.30- Holiday storytime

June 5th 10-12 Bees are brilliant - family activity full of bee stories, facts and games. A BBC Breathing Places event.

June 9th 10.30-11.30 - Storytime for under 5s

June 23rd 10.30-11.30 - Storytime for under 5s

July 5th 10.30-11.30 - Storytime for under 5s

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Village Voice publication dates

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

No	Copy deadline	Publication date
No 64	Wednesday 6th May 2010	Thursday 27th May
No 65	Wednesday 7th July 2010	Thursday 29th July
No 66	Wednesday 1st Sept 2010	Thursday 23rd Sept
No 67	Wednesday 3rd Nov 2010	Thursday 25th Nov
No 68	Wednesday 12th Jan 2011	Thursday 4th Feb 2011

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

DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS

Do please let us know if any of these details change.

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Every Monday	2.00 pm	St. Cecilia's Church	Rosary Group	St. Cecilia's Church
Every Monday	2.00 pm or 7.30 pm	Freebridge Community Housing	Bingo	Orchard Close
Every Monday	6.30 - 8.00	Dersingham Cubs	Meeting for boys age 8 - 101/2	Scout & Guide HQ Manor road
1st Monday of Month	12.15 pm	Methodist Church	Lunch at the Chapel	Methodist Church, PO Rd
3rd Monday of month	6 pm	Dersingham Library	Dersingham Reading Group	Library
Every Mon, Tues, Thur & Fri	9.00 to 11.30 am	Dersingham Playgroup	Playgroup Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Monday in Term Time	12.45 to 2.15 am	Sticking Together	Toddler Craft Group Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Last Monday in the Month	7.15 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Council Meeting	Infant and Nursery School, Saxon Way
Every Tuesday	5.30 to 7 pm	2nd Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7 - 10 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Tuesday	7 pm	Dersingham Bridge Club	Bridge Evening	The Feathers Hotel
Every Tuesday in Term Time	8.30 to 11.15 am	St Nicholas Parent & Toddler Group	Parent & Toddler Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Tuesday	8 pm	Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes	Sandringham Lodge Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
1st or 2nd Monday in the Month	2.15 pm	Royal British Legion Women's Section	Dersingham & Sandringham Branch Meeting	Orchard Close Community Room
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Village Voice 'Live'	Presentations by Guest Speakers	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Art Club	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
2nd Tuesday in Month	7.30 pm	Royal British Legion	Branch Meeting	Feathers Hotel
Every Wednesday	10.00 am to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly	Recreation & Leisure and Mid-day Meal	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road

Every Wednesday	10.30 to 11.30am	Music+Movement	Pre-school Music, Dance & Drama	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Wednesday	2.00 to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Carpet Bowls	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Wednesday	6.00 to 7.15 pm	Beavers	Meeting for children aged 6 - 8	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every 2nd Weds of the Month	10.30 am	St Nicholas Men's Group	Men's Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every 2nd Weds of the month		Dersingham Walking Group	Circular walk	See programme for details or contact Keith Starks 542268
Every 2nd Weds of the Month Sept to April	7.30 pm	Albert Victor Bowls Club	Prize Bingo	Albert Victor Bowls Club, Manor Road
3rd Wednesday of the Month	7.15 to 10.00 pm	Dersingham Evening Women's Institute	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
Every Thursday	10.3 am to 3.00 pm	North West Norfolk Phobbies Club	Meeting	St. Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thursday	4.00 to 5.15 pm	1st Dersingham Rainbow Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 5-7 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Thursday	5.30 to 7.00 pm	1st Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7-10 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 8.30 pm	1st Sandringham Guides	Unit Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre., Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.00 pm	1st Dersingham Scouts	Group Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.30 pm	Norfolk Army Cadet Force	Sandringham Detachment Meeting	The Drill Hall, Dodds Hill
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Badminton Club	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thurs Sept -June	2 pm	Park House Hotel	Rubber Bridge	Park House Hotel
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	Hunstanton and District Camera Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Thursday of Month		Dersingham Flower Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
2nd Thursday of Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Horticultural Society	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
3rd Thursday of the Month	9.30 to 10.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church Jigsaw Club	Meeting	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Friday	9.45 am	Freebridge Community Housing	Coffee Morning	Orchard Close
Every Friday in Term Time	9.15 to 10.45	Puddleducks Toddler Group	Toddler Group meeting	Dersingham Community Centre., Manor Road
Every Friday	6.30 to 8 pm	1st Dersingham Guide Unit	Unit Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ
Every Friday	6.45 to 9.15 pm	Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club	Club Meeting	St George's Middle School
Alternate Fridays	2.15 to 4.30 pm	Dersingham Seniors Club	Entertainment and Outings for the over-60s	St Cecilia's Church
1st Friday of month	10.00 am to 12 noon	St Nicholas Church	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas Church Hall

Advertising in Village Voice

The Editorial Team would like to thank all of those who so generously support our magazine by placing advertisements in it, for without the income so generated there would be a possibility of the publication ceasing to exist. With this in mind it would be helpful if you were to support those who do advertise, and to then let them know that you used their services because you saw their promotion in our magazine. For those readers who perhaps provide a local service but who do not currently advertise with us, you may consider a fee of from £12.50 for an eighth of a page black and white or £17.50 for colour per issue, to be very cost effective.

Advertisements for inclusion in the next magazine should be in the hands of Anita Moore, Dersingham Parish Council, 7b Hunstanton Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HH **by Wednesday 5th May 2010**

Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

E-mail — villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

Articles for publication in the next edition of Village Voice must reach The Editor c/o Dersingham Parish Council, 7b Hunstanton Road, Dersingham PE31 6HH or e-mail; villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 5th May 2010 for publication on Thursday 27th May**. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication). Should you be providing graphics to accompany advertisements or articles, it would be appreciated if these could be in JPEG format.

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

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

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

The Mobile Police Station **Will visit Budgens car park on Wednesdays** **between 1pm & 3pm on** **7th April, 5th May, 2nd June & 30th June**

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

The Production Team for this edition consists of
Editor: - Tony Bubb. Editorial assistant - Rob Smyth
In the office - Anita Moore, Distribution - Steve Davis

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PRESS RELEASE

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James Graven is a family owned local community convenience and forecourt services retailer in Ely, Soham, and Chatteris in Cambridgeshire and Dersingham in Norfolk, trading under the symbol groups of Budgens, BP and Spar.

A definition of History is 'a chronological record of events, as of the life or development of a people or institution, often including an explanation of or commentary on those events.'

Our history is something we are very proud of; the more we delve, especially in this age of freely available information on the internet, the more interesting things we discover about the grand history of James Graven & Sons.

It all began in 1860, 150 years ago, when James Graven himself started out specializing in agricultural engineering, exporting goods all over the world, predominately to India. Over the next few years, James Graven & Sons began developing steam engines, mainly for agricultural purposes, before moving into the motor vehicles industry in 1912. At this time, James Graven attended a reception with the founder of Ford Motors, Henry Ford, at the Savoy in London.

We are told that history helps us build the future, providing us with lessons of the past. James Graven & Sons has always changed with the times, built upon new ideas, and gone where the ebb and flow of business has taken it; looking to our future at this time - that is not going to change.

This year in particular seems to be filled with the spirit of growth and change that are the foundations of this company, with many new and changeable activities taking place. We have **two major refits** planned, **two stores opening 24 hours from early spring**, a complete **new build at Littleport** and that is just the start - there will be other major changes coming later in the year, so we may be 150 years old but we are definitely not running out of steam any time soon!

In a year that has already seen much change in the world, we at James Graven look forward to the year with a sense of renewed hope, that there is much to do - so, it's full steam ahead!



For more details and any further information, please contact our Community Liaison Officer:
Nick Brown - on 01354 692492

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday April 6th

Reclamations around The Wash

BRIAN HOWLING

An illustrated talk on all aspects of The Wash and it's surroundings by this well known local devotee



Photo © English Nature

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

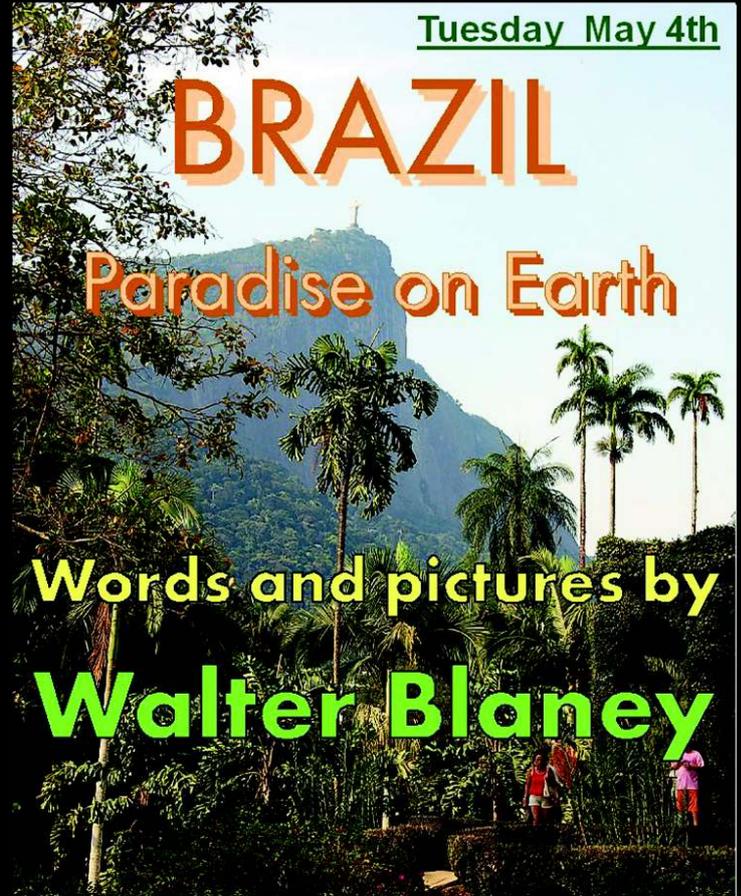
VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday May 4th

BRAZIL

Paradise on Earth

Words and pictures by
Walter Blaney



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

Dersingham Village Voice



“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.”

Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 21st May 2010

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 21st May 2010 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA’s information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Last year we had over 80 suppers taking part in England and Wales. In 2010 we want to double that figure and ensure we can provide more support to spinal cord injured people.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Officer, Elizabeth Wright, says, “The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds.

You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives.”

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk

JOIN IN SNETTISHAM’S SINGING FOR WELL-BEING

The Sing for Well-Being course is aimed at encouraging people to sing their worries away. The classes are being held at Snettisham Village Memorial Hall and are aimed at people who love to sing, as well as for those who doubt their singing abilities.

The 12 two hour sessions will take place every Wednesday morning at 10am – 12pm from 21st April with a break for half term. The workshops will include group singing as well as gentle exercise and breathing techniques to warm up the body and voice.

“Singing is proven to be good for the health because of the release of endorphins otherwise known as ‘happy hormones’. Research also shows that singing boosts the immune system and is a creative and fulfilling experience”, said Carol O’Neill, a natural voice practitioner and qualified counsellor. “I hear so many people tell me that they can’t sing but I always urge them to give it a go. Everyone has the right to sing and you’d be amazed at how easy it is to achieve a wonderful sound. If you’ve never had any experience before it really doesn’t matter”.

The course is designed to be fun and accessible to people of all ages and abilities. People who are keen to take part should telephone 01328 838316 or email carolone@homecall.co.uk to book a place. There is even an Early Bird Discount!



Thursday 25 March - 7.30pm

The West Norfolk branch invites you to

Extreme Birding from the Roof

An illustrated talk by Mike Edgecombe on an expedition
to Quinglai, the Tibetan Plateaux

Venue: Hunstanton Methodist Church hall, Austin Street

Cost: £1.50 members/£2 visitors, with refreshments

CALL FOR MORE VILLAGERS TO 'GET INVOLVED'

More people from villages policed by the Dersingham and Gayton Safer Neighbourhood Team are being encouraged to have their say on local priorities.

The call comes following the first Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) held for the neighbourhood - which encompasses 22 villages north west of King's Lynn.

The bi-monthly meeting brings together police, partner agencies and members of the local community to identify, discuss and agree which three issues should be addressed as a priority by local agencies working together.

Agencies are also looking for an independent 'community champion' to chair the meetings and get involved in keeping their neighbourhood safe for all.

Dersingham and Gayton Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Sgt Andy Crown said: "This is a new-look meeting to allow anyone and everyone with an interest in improving the quality of life locally to come along and get involved.

"We can only help solve community issues if we are told about them and by having their say, people can help direct policing and other resources to where they live."

Issues reported by members of the public at regular street briefings in a number of villages feed into the SNAP meeting.

Attendees at last week's SNAP, held on Thursday, heard about the work that has been carried out to help address the three previous problems:

Police have arrested a man on suspicion of theft as part of their investigation into church thefts across the north-west Norfolk area. The team has worked closely with colleagues in Hunstanton and Wells and the arrest last month followed the positive identification of a male filmed on CCTV stealing from Walsingham Church. The man, from the Fakenham area, has been released on bail pending further enquiries and no further thefts have been reported.

More than 20 youths were stopped on one night in January by patrolling officers, there to deal with alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in Dersingham. Not all of the youths were from the village. The SNT sent letters to all their parents, making them aware of the behaviour and the consequences.

After two parents were fined for supplying alcohol to children, it was hoped the matter would improve. However, in recent weeks the village has suffered from an increase in criminal damage to "For Sale" signs, fencing and windows. It is suspected that the same group is involved. Enquiries continue as will high visibility patrols at key times.

To help reduce the misuse of local beauty spot Bawsey Pits, work is on-going with other agencies to look at ways to restrict vehicular access to the bridleway that is locally known as Sandy Lane. This bridleway links the B1145 at Bawsey with Brow of the Hill in Leziate. Sandy Lane is the route taken by those that choose to commit offences of fly-tipping and abandoning stolen vehicles etc. Restricting the access would minimise these issues and prevent misuse of this beauty spot. The following three community issues were agreed as the priorities for the next two months:

- To address alcohol-related anti-social behaviour by youths in Dersingham.

- To work with partner agencies and management to reduce anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping abandoned vehicles and other misuse of Bawsey Pits.

- To increase roadside speed checks across the neighbourhood to address speeding issues in all villages.

More information about the work of the local police team – and future street briefing dates - can be found on the Norfolk Constabulary web-site at www.norfolk.police.uk

The next SNAP meeting for Dersingham and Gayton will be held at St Cecelia's church rooms, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, from 7pm on Thursday May 13.

The team can be contacted by calling 0845 456 4567b or by e-mail at sntdersingham@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Pictures from St Cecilia's

Fr James pulls the Shrove Tuesday raffle



Queuing for pancakes

The Rosary Group meeting in Lent

The Lenten Bible Study group meeting at The Convent in Hunstanton.

