

Dersingham Village Voice



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page 35



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Editor's Notes

Welcome to this, our biggest ever issue. Ninety two pages of Dersingham goodness to paraphrase an old confectionery advert. Apologies to those who sent in articles that have not made it into this edition. Your work may well still appear but I have to give preference to date sensitive material when push comes to shove. There is however, lots of good reading in these pages. Don't let this apparent surfeit of articles put you off supplying future editions. In particular I would be pleased to hear of your visits to interesting places. Pictures too please, then we can share the experience.

Editing this magazine is rather like waiting for a bus, I have been looking for something for our younger readers for some time and then two articles come along at once, so we have Fairy Mo and The Sandringham Squirrels making their first appearances in these pages.

Recipes are proving popular it seems. Lindsey reports several favourable (or should that be favourable) comments on her efforts and now others are following suite. If you have a special offering do share it.

This is the first edition of the new financial year. As this is a Parish Council publication we are bounded by financial years etc., so there is always a last minute rush to get in all the advertising that pays for your magazine. Great fun! We get orders without payment, payment without orders (we are all psychic here), ads sent in vastly differing proportions to those required but we get there in the end. Do please support the advertisers as without them no Village Voices would plop through your letterboxes. The adverts do get results, even the piano in No 68 got sold.

Talking of letterboxes, we who distribute around the village become experts on letterbox design. Worst are the very small ones, I mean really small, less than 5 inches wide. I know of two of these in the village. Then there are the ones with razor sharp, spring loaded, inner flaps, not so much a problem when you are posting magazines, but when it is a thin leaflet that must be put through, these flaps slash your fingers. If you see blood stains on your post you know why. The most difficult to use are the ones with brushes on the inside. Mags go through with some effort but thinner stuff just crumples. And of course that's not an end to it. When you are trying to do a good job of insertion, so that wind and rain do not harm the article, you hear Fido racing to sieze the post/fingers that are poking so temptingly through what is obviously his feeding flap. Now some people with long drives have post boxes (there is no standard method of entry to these), fair enough, but why have one next to the front door? You then have to open up repeatedly to see if you have been written to, letting in all the cold and rain. Life is too short.

There are even some addresses in Dersingham that have no discernable post leaving facilities at all. You know who you are, how do you get tax demands and the like, or hmmm, perhaps you are the clever ones. Why not try posting something to yourself to gauge the quality of the experience?

Once again we are running our best front gardens competition so start looking as you go around for your favourites. More details next issue.

Also in these pages you will find another competition, this time to find a name for the big amenity area on the Sandringham View Estate.

I was out with the Task Force the other day on that area cleaning it up. We filled our leader's car with stuff - litter, paint cans, old wood, scrap metal and a large sack of ready bagged dog poo. The Parish Council are just waiting for the borough's say so to install 3 dog bins there but in the mean time please take it home or to one of the other 27 bins around the village. With all this dog traffic it is surprising that there are so many rabbits living there. Locals report up to fifty at a time can be seen disporting themselves around the place. On the bright side, they keep the grass very short but then they turn to the trees for seconds. Pie anyone?

Right, enough from me. There is enough reading here for several visits to the reading room.□

Tony Bubb

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Dear Village Voice



I read in the last "Village Voice" that the latest pink footed goose count recorded 37,350 of the creatures. 37,350! that's about seven and a half of them to each Dersingham resident! I call that verging on a plague!

All this free-range protein flying over our heads twice a day and thousands in the world suffering from hunger.....can you see where I'm heading?

You've guessed it. Cull a few thousand!

My idea goes something like this: Drop a net over them at night, take them away to be humanely slaughtered, (gas probably best), then process them. The feathers could be used for insulating material in the construction industry, the bones sterilised and turned into fertilizer, and all the nourishing flesh put in kebabs and pies, (same thing just one has the dough round it the other dough on the top).

Where will all this take place? Well, is there a vacant unit down the bottom of Station Road? Otherwise build a processing factory down there, thus creating employment. Who wants a Village Hall there anyway? We've got a suitable building already - the community centre, which seems unused. Oh don't start me on that one!

Of course this will never take place. The long hair and sandal brigade would never allow it; and by the way you better not mention this letter in the Village Voice 'cos they might come round my house and post unmentionable things through my letter box!

Robert G Mayhew

Address available upon receipt of a small payment. Ed.



On the 30th January 2011 I managed to photograph a stoat in my front garden. Please excuse the poor quality of the photo because at the time my hands were covered in flour and I had to take the shot through the kitchen window. You will see the stoat is half in white winter coat and half in summer coat. I wondered if this is unusual as I have never seen it before. Perhaps someone might know.

Jacky Dingle

It's that time of year again when my thoughts have turned to doing another Sponsored Cycle Ride for charity.

This year I have decided to do a 500 mile ride for the Alzheimers Society, following last year's successful ride for Cancer Research when I raised a worthwhile £1,417. I shall try to beat that amount. I have already received sponsor forms so I will try to put them in as many places as possible. I have been in touch with the Lynn News. They said they will do an article on me. I'm open to any suggestions of how we can raise more money.

I'll start my ride late April to early May. My aim is to circumnavigate East Anglia. I will mostly restrict my cycling to runs where I go out and get back home at night but where I am too far from home I will get B and Bs. For those occasions I am trying to get a company to sponsor the B and Bs.

John Lambert

If you would like to sponsor John he can be found at 15 Pansey Drive. Ed.



Just before Christmas it was nice to see a group of volunteers, men and women, weeding and generally tidying the former grassed area at the end of Post Office Road which had been ruined by motorists using it as an off-road car park. Sadly, a few days later someone chose to drive across it leaving tread marks which are still visible.

Why do so many motorists seem to think it is acceptable to park on the public footpath and our grassed areas? This is particularly prevalent in King's Croft where all the properties have garages and/or driveways which will take at least two cars and several of them three. Yet still drivers park halfway on the footpath. The small grassed area at the top of King's Croft has become deeply rutted and it will not be long before it is as bad as the Post Office Road one. There is no justification for this. It is just thoughtlessness.

D Munkenbeck

My name is Hazel Buxton and I am an old Dersinghamite. I was born at 3 Gelham Manor, the youngest girl in a family of seven girls and six boys. My parents were the late Thirza and George Drew.

I went to the local primary school and then to St George's which we called the "top school". On my 15th birthday in December 1962 I left school and the following January started work at the International Stores in Hunstanton as a shop assistant. I stayed there for two years then went to work at Woolies, first on the sweet counter and later in the office.

I met Barry (the love of my life) at the Top Twenty Rooms in August 1965 - we got married in April 1967 and went to live in Heacham. In the following January our daughter Melanie was born followed by Sarah in November 1970. We spent 40 very happy years in Heacham. Melanie still lives there with her fiance Dan, Sarah lives in Dersingham with her husband Steve and son Aaron, my only precious grandchild. When Sarah has finished with the Village Voice she passes it on to



me. What a surprise when I turned to page 29 in the February issue and saw the picture of the group of girls! - I was on it along with three of my sisters Jenny, Shirley and Monica. I recognise some of the other girls as well and they are; Dorothy Simmonds, Valerie Bayfield, Ann Daniels, Pat Riches, Valerie Gilson, Joan Green, Denise and Lesley Brown - I am not sure of the names of the others. The photo was taken in the garden of Nurse Earl who used to live at Sandringham Hill and was the District Nurse, she used to drive about in her little black car with her spaniel called Dinah for company. She never married but devoted her life to caring for others.

With retirement looming a lovely cottage became available at West Newton with an acre of ground. Barry has been a contractor on the Sandringham Estate for over 30 years so we decided to move. It is one of the best decisions we ever made and we have lived there since September 2007. It is only a very small village but the people are so friendly and there is always so much going on. We continue our happy and contented life as always - Barry with anything to do with the outdoors, walking our three dogs through the woods, shooting etc and me the forever home-maker looking after the family and helping out wherever needed, especially looking after Aaron. In July 2002 we attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations at Sandringham House and in July 2007 we were invited to a Garden Party held at Buckingham Palace but the highlight so far is being presented to the Queen at our friend's retirement reception last January. I could never have imagined when I was growing up that from my humble beginnings I would one day rub shoulders with royalty - as the old saying goes "It's better to have been born lucky than rich".

Sadly with the passing of my sisters Joyce and Shirley and my brothers Samuel and David my large family is now down to nine. With the exception of my sister Pauline who lives in Yorkshire we all live locally.

Hazel Buxton ▶

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As I was too late for the new Dersingham Data here are the latest details for Dersingham Cricket Club. We play on the Sports Ground in Manor Road from April to September in the Norfolk Alliance League with a 2nd team in the West Norfolk League, a team in the Mid Norfolk Sunday League and an U17 side in the Junior Carter Cup also played on Sundays. The club also has 4 junior teams playing mid week fixture.

New members are welcome, both social and playing. A bar is open for members (memberships available) on match day with a BBQ being held after weekend matches. For a free handbook including all the fixture or for any other information please contact Roger Poll (Chairman) 07860 255177, Richard Southgate (Club Captain & Junior coach) 07909 875549 or James Havers (Secretary) 07748 630051

Roger Poll

I was recently given a copy of Dersingham Village Voice and was amazed to read about my family. Alexander and Florence Fisher were my grandparents, Alex and Edna my aunt and uncle and Marie is my mother.

Just to let you know my aunt Edna is still in good health although slightly deaf. My mum is 94 and lives independently in King's Lynn. She still enjoys dancing twice a week and goes into town by bus to do her shopping. She enjoys sewing and often talks of making costumes for the village pantomimes and shows, some of which were organized by grandad Fisher.

Marie Harrison

I was very interested to read the letter from Pat Linford, I went to King's Lynn Grammar school with Pat and was in the scouts at Dersingham with him when Mr Fisher was scout master. We helped with the crisps.

After many years I got in touch with Pat through Village Voice and the e-mail. I do enjoy Dick Melton's items.

I rode Norman Tower's horse, he was our butcher. My uncle married the daughter of Sam Daniels the landlord of the Ship public house in Ingoldisthorpe.

We return to Norfolk for two weeks each year to catch up with friends and relations. Alec Howard a cousin is still in a bungalow in Centre Vale, my parents lived in a cottage in Centre Vale when they first married, then moved to Lynn Road. Dad was a Parish councillor, in the observer corps, played football for Dersingham and became a referee, and was also very involved with the Methodist church. Many happy memories, re-ignited by Village Voice. I look forward to receiving the next copy.

Peter Hooks



My brother has just passed on to me the February 'Dersingham Village Voice' in which you ask in 'Editor's Notes' what are "Norfolk Biffins". They are hard, long keeping apples, formerly reckoned a winter delicacy when baked slowly under a weight, and eaten cold with sugar and cream. I shall now enjoy reading the rest of the magazine.

John Shorten

I am looking for the current whereabouts of Roger and Judith Turner, listed at 65 Valley Drive, Dersingham, from 1998-2005, for a school reunion for Roger. If you have any knowledge if they are still in the area please let me know or give them my contact details.

The school concerned is Trinity Grammar School, North London, where a Roger Turner attended 1954-1959, and we believe he married a Judith Wilcox in 1967. We also believe Roger trained as a teacher, but we are not absolutely sure this couple is the right one. I will write to the neighbours soon. Many thanks.

Peter Turner

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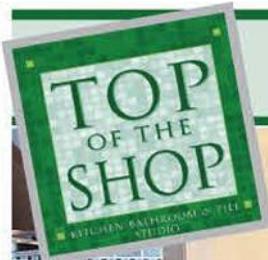
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on Friday 29th April, from 9.00a.m. onwards.

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.

Contact Neil Adams (01485) 540857 about Books and for general enquiries
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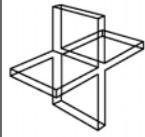


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1st Dersingham Guides

The leaders of the 1st Dersingham Guides - Jeanette Lister and Ann Saunders - retired at the end of 2010 after more than 20 years and over 700 meetings.

At their last meeting before Christmas the Guides arranged a surprise farewell party for their retiring leaders, known to the guides as Badger (Jeanette) and Chippy (Ann). At the party they were presented with cards and gifts, which included a Photo montage of their time as leaders, which had been signed by all the Guides. Celebratory cakes had been baked by two of the Guides. The Guides arrived before their leaders, enabling them to spring out into the hall when the lights were turned on.

The next day at the Scout & Guide HQ Christmas Coffee Morning and Draw they were presented with engraved vases on behalf of the HQ Committee, which comprises all the Dersingham Guide and Scout Leaders. The Presentation was made by HQ Committee Chairman Brian Greenacre.

Village Voice Sudoku No 16 Solution								
1	7	5	6	3	4	2	9	8
4	8	2	5	1	9	6	7	3
9	6	3	8	2	7	5	1	4
6	4	9	7	8	5	3	2	1
8	2	1	4	9	3	7	5	6
3	5	7	1	6	2	4	8	9
2	1	4	3	7	8	9	6	5
5	9	6	2	4	1	8	3	7
7	3	8	9	5	6	1	4	2

Guiding in Dersingham forms part of the Freebridge Lynn Guiding District, which encompasses units in Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe, Snettisham, Sandringham, Gayton and the Massingham Trefoil Guild. The leaders of these groups also wished to say goodbye and thank-you to Jeanette and Ann.

At their second meeting back on the 21st of January, the Dersingham Guides, along with their new leader, Marion Kirby, hosted an evening to which they welcomed District leaders, Trefoil Guild members and former Dersingham Guide Leaders. Jeanette and Ann were presented with gifts and cards by District Commissioner Judy Lane and a Memory poster made by the Guides. □

Elizabeth Wheeler

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St Nicholas Church News

April is a very busy month in our Church. **Coffee Morning** on the 1st at 10am to 12noon and followed by a **Lent Lunch** 12noon to 1.15pm, **Lent Lunches** will also be on the 8th & 15th.

Mid Week Communion - as well as our usual 1st Wednesday of the month short communion service at 12noon, during Lent there is one each Wednesday.

Mothering Sunday Family Service at 10.30am on Sunday 3rd April, where the children are invited to give out the potted pansies, supplied by the Mothers' Union, to all the ladies in the church.

Concert – Saturday 9th April at 7.30pm in Church by the Dersingham Descanters – they will be playing a number of musical items with their Hand Bells, tickets £3 on the door.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners-11th April 7.30pm, in the Church Hall, followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Maunder Thursday Communion Service – April 21st at 7pm

Good Friday – Walk of Witness. This starts with a short service in Church at 9am followed by a walk round the village with our Friends from St Cecilia's Catholic Church and the Methodist Church, with stops for a short prayer and hymn, finishing up back at St Nicholas Church Hall for Hot Cross Buns and a cup of coffee.

Church Vigil – from 12 noon to 3pm in the Church-a time of reflection.

Easter Sunday – 24th April 10.30am a Celebration Communion Service. **Grand Sale** – 30th April in the Church Hall from 9am to 12 noon.

As I said at the beginning a very busy month!!

In May we have as well as our usual **Coffee Morning** on the 6th there will be a **Coffee Morning in Aid of Christian Aid** on the 13th. **Open Gardens** – 29th & 30th May 2pm to 6pm with Cream Teas served in the Church Hall 2pm to 5pm.□



Pauline Martin

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'JUST DO WHAT IT SAYS ON THE TIN'

8 – 10 APRIL 2011

Interactive exhibition

8th & 9th April from 10.00 a.m. – 4.00.p.m.

10th April 12.30 – 4.00.p.m.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: NAOMI STARKEY

Saturday 9th April at 7.00.p.m.

Morning All-Age Worship Sunday 10th April at 10.30.a.m.

Naomi is an author and

a commissioning editor for the Bible Reading Fellowship

Come and explore the Bible

and discover its relevance to today

DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP



After the snow and ice of December it was pleasant to have better walking conditions in the new year. The two walks in January were both well supported with over 20 walkers on each despite the grey skies, although only six joined Steve Martyn for his walk on Sunday, 20th February. The day of the Wednesday walk in February again started with cloud but, by the time of the walk, the sun was shining and 23 of us enjoyed a fine afternoon walk at Brancaster. After some steep (!) climbs on Barrow Common, we were glad of a rest at the top to enjoy the lovely views of the coast.

Looking to the future, the leaders met in January to agree the walks programme for the summer. As some walkers had said that they preferred afternoon walks it was agreed that the summer programme would include both afternoon and evening walks. As a result we have fourteen walks planned for the period April to September. Details of the April and May walks are given below. Look out for details of our '**Nightjars and Glow-Worms**' and other walks in June and July in the next Village Voice.

WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL

Start at 6.00pm from Gayton Thorpe church (map ref. LI32/745 185). A 5 mile circular walk around Gayton Thorpe and Soigne Wood led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940).

TUESDAY 26th APRIL

Start at 2.00pm from the eastern end of Coxford village (just past Manor Farm) (map ref. LI32/849 297). A 5 mile circular walk around Coxford led by Steve Martyn (07879885516).

WEDNESDAY 11th MAY

Start at 6.30pm from Burnham Market village green (opposite Hoste Arms) (map ref. LI32/833 422). A 4.5mile circular walk around Burnham Market and Burnham Thorpe led by guest leader Brian Payne (532669).

TUESDAY 17th MAY

Start at 5.30pm from Dersingham old railway station (map ref. LI32/680 307). A 6 mile walk to (and around) Snettisham Bird Reserve led by Lindsey and Steve Davis (543138). The start of this walk is timed to enable us to reach the beach by high tide. The walk provides an opportunity for us to experience the journey that Steve has described in his illustrated talks (although he does not guarantee that we will see the weasels!).

WEDNESDAY 25th MAY

Start at 2.00pm from the lay-by off A149 near Burnham Deepdale church (map ref. L132/804 443). A 5 mile circular walk around Burnham Deepdale Farm, Barrow Common and Branodunum led by Keith Starks (542268).

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.



Steve Martyn's Sunday group lunching with St Andrews, Bircham Tofts in the background

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.

Should you have a problem with transport to the starting point, if you let me know a few days before the walk, I will see whether a lift can be arranged.

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

Keith Starks (542268)



From the Parish Office

Spring is well underway, and I can hardly believe I've been 'Acting Clerk' now for more than six months! It's certainly been an entertaining and educational time and, thanks to a huge amount of help and support from councillors and parishioners, I am really feeling I am finding my feet in the parish.

In fact, there are two more new councillors since I last wrote – Steve Davis, already well known to many of you both personally, and through the pages of Village Voice, has gallantly volunteered to join the council. He is joined by Paul Groom, thus filling the places left by two retiring Councillors in February. This brings the number of council members up to sixteen of the maximum allowed eighteen for the parish – numbers that have been on my mind lately as the May 5th elections approach and all councillors must stand for re-election. Hopefully, by the time you read this, at least eighteen parishioners' applications will be safely delivered to the Borough Council Offices!

We are also starting to think about the annual Parish and Parish Council meetings, which will take place on May 16th this year – keep an eye on the noticeboards for details, and come along, everyone is welcome and it's a great chance to find out who your councillors are, and just what they are getting up to!

You may have noticed the village sign has now been repaired, and as the weather improves, we will be able to carry out several other repairs – the skateboard park, for example – that have been awaiting the better weather. Let's hope for a glorious summer to follow!□

Rosie Kitchen

Norfolk Hospice Tapping House Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe Volunteers

In my new role as ambassador for Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe I hope to increase the links and support for the hospice from our villages.

I have lived in Norfolk for over 40 years and in Dersingham for 20 years. During this time I have been a supporter of the hospice and a volunteer.

Several volunteers who live in these villages have already decided to meet to share ideas and see how we can gather further support for the hospice. If you would like to join us or would like to hear how you may become involved please contact me.

I am willing to speak or arrange a speaker, to give out information, help establish fundraising groups and feedback the needs and concerns of local people. My aim is to keep you in touch with hospice developments and events.

This is a very exciting stage in the further development and future of our hospice.

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More Glimpses of Life in a Norfolk Village by Maggie Grey

It was a bit like a scene from High Noon, or some other Western film. The village main street was deserted, there was a cool breeze blowing bits of litter along (the dustbinmen had been that morning) and as Elsie, the purveyor of village news and gossip, walked along to the Post Office, a strange car pulled up beside her. She quickened her step, mindful of strangers in cars offering sweets. She glanced sideways, carried on walking resolutely towards safety, as she now viewed the village shop, ignoring the 'Excuse me Madam, can you....?' from the open window the car as it kept pace alongside her. Not used to fast walking, she was soon out of breath, with a stitch in her side, and against her better judgement had to stop, placing her right hand on her side to squash the stitch, and her left hand somewhere in the region of her heart, doing an impression of 'be still my beating heart'. Putting her head down, she looked to the side and watched as the car pulled to a halt, the driver's door opened, and the man got out.

He walked around the front of his car asking was she all right? Elsie wondered what she had in her ancient bag that she could use to fend him off with, annoyed that this morning she'd brought her Roy Cropper special with the zip, and not the open gondola basket she'd had since the Sixties. But she knew that all she had inside were her pension book and purse, plastic rain hat, and a half-empty (not a half-full sort of person, our Elsie) packet of TicTacs - hardly much use in the art of self-defence. It was no use she decided, here she was, a defenceless, feeble old woman; there was nobody about to call on for help, it was just after lunch when most of the villagers along the main street were either still eating, having a snooze, or in the pub.

She looked up and saw a balding, slightly overweight man of medium height, sporting a growth under his nose to rival that of the green guru Dick Drawbridge as she called him. She used to watch him a lot, not so much for his green ideas but more to wonder at his moustache, imagine how much food it harboured and what would he look like without it? Anyway, she knew this man was 'official', there was just something about him.... bit stuffy looking, a regular jobsworth if ever she saw one, she thought.

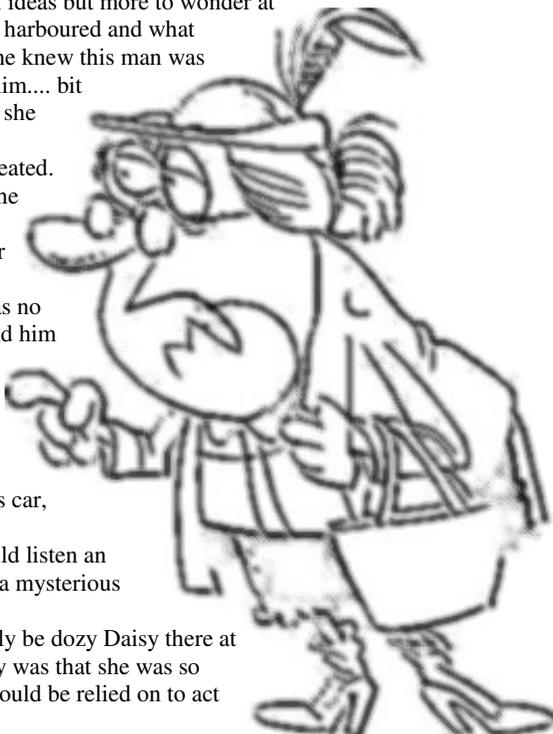
'Are you all right Madam?' the man repeated.
'Only I wonder if you could direct me to the garage please?'

Elsie's breath escaped from between her pursed, wrinkled lips in a Phew. She straightened up, realising that this man was no threat after all, just someone lost. Elsie told him the way to the garage with much arm gesticulation, even though it was simply a case of

'down the road, turn left and carry on up the hill for about a mile or so'.

The man thanked her and got back into his car, leaving Elsie to carry on to the shop, to give whoever would listen an embroidered account of her meeting with a mysterious stranger.

She knew that there would probably only be dozy Daisy there at this time of day, but one thing about Daisy was that she was so starved of excitement in her life that she could be relied on to act



with interest, even excitement. Unlike stodgy Esme who always had to come up with some comment to bring them both back down to earth.

Meanwhile, George-the-Vatman, for that was the driver of the car, arrived at the garage, prepared for a lengthy, tedious morning, but left at the end of the day with a rather smirky sort of smile on his face. Unlike the owner of the garage. Known to everyone in the village as the sort of chap you could rely on to help out when needed, an upstanding citizen and active member of the bell-ringers and Morris dancing troupe, it now seems that all this was a front. Behind the vivid green of his garage doors were some dodgy deals involving secondhand car parts being used in car repairs, but new parts prices being charged, amongst other things.

It wasn't long after the Vatman cometh episode that the garage closed its doors for good, causing plenty of speculation and interest (the male version of gossip) amongst the locals at the pub, particularly the male Elsie's of the community, who had of course, always had their misgivings. These gents took as much pleasure in discussing someone else's misfortunes as women do, but then the inconvenience of no longer having a garage close by struck home, and the pleasure went.

Now there is much speculation about what will happen to the site, quite a sizeable plot of land where the garage stands. One rumour is that a certain supermarket giant has plans to open one of its little pop-in type of shops, another is that some developer wants to build half a dozen starter homes on the site. No doubt there will be much discussion in the shop and pub, in the houses and the streets, when some sort of official announcement is made, and if it's to be something the villagers decide they don't want, then no doubt also, that the village stalwarts will be at the head of any campaigning, with Elsie to the fore of course.□

DISCLAIMER. Any resemblance between characters in the story and people with similar, or the same, names, businesses and so on, is purely coincidental. Any illustrations used are not of the characters or the village in the story. Copyright remains with the author.

"Bet you didn't know" -

"Dreamt" is the only English word which ends in "mt"

There are 2 words in the English language that have all 5 vowels in order - "abstemious" and "facetious".

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An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

All the ants in Africa weigh more than all the elephants!.

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The Sandringham Newsletter

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

The snow and ice of a few weeks ago already seem a distant memory, and the slightly milder conditions have allowed the normal winter outdoor jobs to be resumed. Corsican pines lining the road known as “The Bumpy Road”, from Double Lodges to West Newton, have been felled. This will allow light through to the trees behind, aiding natural regeneration and encouraging the new mile-long beech hedge which has been planted the length of the road. The several miles of thorn hedges that were planted last spring as part of a long-term effort to improve wildlife habitats suffered in the dry conditions of last summer, so forestry staff have been replacing plants where necessary.

On the farm, winter wheat is now coming through, hazing fields with a film of green, and drilling spring barley has begun. Farm staff are also spreading manure to prepare fields for later crops, trimming hedges and generally getting the farm ready for spring.

On the Fruit Farm, all the apples from last year’s harvest have now been pressed ready to be bottled. Some of the blackcurrant plantations near the Hillington road are being taken out to be replaced with strawberries and new replacement plantings are being carried out on higher land, near the apple orchards.

In the Gardens and at the Visitor Centre, recent wet and windy weather produced a very heavy late crop of fallen leaves to be tidied up. Gardens staff use blowers to collect the leaves into large heaps which are then loaded into trailers and taken off to be composted – leaf mulch is very valuable to improve some of the sandier soil in the gardens and help retain the moisture around the roots of shrubs and trees. Five stone vases which were originally sited around the Golden Jubilee fountain in the Walled Garden have been moved to the new border at the end of the West Terrace; they will be set against the hedges which frame the border to act as centrepieces.

The Visitor Centre has been open every day, including Christmas Day, as normal and the usual programme of winter work has begun there, too. This will include deep cleaning, repainting windows and doors, checking and clearing gutters, servicing the turret clock, replacing picnic benches and repainting signs. Regular visitors will have noticed a new addition to the Visitor Centre – “Everything Outdoor”, a small independent shop specialising in country clothing (from hats to boots, and including coats, jackets and knitwear) opened next to the Plant Centre before Christmas and is already proving popular with local dogwalkers and other outdoor people.

February felt like the longest month, not the shortest, this year with a succession of cold and grey days and very little sunshine. Fruit Farm staff have made a start on pruning in the apple orchards, with some 50 hectares (20 acres) completed so far. Gardeners have also been pruning, this time in the formal North Garden, where the lines of pleached lime trees need careful management to produce the green canopy that sets off the flower beds here.

A pair of rare apple trees have been planted at the apple juice pressing plant, built in a converted barn on the Estate; they are a variety called “Sandringham” which was raised by Charles Penny, Sandringham’s Head Gardener, and first introduced in 1883. The trees produce distinctive pink blossom, and the fruit is an eating apple, green skinned with red stripes, and keeps well in storage.

At the Visitor Centre, we were very pleased once again to welcome West Norfolk Befrienders for a coffee morning in the Terrace Restaurant. This small local charity pairs trained volunteers with older people who have become isolated, and by offering regular visits aims to help their clients maintain their independence and improve their quality of life. Clients, volunteers and trustees of the charity joined us for a very happy morning, full of lively conversation.

Although Sandringham House will open as usual at Easter, the Gardens and Museum will open before this, on Friday 1st April and work has begun spring-cleaning all the exhibits in the Museum. We have also begun putting together this year’s exhibition in the Ballroom of Sandringham House; 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 we

plan to mark His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh's 90th birthday in June with an exhibition entitled "Prince Philip and the Sea", which will bring together photographs, certificates and paintings from His Royal Highness's extensive collection of items both from his career in the Royal Navy and from his many other links with maritime organisations.□

Parish Council Report

The February meeting of Dersingham Parish Council began with a presentation by Peter Morris of the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel. Mr Morris drew attention to the possibility of designating 'No cold-calling zones' which would prevent any trader calling on residents without an appointment. Such zones were appropriate for relatively small housing areas where there were a significant number of people who might be vulnerable - such as sheltered accommodation - or where people have indicated that they might like the protection, such as those living in a Homewatch area.

Before a zone could be set up, all residents would be consulted and a minimum of 60% support would be needed before a zone was activated.

Mr Morris offered advice on stopping unwanted phone calls through the telephone preference service, and explained that Trading Standards would shortly be launching a direct email address for anyone wishing to contact them.

The Parish Council receives regular reports from the police about crimes in the area. The report covering the period from 19 January to 5 February showed a disturbingly high level of minor crimes, including four cases of criminal damage (three concerning cars and one at the Social Club); five thefts (all from gardens ranging from ornaments to a bird bath); one burglary (a break-in at the Cricket Club - nothing taken); two assaults, both minor; one possession of an imitation weapon; one case of child neglect; and one alleged sexual assault.

The Council found these statistics discouraging and is to ask the police to attend a future meeting to discuss what more could be done to minimise crime in the village.

Problems over the positioning of bus stops for northbound services in Station Road and Hunstanton Road were raised and the Council agreed to consult County Highways and the bus company about the possibility of re-siting some stops.

Two vacancies on the Parish Council were filled by the co-option of Paul Groom and Steve Davis.□

Paul Burall

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The Peregrine Falcon

by David Bingham

picture by Mike Langman (RSPB Images)

Far to the north the falcon tilted downward and slid slowly through sun and shadow towards earth. As her wings swept up and back, she glided faster. And then faster, with her whole body flattened and compressed. Bending over in a splendid arc, she plunged to earth. My head came forward with a jerk as my eyes followed the final vertical smash of her falling. I saw fields flash up behind her; then she was gone beyond elms and hedges and farm buildings. And I was left with nothing but the wind blowing, the sun hidden, my neck and wrists cold and stiff, my eyes raw, and the glory gone. From 'The Peregrine' by J.A. Baker (1926-1987)



I saw my first peregrine falcon on a warm summer's day at a time when they were a rare species, pushed to the western and northern margins of Britain by a combination of persecution and pesticides. The place was Dinas Island in Pembrokeshire – not a proper island but a rocky promontory separated from the mainland by a shallow dry valley – and I was there looking for a type of crow known as a chough. Choughs have glossy black plumage, scarlet legs and a scarlet curved beak. Locating a small flock probing for grubs in the short grazed turf on the cliff top was easy because they call out their name. Well sort of, their call has an electronic twang and lacks the flattened vowel sound I would use – imagine 'chough' said by a Cockney Dalek and you will be in the ballpark. I've never had the patience to sit and watch one type of bird for hours and this includes birds as rare and charismatic as the chough, so it wasn't long before the deep croak of a passing raven caught my attention and I went to the place on the cliff edge where it had disappeared from view. That is when I saw my first peregrine. She was sitting on a ledge above the sparkling blue ocean in a classic hunch shouldered peregrine pose, like a living gargoyle. I say *she* because peregrine females are considerably larger than males and as I recall it was a big bird - but this was my first sighting and the sunshine and excitement of the moment may be colouring my memory. Peregrines feed mainly on birds and the large females can take prey up to the size of a small duck - males tend to feed on pigeon sized prey. I didn't have long to enjoy the sight because the falcon looked up at me and then launched out over the sea and flew away in the direction the raven must have gone. This wasn't the end to the delights of the day because I also saw a pod of bottle nosed dolphins swimming close to the base of the cliffs and I had a strange close encounter with a family of foxes that were playing next to the footpath. I haven't been back to Dinas because I can't imagine a return visit being as good as this.

My second peregrine sighting was in another spectacular landscape in northern Scotland where the Findhorn River has cut a deep rocky gorge on its way to the Moray Firth. I'd been following a waymarked trail through some pine trees and had seen crested tits and loads of red squirrels. The trail arrow pointed left but my usual curiosity made me go straight on and I soon found myself grabbing onto overhanging branches as I slid down a steep muddy bank onto a wide pebble beach with the fast flowing river in front, backed by a vertical cliff face. I only had a few seconds to take this in before all hell broke loose. The alarm call of an osprey made me look to the right where four osprey fledglings had just left their nest, which was visible in a gnarled old tree on top of the cliff. The calls came from a parent bird that was frantically circling overhead. This was followed by a different alarm call as an agitated peregrine flew along the cliff face from the left –

obviously protecting a nest. I retreated up the riverbank as fast as I could - learning the valuable lesson that some signs are there for a reason.

Since these early encounters, the peregrine has made an impressive comeback and I regularly see lone birds flying over a Norfolk salt marsh in the winter or hunting over an upland landscape during the spring and summer. Usually, their powerful flight draws my attention. But occasionally it is the flash of a vertical stoop and an explosion of feathers as a peregrine makes a kill. They are the world's fastest creature and have been recorded travelling at an astonishing 242 miles per hour in a dive. They also have a very wide global distribution and I have seen them in various parts of the world. The most memorable of these overseas sightings was from a small outboard powered boat travelling along a river through the rainforests of Central America. A peregrine followed us, flying about ten feet up and twenty feet behind the boat. I was told that they often do this and that they are looking for waterfowl that become panicked by the boat and fly off towards the riverbank. I imagine the noise and sight of the boat hides the peregrine from view so the fleeing birds can be caught with ease. Intelligence is obviously an attribute that peregrines have in addition to speed and power.

Peregrines must have impressed the ancient Egyptians because they depicted the sun god and creator of the world Ra as a falcon – more like a peregrine than any other falcon but ornithology wasn't their strong point and their bird paintings and sculptures are a bit generic. They liked them so much that they also had another falcon headed sky god, Horus son of Isis. These gods are easy to tell apart because Ra always has a sun on the top of his head - so you have no excuse for mixing up your graven images!

If you want to go out looking for peregrine falcons, there are plenty of opportunities these days. Some cliff nesting peregrines have public viewing points such as the ones in Malham Cove, Yorkshire or the long established site at Symonds Yat Rock next to the River Wye. They also nest on tall buildings and some of these have public viewing points. It is worth trying Norwich or Lincoln Cathedral or Tate Modern.

My latest peregrine sighting was not in a wild landscape or on an iconic building. I saw one flash by as I waited at the traffic lights next to Netto's. A strange place for a wild falcon you might think. But there are loads of pigeons and doves in the docks for peregrines to hunt. There is also a tall cliff like building and the site is secure from anyone who may wish them harm. As well as these advantages I would guess that the port authorities welcome anything that eats pigeons and there are likely to be fewer chemicals on the streets of Lynn than out on Norfolk's farmland. I like to think that a peregrine is looking down on the shoppers as they rush around after cheap food and expensive television sets. If they were to look up, they would see a god – that definitely beats Bennetts!□

Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

Due to staff sickness, the Parish Council Office at 7b Hunstanton Road will be open at the following times until further notice:

Monday	10.30am - 2pm
Tuesday	10.30am - 2pm
Wednesday	10.30am - 2pm

Please telephone the office on 01485 541465 to check it is open before calling in, or to leave a message. You can also email to dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk.

In case of emergency, please ring the Acting Clerk on 07950 169244

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this .

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Topsy-Turvydom
(A Fairy-tale inspired by Jackie)
© Hugh Mullarkey March 2011

Baron Topsy was ambitious
He wanted to be King
But he had to win the Round Table vote
Before the people could be made to sing

Topsy leapt at this temptation
And jumped in to the soup
The Topsy-Turvy alliance
Was thus a pretty speedy coup

Now Turvy was a wizard
But of self-deceptive guile
Though his tricks were at first impressive
He had a very superficial style

King Topsy soon was ruler
Quite straight but very narrow
As regal as an eagle
With the wing-span of a sparrow

Topsy needed some magic
He needed to find the right trick
To make himself the ruler
Cos the nation was becoming rather sick

But Turvy still had a cunning plan
To change the voting system
So that Topsy would remain in power
But only with Turvy's permission

Sick of the other Barons
Who were taxing the people poor
And when they tried to seek forbearance
The Barons taxed them all the more

The State of Topsy-Turvydom
Was thus fostered and then created
But the people sang a different song
Feeling doomed and enervated

Turvy whispered in Topsy's ear
'Baron Topsy I'll make you King
If you'll give me the casting vote
I'll make the people sing

A Fairy-tale should be ending
With '....happily ever after.'
But it's much too early yet
For either tears or desperate laughter.

AND STILL THE FOREST SLEEPS by Sylvia Steele

Rabbits hide - hedgehogs sleep
The forest glade lies like a princess asleep
Awaiting the subtle touch of his gentle caress
And the warming kiss of Helios.
See the first faint prisms of his light
As they probe the gloom
Where rhododendrons wait to bloom
Nothing stirs - all is at rest
In burrow, dray, lair or nest
But wait -
It's not yet time - too soon light fades
Once more the forest hides in shade.



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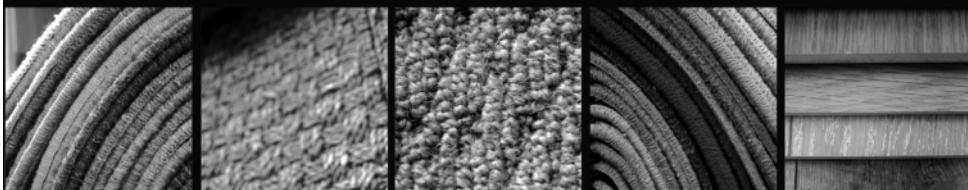
Old Picture Corner - then & now

An interesting one this time. The name -Lynn Road - is now Hunstanton Rd. It was still Lynn Road in 1911 so this is a later picture than that. No cables and posts, no pavements, recreation ground fence or view of the distant woods. Has the wall on the extreme left, still topped with railings, been lowered or has the path been built up? No doubt you will let us know.

Tony Bubb



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Dersingham Community Lunch Friday 21st January 2011

This first Community Lunch of 2011 was sponsored by A A Massen Ltd, and was as well-attended as these popular events are, with over 80 people attending in the St Nicholas Hall.

After a welcome by Simon Massen, Managing Director of the sponsors, there was a short presentation by Alison Thorne of Dersingham Library. Though suffering with (almost!) loss of voice, she managed to get her message across clearly about the library: 'use it or lose it'! And all were encouraged to join and make use of this valuable village asset.

The editor of Village Voice and organiser of the popular Village Voice Live events made a plea for more local groups to send their reports to the Village Voice, and for all to come along to the 'Live' monthly events.

Richard Shaw, Chief Executive of Norfolk Hospice Tapping House then explained the work of the hospice, and how it was enhancing so many people's lives in such a vital way. He explained that the Hospice relied on donations to carry out its work and appealed to all to give what they could to help.



Simon Massen



Alison Thorne



Richard Shaw



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All enjoyed a delicious lunch, efficiently provided by the skilled St Nicholas Church Catering Team, and the raffle raised well over £100 which this month was shared between the St Nicholas Church Hall Committee (with thanks for the free use of the hall for the lunches), and the Church Heating Fund. □ RK

"Bet you didn't know" -
 "Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand.
 "Lollipop" is the longest word typed with the right hand.
 "Typewriter" is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.



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Two years of Community Lunches by Bob Tipling

Your Editor has asked me to write on the subject of Dersingham Community Lunches, how they started, what their purpose is, how effective they are and what is the vision for the future.

It would be impossible for me to carry out this commission without also considering the beginnings and evolution of The Dersingham Village Voice, for it is from this publication that Dersingham Village Live and the Dersingham Community Lunches were developed.

The first issue of Village Voice was produced on behalf of Dersingham Parish Council in October 1997 (16 pages) – with a circulation of 2,000 by inclusion in ‘The Citizen’ free paper, the delivery fee being £25.00 per thousand copies

At the time of its introduction Peter Mirich was the Editor, but was to leave the village after Issue No.2, being succeeded by Teresa Southam, who very ably carried out these duties until Issue No. 23, when for some reason that I have yet to fathom, I was landed with the job!

Issue No. 24 (now 24 pages) published in July/August of 2003 was my first ever involvement in such a venture and so it was welcome that I had the support of the Communications Committee – Paul Burall, Stella Caunt, Tony Bubb and myself. As Editor I asked that I be given total autonomy regarding content, etc. and this was granted, leaving me with the task of selecting and editing contributions, searching for new contributors and acting as reporter, undertaking interviews. Tony (Photographer and Illustrations Editor) dealt with adverts, preparing the graphics and improving the appearance of pictures which appeared in the magazine as necessary. Stella (Layout artist and IT technical Consultant) being very computer orientated was responsible for typing and layout of the finished Desktop Publication before it went to the printers.

By Issue No. 25 we were producing 32 pages, which were still being subsidised by the Parish Council, but the Communications Committee decided that the magazine should become self supporting – advertisements paying for publication costs, with an agreement that the advertisements would not take up more than a quarter of the publication.

By now the circulation to domestic properties had increased to 2,300 with additional copies being placed in the shops and surgery, etc. We were still paying £25.00 per 1,000 for delivery to homes in the village, whilst I delivered from 300 to 400 copies to the shops, etc. (as I still do). Dependent on the time of year and anticipated visitors to the village the total print run was from 2,500 to 2,800

Having got my feet under the table I decided in January 2004 that we should prepare a questionnaire to see if we were providing what the villagers wanted, this was well received and gave us ‘food for thought.’

March 2004 saw the publication containing 36 pages, and Issue No. 28 May 2004 saw us produce a 48 page copy, and we were now fully self supporting!

Our 64 page Issue in April 2005 was to announce a completely new spin off from ‘The Voice’ when Tony Bubb came up with the idea of having an evening once a month at which guest speakers would demonstrate their various talents to a gathering of local people, this venture, as in the case of ‘The Village Voice’, being self supporting. From its first introduction on the 3rd of May 2005 when Stephen Martyn demonstrated the art of water colour painting, the evenings have gone from strength to strength, with a variety of guest speakers.

Having assisted Tony and myself in our endeavour to provide a magazine which was now being acclaimed as one of the best village magazines it was with deep regret that we had to report in the now 80 page issue in August 2007 that Stella Caunt had lost her fight with the ‘Big C.’ We were to receive many letters expressing sadness, and relating tales of her contribution to the village and to the College of West Anglia at which she taught computer skills.

It was in February 2008 that I resigned my position as Editor of ‘The Voice’ handing it over to the stewardship of Tony Bubb who was to be assisted by Stella’s brother Rob Smyth. They have taken the magazine to new heights, introducing many new ideas and producing it in colour – the

village now has a magazine which I believe is second to none when you consider the quality, quantity and the fact that no charge is made for local inhabitants to receive their copy, which is now being delivered door to door by a team of volunteers led by Steve Davis.

No longer a Member of the Parish Council, having relinquished the post of Editor of the magazine, and being unemployed, I suddenly found myself at a loose end and, following in the footsteps of Yosser Hughes in 'Boys From The Black Stuff' I approached Jonathan James of James Gravens Budgens saying 'Gizza job! Which he did!

Once in Jonathan's employ I was to discover how community orientated he was, particularly when he told me that he wished to start up an enterprise which had been inspired by him in his home town of Soham, that of Dersingham Community Lunches.

He was to explain to me that the Soham Community Lunches were a great success, bringing together business people and members of local organisations, once every two months, to a lunch of Soup and Rolls, for which they would pay a modest amount, to which there were approximately 20 people attending on each occasion.

His idea was that my knowledge of the village and its residents would be an asset in getting together the first lunch, which he would sponsor. This was arranged to take place at the Feathers Hotel on Thursday the 26th February 2009 and was attended by 40 people. It was such a success that James Thaxter of Thaxter's Spar and Garden Centre offered to sponsor a second event which was to take place at the Dersingham Methodist Church on St George's Day, again attended by 40 people. The mould had been cast and history will show that since that date there has been no problem in obtaining sponsors, many of whom have volunteered before being approached.

We are now into the third year of the lunches and not once have the attendees been asked to pay for their lunch, so proving that there IS such a thing as a free lunch! So what are the criteria for those who wish to attend?

CRITERIA FOR ATTENDANCE AT DERSINGHAM COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Attendees should represent one of the following;

A locally based business (commerce or trade)

One of the local Churches or any other Dersingham religious organisation

Sub-elements of the above – e.g: The Friends of St Nicholas

Dersingham Schools

A local nursery, playschool, or similar

Dersingham Surgery and Dersingham Surgery Patients Participation Group

Norfolk Constabulary, Dersingham Community Safety Team

The Sandringham Estate

A locally based charitable organisation such as Norfolk Hospice Tapping House

A local club, society or any other recognised local organisation

Whatever, it is essential that the attendees should be representative of an organisation which has relevance to the community of Dersingham, as it is the interaction between them which will help to contribute to the welfare of the residents of the village

Current practice is that lunches are provide on alternate months of the year, these being January, March, May, July, September and November and are normally arranged to take place on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, according to the availability of venues

Venues used to date have included The Feathers Hotel, St Nicholas Church Hall, Dersingham Methodist Church, St George's (CE) School, St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham Village Social Club and The Coach & Horses Public House. Sponsors in the past have been James Gravens (Budgens) on 2 occasions, Thaxters Spar Supermarket, Hawkins Solicitors, St George's (CE) School, Rounce & Evans Estate Agents with Rounce & Evans Property Management on two occasions, Dersingham Methodist Church, Dersingham Parish Council, Lynntony Restaurants Ltd (t/a McDonalds), Coach & Horses Public House, A.A. Massen Ltd and E.H. Prior and Sons, Butchers.

The lunches are timed to start at 12 noon, with guests arriving from 11.45 am. It has been my practice to be present at the venue from approximately 9.30 am. Lunch is usually announced at 12.10pm following an introduction by the co-ordinator and the host for the day.

Following the lunch speeches are made by guest speakers which are then followed by a raffle, the proceeds from which go to selected local organisations. To date the raffles and donations have raised in excess of £1,500.



Jonathan James front right. Photo - Stella Gooch

The sponsor pays the caterers directly, ensuring that no monies pass through the organiser other than those from the raffle which are distributed as soon as possible after the lunch, an announcement having been made as to the income received. It has been found that the lunches tend to run up to about 2 pm.

Invitation letters are sent out approximately three weeks before each event. Due to the size of the available venues, and in the interests of our sponsors, numbers are now strictly limited to a maximum of 84.

The price negotiated for each lunch has, with one exception, not exceeded £3.75 per head, but this may need to be reconsidered in the future due to increased costs.

In order to ensure that there is a good mix of people at each event attempts are made to ensure that the same people do not sit together on every occasion, and, with certain exceptions, people who are related or from the same organisation are not seated together. An attempt is also made to place at least one business representative and one Member of the Parish Council on each table. A table listing and programme sheet is supplied to each attendee on arrival along with an identity badge. A full table plan is also displayed at the entrance.

Future sponsors already arranged are:

Dersingham Methodist Church – providing their own catering – Dersingham Methodist Church – Thursday 19th May 2011

Dersingham Parish Council – BBQ at Feathers Hotel – 21 July 2011

James Gravens (Budgens) – Date and venue to be arranged

Hawkins Solicitors – Details to be arranged

It has been the practice in the past for ALL arrangements to be made by myself as co-ordinator, subject to final approval by the sponsor. Having pre-arranged the sponsors and speakers, and a decision taken as to which organisation(s) will benefit from the raffle, preparation for each lunch entails;

The distribution of invitations by e-mail (BCC used to protect privacy of individuals) approximately 2/3 weeks before the event. The invitation will normally include a request for raffle prizes

Distribution to those without e-mail access (hand delivery or post)

Follow up of those who have not responded approximately 9 days before the event

Letting caterers know of anticipated numbers 7 days in advance (this has to be balanced to allow for last minute cancellations and unexpected arrivals)

Preparation of the printed programme as soon as it is finalised

Planning and printing of the main table plan and the handout sheet (to be printed on the reverse of the programme) – this is a last minute job, usually done the afternoon prior to the lunch

In planning the table arrangement the number of people allocated to each table should be no more than eight and no less than six, with the sponsors and speakers placed together.

On the day of the lunch;

The organisers are present from 9.30 to 10 am for setting up the room, laying out raffle prizes, etc. Everything should be in place, with somebody stationed at the entrance to distribute badges and handouts by 11.45 am. Flyers advertising forthcoming events, etc. will be placed around the tables if made available

Raffle tickets will be on sale as people arrive, and throughout the lunch in order to raise the maximum possible income

Following an introductory welcome by the MC and the sponsor, the lunch will be announced at roughly 12.10pm

When it is thought that most attendees have had desserts and beverages the speakers will be introduced by the MC

After the speeches are concluded the raffle will be drawn and thanks will be given to the sponsors and the catering team

The guests will then depart as they wish

It may be noted that some guests leave before the end of the proceedings. This is acceptable as many are in business and are limited to the length of time available for lunch, whereas others may have appointments to keep.

What of the future?

Having carried out the duties of Co-ordinator for two years during which time I was bearing the cost of the administration (printing of programmes, envelopes, etc.) I felt that it was time for new blood to be introduced and asked for volunteers, not expecting to get any!

Surprise, surprise! Two people asked if they could help, being Steve Sergeant, who has assisted me by selling raffle tickets at our last two or three lunches and is now our designated Events Organiser, and someone who is well known in the village - Suzy Daniels, who has been talked into being Treasurer. They decided at our first meeting that my new title should be that of President, although I am not sure if that is not intended to ensure that I get the rotten tomatoes if anything goes wrong!

We have had a few meetings now and are looking at changes which could improve the lunches, and also at how the lunches could be adding to the negative coffers of the Lunches, the first of these will be the introduction of a fee of £1.00 from each person who attends the lunches, payable at the door, effective from the May lunch (this will unfortunately end our run of 'free lunches')

We have already obtained sponsors to ensure that the lunches will continue at least to the end of this year, and, should we get a sufficient response, we are hoping to set up a Dersingham Community Lunches DINNER at the end of the year, for which those who wish to attend will be asked to pay the cost, we are currently looking at potential venues.

I believe that the Dersingham Community Lunches have a bright future and look forward to the support of all those involved – sponsors, businesses, clubs, etc. who make up the community of the village.□

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That's my business - Holkham Cottage B&B

Susie and Leo Crockett had a short break in Dersingham towards the end of last summer and fell in love with the village and the surrounding area so much that on the 18th of January this year they were delighted to become the new owners of the Holkham Cottage Bed and Breakfast establishment at 34 Hunstanton Road.

Susie, originally from Surrey started her working career in the airline industry as a stewardess. She later joined the Thames Valley police serving the community in Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire.

Leo was born in Hertfordshire. He carried out an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic in Letchworth, then after a spell working abroad as a tourist guide, he returned to the UK where he set up his own garage business. He successfully operated two garages in the Cambridge area for 25 years.

Running a B&B is a totally new experience for them both, an exciting venture and a new way of life. They are both enthusiastic and look forward to their new challenge.

Susie and Leo would welcome anyone wishing to view the accommodation or just popping in for a cup of tea. □



"Bet you didn't know" -
No word in English rhymes with month, **orange**,
silver or **purple**.



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Dersingham Disaster. by Barry Beales

Although I read with interest the articles on Dersingham history by Elizabeth Fiddick and Dick Melton, I find it hard to believe that there has been no mention of the greatest disaster that befell Dersingham which celebrates it's 500th anniversary this month. I am of course referring to the "Great Dersingham Rhubarb Disaster" which happened on 1st April 1511. In the 1500s Dersingham was home to a vast rhubarb works which owed it's success in no small part to it's proximity to the custard mines of West Newton and Fring docks from which rhubarb and custard was shipped to as far a field as Sedgeford, this became known as the "Rhubarb Triangle". The majority of the village people were employed at the works and rhubarb was their main diet, this was one of the reasons the village did so well in the inter-village sports especially in the 100yds sprint. This was due to the fact that the workers cottages had very long gardens and the "privy" was at the bottom!

However this was all to come crashing down when on 1st April 1511 Alf Porilo the Master Forcer at the plant noticed that there was a severe case of Rhubarb Wilt, a deadly virus He contacted the experts who told him to shut down the plant and open it up again and to install Norton Anti Virus and AVG,(see VV Steve Davis) but all to no avail and the plant closed a week later. As you can imagine this was a devastating blow to the village economy and the news made the national papers, one headline being "Village hit by Rhubarb Crumble". Other businesses went to the wall; a major employer was the Dersingham Rhubarb crisp factory (Dick Melton must remember this). The other being The Dersingham Rhubarb Ale and Porter brewery. Although sadly nothing is left today of this once great industry we do have a verse by Alan Wordsworth (William's great-great-great grandfather and the Hugh Mullarkey of his time) which goes as follows: -



When venturing west to Norfolk's coast
There is a place we all should toast,
A place which a ruby harvest yields
These are Dersingham's rhubarb fields.

COVER PHOTO COMPETITION 2011

This years subject is - **DERSINGHAM'S HERITAGE**

Get one of your pictures on the cover of the October Village Voice. Take a photo of your interpretation of Dersingham's Heritage. You may submit entries as prints or electronically, on a disc or by e-mail for the closing date of **Wednesday 7th 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



Dick Melton

Owing to my disability (foot in a sling) I have not been to Dersingham since October, only passing through on my way to the hospital, but I have plenty of people in the village to tell me what is going on. One event that took place on the Sandringham estate in the early part of December was the 2010

International Gundog League (IGL) retriever championships; there were 58 dogs taking part and many spectators, some of them from as far away as North America. These championships took part over three days: the first day at Ling house, the second day near Anmer and the third day down the marshes at Wolferton. When I worked for Brooke and Brooke from Hunstanton we often used to cater for gun dog trials on the Sandringham estate and elsewhere. I remember once we were serving lunch in a large potato storage shed when all of a sudden Her Majesty The Queen turned up. Well, we had no tables or chairs so she just had to sit on a straw bale with her lunch on her lap like every one else.

Whilst I am on the subject of Sandringham, I have just finished reading a very good book called *The Wildlife of the Royal Estates*. There is a lot in there about Sandringham: it was written by Robin Page. When he was doing the Sandringham section he was helped by Mr Monty Christopher, who had been head keeper on the estate but has now sadly passed away. This book gives you a good insight to all the wildlife that is just on our doorstep.

Police houses

I am always getting what I call 'blasts from the past,' and just the other day I had a young lady call me up by the name of Dawn. Her maiden name was Cooper and she lived at no 27 or 29 Lynn Road when she was a young girl with her two sisters and her mother and father, a policeman. In them days there were only three police houses in the village down Manor Road, so a lot of the policemen and their families had to live in private rented houses. One policeman lived in a bungalow at the top of The Drift and another one lived in Gelham Manor. This got me thinking about all the houses that have sprung up in the village since I moved there in 1945. There was only about twenty houses up Dodds Hill and Gelham Manor was still all fields, as was most of Centre Vale. As you go around the village now there is very little space left to build anymore but they still keep squeezing them in. We have a census this year: it will be interesting to see just what the population of the village is.

Employment when I was young

I was talking to a young man and he said to me, 'How did you get to work in Kings Lynn when you were young?' I said, 'You didn't.' Not many people worked in King's Lynn; most of them worked in and around the village. There was five garages and two or three builders that all employed men, and there was the flax factory at West Newton that employed men and women. The majority of the men from the village worked on the farms, not just in Dersingham but the surrounding villages. It was nothing for a farm like Stantons to employ thirty men; even a small farm like Hill House Farm up Fern Hill would have ten men work there; there were many more people at work on Sandringham estate. There was also some men from the village who worked for the Catchment Board looking after the river banks and the dykes down the marsh. A lot of women worked on the land for gangmasters; there was a parsnip washing plant at Shernborne, an onion factory at Hunstanton and a carrot-topping factory at Snettisham where a lot of them worked. After the second world war and up to the sixties there was plenty of work in and around the village. Also up till 1958 there was still call up or national service as it was known as, so there was a lot of young men like myself between the age of 18 and 20 who were in the forces and some of them would join up for longer.

Gritting of the roads

In the Village Voice Parish Council's note, gritting of the roads is mentioned. Well, it matters where you live: during the cold spell many roads that should have been gritted were not. Fifty years ago each parish was responsible for the gritting of the roads in that parish and a good job was

always done.

The local farmers or haulage companies would have a contract with the Council. In Dersingham, Mr Bird the coal man would be the main man. There would be a driver and two chaps on the back of the vehicle spreading the sand with shovels; they would not just spread it on the road but on the footpaths as well.

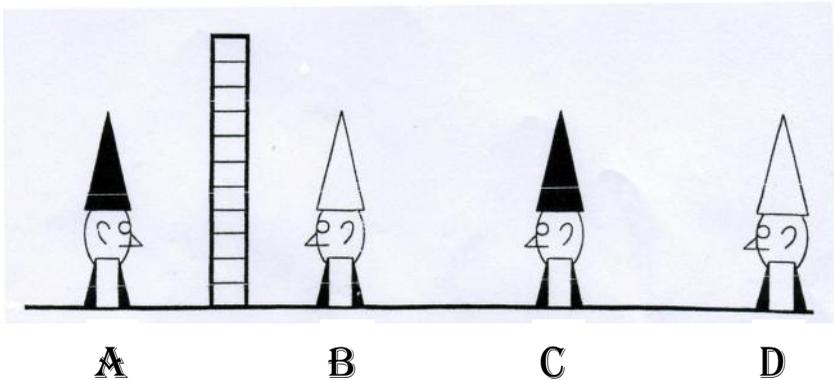
Also the village roadmen (lengthsmen) would have heaps of sand in vulnerable places around the village - like Eight Mile Stone Corner, Sandringham Hill, Shernborne crossroads and Dun Cow corner - that they would spread on the roads in these locations when it was icy. The gritting lorries are in so much of a hurry that most of what they spread misses the road. Bring back the roadman!

Seasonal food

Well, spring is on the way and it will soon be time for some cockles. The mussels have been very good this winter but there has not been many fish about round the beaches; cod have been very scarce. Thank goodness there has been plenty of rabbits about, this week I had a nice hare. Shellfish, fish and game are very good for you and it's much better than any thing you can buy in Tesco's.

Well, that's all for now, all the best.□

Firing Squad



Shown above are 4 men buried up to their necks in the ground. They cannot move so can only look forward. Between A and B is a brick wall which cannot be seen through. They know that between them are 4 hats, 2 x black and 2 x white, but they do not know which colour they are wearing. In order to avoid being shot one of them must call out to the executioner the colour of their hat. If they get it wrong, everyone will be shot. They are not allowed to talk to each other and have 10 minutes to fathom it out.

After 1 minute:

Q Which one of them calls out ?

Q. Why is he 100% certain of the colour of his hat ?

This is not a trick question. There are no outside influences nor other ways of communicating. They cannot move and are buried in a straight line. So A & B can only see their respective sides of the brick wall, C can see B and D can see B & C.

Answer on page 55

DERSINGHAM DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY



January 5th saw us all back at the Church Hall for the start of our Winter season. Although the weather was very cold we were able to keep warm and comfortable thanks to the central heating system and, for those who needed that little bit extra, some warm rugs. Unfortunately, as is usual at this time of the year, several members and volunteers were absent through illness, but we were back up to strength after a week or two.

Since Christmas we have been able to take six new members who have settled in well and, as I write, we have more members than we have had for quite a few years. However, membership is limited by transport and the number of volunteers, so for the moment we are up to our maximum and are operating a waiting list. Please don't let this stop you applying or recommending someone, because circumstances do change.

On the 12th January we held our Annual General Meeting and all the Committee Members agreed to continue to serve for the coming year.

On the 19th January we were entertained in the afternoon by the Heacham Songsters and everyone enjoyed a good sing-a-long, followed by tea and cakes.

We also had a visit from our Library staff to advise Members of the various services available to them. One of these is home deliveries which, for people who have limited mobility, is a real blessing. Hopefully Dersingham won't lose its Library under the council cutbacks, because it means so much to so many people, young and old alike.

Teresa English paid us a visit in February with her large selection of clothing for women and men. It gives those members who are unable to visit shops the chance to purchase things they need and also to buy some new clothes. Teresa chooses according to what she knows will be popular and her visits every three months are really appreciated.

February/March seems to be a popular time for birthdays and we had at least one to celebrate each Wednesday, so a variety of cakes helped finish off our afternoons. We were all pleased to hear that one of our longest serving members, Mrs Elsie Tuddenham, had at last been discharged from hospital and was now convalescing at The Close in Snettisham. Elsie went into hospital before Christmas and was there until the 15th February. She is settling in well, making good progress and hopes her friends will be visiting her there.

We are now looking forward to Spring and, hopefully, warmer weather. We are starting to plan our usual Easter Party and no doubt Carol, our crafts lady, will be encouraging the decorating of Easter Bonnets for our annual competition.

The Members and Volunteers at the Dersingham Day Centre wish all Village Voice readers a Very Happy Easter.□

Alice Worth

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From the arrival of new life to the loss of a loved one, Scent with love offer a service for supplying flowers for both events and everything in between. Our motto being, "whatever the occasion, all flowers should be Scent with love".

Our shop, located within the ground floor of an original Victorian house, is an Aladdin's cave of quality fresh flowers, home fragrances, silk and artificial blooms and foliage, vases and choice giftware.

For all occasions, Scent with love can supply beautiful handmade bouquets and arrangements suitable for Birthday, Anniversary, Births. With their unique dealing of Weddings, all flower requirements are based upon customer requirements with additions of finishing touches by their qualified staff. (An appointment may be required at busy times).

When the sadness of the loss of a loved one or friend occurs, Scent with love will deal with the supply of Sympathy flowers and tributes with a sympathetic nature and professionalism that is needed at a difficult time.

As a supplier to many local businesses, we can offer corporate accounts, with varied terms which can be discussed with a member of staff.

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Bog News

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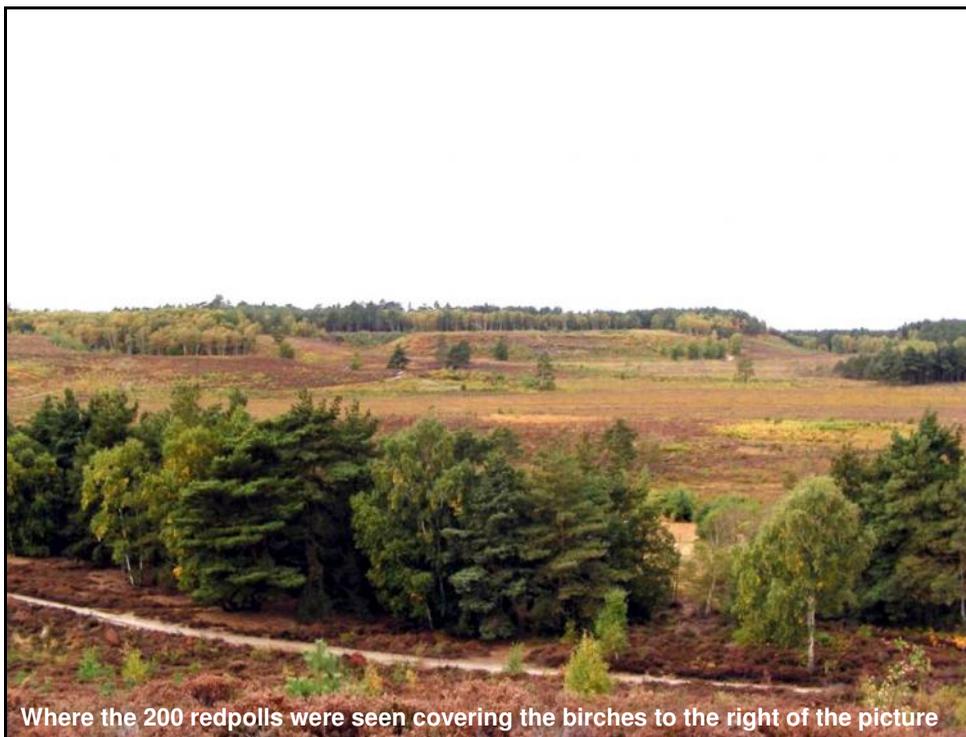
Great Spotted Woodpecker

The reserve at the moment has a very spring like feel to it. There are woodpeckers drumming around the site most days and lots of birds are beginning to sing and display.

At this time of year one of the key bird species for the reserve begins displaying and looking for a territory. This bird is the woodlark which is a similar bird to a skylark but with a slightly different song and build. The woodlark is a ground nesting bird and is therefore vulnerable to disturbance.

At this time of year we ask that dogs are put on leads or under close control (less than 2m). There is a very important reason for this. If a dog is loose off the lead and it comes across a nest of a woodlark or nightjar the bird will fly off its nest to protect its chicks or eggs and try and divert the dog away from the nest. If the dog is around the nest area for a long time the bird is unable to sit back on the nest. If lots of people or dogs disturb the nesting birds they are likely to be off the nest for a long period of time and over the course of the nesting season this adds up to a long time. Ultimately this may lead to a failure of the nest as the eggs or chicks will not have been incubated and looked after. Ground nesting birds such as Nightjar, Woodlark and Tree pipits are very important species at Dersingham Bog NNR and we ask that you would help their conservation by keeping dogs on a lead or under close control between the 1st February and 1st September.

This year will hopefully see the introduction of cattle back to the reserve. We are hoping to start with six cows and build a herd on the site to help with the ongoing management of Dersingham



Where the 200 redpolls were seen covering the birches to the right of the picture

Bog NNR. The cows will help with the management of the scrub on the site and provide areas of poached ground (muddy areas) which will help with the establishment of the heather and important valley mire plants. Cattle can also be disturbed and dogs are required to be on a short lead no more than two metres in the vicinity of livestock.

In my last article I mentioned about a colour ringed stonechat that I had spotted on the reserve. I recently received the information through from the British Trust for Ornithology and the bird was rung at Weybourne near Sheringham in August 2010. The bird had travelled 47km and although this is not a big journey it is quite interesting to note the movement of birds within the county.

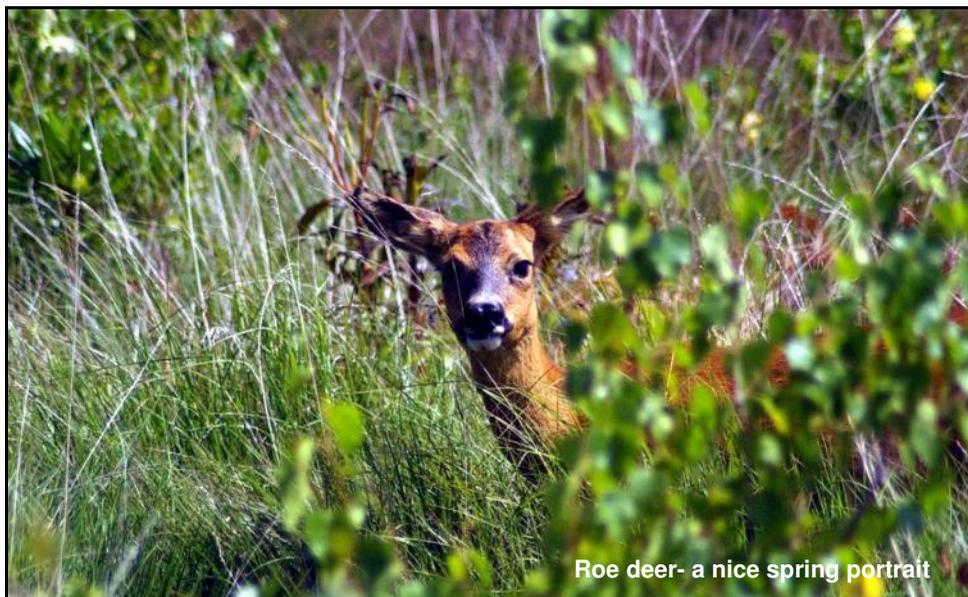
We have noticed the Stonechats pairing up around the reserve and there has been a quite visual pair been seen around the boardwalk and steps area. One of the highlights for me last month was seeing a flock of around 200 redpolls feeding on the silver birch around the small pond. This was an amazing sight as they were covering the tree like ants and flying acrobatically around.

With the birds beginning to pair up and sing we begin our survey work on the bird populations. The common bird census is the technique we use to survey the birds on the site and this involves ten visits to the site on a predetermined route. We then walk the route mostly in the mornings and some dusk visits and record all the birds we see or hear. At the end of the survey season we create visit maps for each separate species and from this we can work out the number of territories of each species and their location.

Our volunteers have worked hard this winter on clearing the scrub from the site and we have made a real visual difference to the site. We have also repaired the fence around the reserve in preparation for the cattle arriving on the reserve. This involved checking the boundary of the fence and marking and replacing any loose posts. At the last count we had replaced well over 150 posts by hand.

With spring in the air it almost feels like we have left winter behind and with the birds singing and the trees budding up spring has surely sprung. I look forward to seeing you on the reserve and hope you enjoy the spring. □

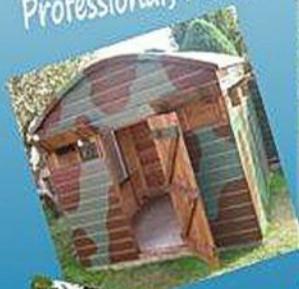
Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden, Natural England, Dersingham Bog NNR
thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk



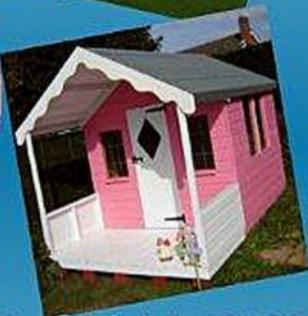
Roe deer- a nice spring portrait

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Dersingham Cubs help raise funds for leprosy by Stella Gooch

On 24 January 2011, Dersingham Cubs were visited by a local lady, Veronica Welham, who voluntarily helped raise funds for The Leprosy Mission. Veronica explained to the children about the difficulties that a person suffering from Leprosy had to live with. She explained the disease was prevalent in countries where the people faced other difficulties such as starvation.

To demonstrate more meaningfully to the children what it meant to suffer from Leprosy, volunteer "Leper" were requested to role play in a short story and Jamie was told he would be the person who could read and write and Callum was to look after the goats. Then Veronica explained how first they would catch a cold and then a white patch would appear on a hand or leg. It would feel hard and numb to touch but would not hurt so the afflicted person would be able to continue their every day lives as normal.



Jamie demonstrates how a leper loses the use of his hand and eyes

Young Callum got better as his wife took him to a hospital where tablets were supplied to him for six months after which he was back to full health. Unfortunately, poor Jamie's patch did not improve. In fact the number of patches increased and one day he could not feel his hand. Jamie then goes to the local witch doctor and is given a smelly green ointment. This does not cure anything and in fact makes matters worse as Jamie now cannot feel at all. The disease had attacked all his nerve endings and eventually the nerve endings died off and the hand became gnarled. Then his foot cannot be used to walk on properly - in fact he is dragging it along. At this point, Jamie is beyond a cure but if he received appropriate medication now this would prevent the problem worsening further.

The volunteers then rejoined their friends and Veronica explained that Leprosy can also settle in your face and even affect your eyes and make you blind. She also pointed out to the children that the poor Lepers would also have to endure being outcast from their community and family environments where they were left with no choice but to beg to survive as best they could on their own.

Having enjoyed this very eye opening talk - even I learned a thing or two I had been unaware of - Veronica then explained to the children that collecting stamps could raise the money needed to help support the work of The Leprosy Mission whose task it was to try and eradicate the suffering caused by this awful disease of biblical times.

Veronica said that demand for all types of stamps was now very high - even the most common ones. She explained that the stamps needed to be trimmed leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " border of paper around the edges. After a brief demonstration the Dersingham Cubs broke away into small groups and started sorting and trimming loads of stamps to do their bit for their Community Badge and help The Leprosy Mission at the same time.

This type of support is growing throughout our local villages and Veronica and the other local support workers hope that Dersingham can help too. Just start collecting stamps from your post (leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ " border of paper around the edges of course) and ensure they get to the right place. Locally, you can leave donations of used postage stamps at: Dersingham Scout Hut; or Peter Sutton's estate agency in Post Office Road.□

If you are a local business and would like to be a collection point for stamps for this worthy cause please contact Veronica at 01485 532812 or email her at: v.welham@btopenworld.com.



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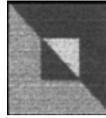
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Old Girls Patch by Meetze

I found out where Granddad came from! He is from the RSPCA. That is where Beauty and Stumps are from as well. Granddad was left behind in a rusty car, when the owner moved away. How cruel is that?!

Speaking of the RSPCA, we had another visitor, or better two. One two legged one, called Laura, and a very tatty looking tiny cat. Laura is the Lady who was fostering Beauty and Stumps and Granddad and now she brought Tiny Tatty, as I will call her for now. Tatty is very bony and full of matted fur. She makes constantly noses, that sound sort of a grumbling or snoring. And sometimes she sneezes, which sounds extremely funny. Apparently she has an allergy.

I like Laura. She is very cheery and nice and gives me loads of cuddles and takes pictures (she even puts them on Facebook) of me and feeds me treats when she visits. She does the same to the teenagers Sidney and Johnnie and of cause to Stumps, Beauty and Granddad. Granddad still wobbles and my 2-legged friends found out that he was given by mistake the wrong medication from the vet. Did no harm, but did no good either.



As we are on the subject “wobbling”, Sidney is limping. And crying. As you guessed it, he had to see the doctor. But at the vet he was no longer limping, but he got an anti-inflammatory injection anyway. Back at home he was limping again. So it was decided that he has “selective limping syndrome”. I watched him for a while and noticed that he was limping really expertly when he was in sight of our 2-legged friends, but when he was

playing upstairs with Johnnie, he forgot about it. Boys!!! They are all the same. Granddad has selective hearing syndrome.

Tiny Tatty turned out to be really cuddly and purry. But she had to go under the clippers. With some help from the treat department that went really well and now she looks even smaller than before.

Our 2-legged male friend is complaining lately a lot. Apparently there is nowhere to sit for him, as all the comfy chairs are occupied by us. His fault. First comes, first sits, first comfy. And then there was the issue with the spade. Apparently it is not called a spade anymore, as my big friend found out when he went to an interview. It is now called “a manual operated vertical shaft extender”. I think it is a spade. It looks like one to me. And the best bit is, I found out that we can grow thumbs. I saw it on TV the other night. I mean, I really saw the thumb growing on those puddy cats in the add. How cool is that? I need to find out what I have to eat or do to grow them. I hope it is a lot of nice oily fish that we have to eat. Right then, got to go, got to google the thumb growing I think. □

"Bet you didn't know" -

**There are only 4 words in the English language which end in "dous" -
tremendous, horrendous, stupendous and hazardous.**

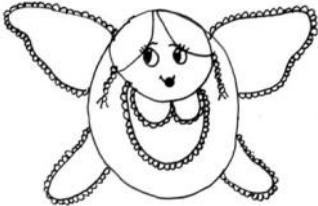
Fairy Mo says 'NO'

by Georgie Watts



'There was a girl called Fairy Mo
with ideas up her sleeve and mischief in her toes
Never stop still and always on the go,
she preferred to eat sweet and her favourite word was, 'NO!'.

'Come and get your shoes on, little Fairy Mo,'
But she was busy drawing, so Fairy Mo said, 'No!'.



'NO!'

'Eat all your dinner up, little Fairy Mo,'
But she was busy singing, so Fairy Mo
said, 'No!'.

'Don't run off, watch the road, little
Fairy Mo,'
But she was busy daydreaming so
Fairy Mo didn't think to say, 'No!'

A car came down the road and wooshed right past her foot
'Oh gosh I didn't notice that, I really should've looked!'

Little Fairy Mo
turned right around and said,
'That was close, I'm really scared,
I should've used my head!'

'Come on, give me a hug.
I'm glad you've now seen sense,'
and Fairy Mo ran up to her
and said a great big,
'YES!'



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New Parish Councillors

Paul Groom



I was born in Heacham where I grew up. On leaving school I worked for a local builder with the promise of a carpentry apprenticeship that did not materialise. I worked on a farm for a short period of time in Heacham.

After leaving the farm I started work for County Council Highways Department in 1982 whilst studying on day release and in the evenings for further qualifications and this allowed me to eventually gain a Engineers role and management position within the Highways Department of the County Council where I am still employed.

I moved to Dersingham in 1984 when I got married to Tracey, we have three daughters: Kelly who now lives in South Wootton with her partner Daniel, Zoe and Kirsty who still live at home.

In what spare time I have I enjoy golf, football, walking Jack the Labrador and going to the gym as much as possible. By joining the Parish Council I hope to work for the benefit of the community.

Steve Davis



As my time as Senior Lecturer in Computing and IT at Mid-Kent College of Higher and Further Education was drawing to a close, our three children had all flown the nest now with families of their own, and our attraction to the countryside and coastline of Norfolk grew ever stronger, my wife Lindsey and I moved to Dersingham in December 2006.

Whilst here I have been self-employed in home computing consultancy, the production of greeting cards for our occasional local craft stalls, the odd spot of musical entertainment but above all with voluntary community involvement.

I am a volunteer at the Snettisham RSPB Reserve, helping to share the rich natural heritage that it has to offer. I help with the planning and leading of the Dersingham Walking Group walks. Christian commitment has always played a big part in my life and although more predominantly connected in the past with the leadership, lay-preaching and musical provision within the free-churches, we now enjoy involvement at St Nicholas Church here where I sing in the choir, play my guitar when possible and help with leading a Mid-Week Fellowship Group and informal worship activity.

It is however most certainly through involvement with the Village Voice magazine, its distribution, the Communications Committee of the Parish Council, the Village Voice Live meetings, and the Community Lunches that I have sought membership of the Parish Council, a step I would never have even dreamt of when we arrived!

Indeed both Lindsey and I have developed a great affection for Dersingham, its people and the surrounding area and would claim the last four years to be some of the best of our lives.

Through my work here, I enjoy exploring the far reaches of our village, whether by bike or on foot, and being able to take time to engage residents in discussion on village life, their hopes and concerns. I trust that this will continue so that I can truly represent the best interests of a



The Dersingham Weather observed by John F. Murray

I am very glad to say that the extreme weather of November and December last year did not continue into the New Year. The most noticeable aspect of the weather was the winds. In January we achieved gusts of 40 miles per hour over a prolonged period of windy weather. The previous two Januaries produced only 27 and 33 miles per hour. The highest I have ever recorded was 41 mph back in March 2008.

January turned out to be a pretty mild month with an average of 4.3°C. Last year when, if you recall, we were in the grips of heavy snowfalls and very wintry conditions, the average was only 1.9°. In 2009 it was 3.3° but 2008 was an unseasonal 7°! The maximum recorded was also higher than the previous two years with 13.4° compared to 8.6° and 9.5° respectively. Once again January 2008 was warmer with a recorded 14.1°C. Minimums for this January were almost the same as the previous two years, with all three being about -5.5°C but again 2008 was warmer with -0.6°.

This January we had 52.2mm of rain compared to 51.8 last year. However January 2009 was 70.9mm and 2008 was 94.2mm. The much warmer weather that year therefore produced almost twice the precipitation. This indicates that January 2008 was a very overcast month, keeping in the warmth of the day but causing lots of rain to fall. It would be interesting to have readings for the amount of sunlight recorded then. My weather station has the facility to do this with an additional sensor but I did not think it necessary when I bought it. Maybe I will consider it in the future.

February proved to be a mild and dry month. The mean temperature was 6.6°C, considerably better than last February where the average was only 2.8°. The two previous years were 4.3° and 5.3°. The lowest recorded was also warmer than previous years with -2.2°, compared to -5°, -2.9° and -5.9° respectively. The best temperature recorded was also pretty respectable at 14.2°.

The rainfall for February was 48.2mm compared to 80.8mm last year and 60.7mm in 2009. Once again however it was the wind that was noticeably higher. This year the average for February was 4.4mph. Last year it was only 0.1mph. The two previous years produced averages of 2.2 and 3.9mph. There are several reasons why this could be so, but from studying the Met. Office charts, it would seem the most likely cause was high and low pressure areas being close together. Low pressure areas revolve anti-clockwise and high pressure areas revolve clockwise (in the northern hemisphere that is!) when they are close together they produce a channelling effect which produces high winds.

If you recall in a previous article I said that my vegetable crop last year was poor because of a late and severe winter with a short but intense summer. This winter was also bad but it happened much earlier. My hope is that this spring the ground will warm up much earlier than last year thereby lengthening the growing season. This is not a prediction! I am merely hoping that because the signs are there that this will be the case.

In February there were 213 hits on the weather web site, showing that you are, like all good English folk, interested in the weather. Remember that to get there you go onto the Dersingham Parish web site and follow the weather link.

Here's hoping for a positive change in the weather for the coming spring.□



Steve Davis The Language of Lurve

“Birds do it, bees do it, even educated fleas do it, let’s do it, let’s fall in love!” as Cole Porter’s song has been rolled out over the years by so many artists. I am not sure about fleas, whatever their academic status, but I certainly love to hear the birds doing it at this time of year with their early dawn chorus of love song. Like many I

have spoken to, we are getting increasing numbers of colourful birds visiting our feeders, especially goldfinches that seem almost as common as sparrows once were. Several chaffinches, greenfinches, great-tits, blue-tits, coal-tits and long-tailed tits too, all wolfing their way through sunflower hearts, Niger seed and fat blocks, as if there is no tomorrow! No doubt stocking up for the serious business of love-making, home-building and family-raising. Even the birds not normally agile enough for hanging feeders like robins, dunnocks, blackbirds, starlings, collared doves and (if we let them get the chance) wood pigeons will all try their luck! This year we have been delighted to be graced with the odd visit too from a siskin and a redpoll, which I just managed to catch on camera. As Spring spreads its delights of colour and texture through our gardens and countryside, and slowly the air warms up, it is little wonder that so much poetic and other linguistic expression is given to this season of love and new life, whether from a faith perspective, nature appreciation, or simply chasing a mate!



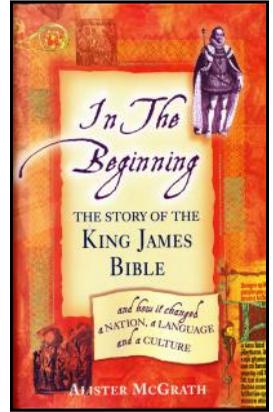
I remember as a choirboy that Spring and the approach of Easter could be quite lucrative where weddings were concerned with up to four on a Saturday afternoon at half-a-crown a time! In those days nearly all seemed to choose Henry Baker’s hymn *The King of Love my Shepherd is*, and Charles Wesley’s *Love Divine all Love’s Excelling* (to the English tune), and brides would not dream of entering to anything other than the organ playing Wagner’s *Bridal Chorus* (to which many words had been added in the school playground) or leaving to anything other than Mendelssohn’s

Wedding March. Now of course things are a bit different, as couples seem to seek more originality and stamp their own mark on their nuptial arrangements especially where choice of music is concerned, invariably entering to a favourite CD track. Lindsey and I once attended a wedding where we were surprised by the bride entering to the rendition of *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* by the late Hawaiian singer/ukulele player Israel “Brudda Iz” Kamakawiwo’ole which you can find along with many of his other hits on *YouTube*. I understand too from Channel 4’s annoyingly compulsive programme *Million Pound Drop* that July to September are now apparently the more favoured months for weddings, perhaps because of the better weather prospects, though these days who can tell? Of course, in the past a Spring wedding choice may have had as much to do with the possible tax-back incentive for the working woman to marry just before the end of the financial year. I still cling to the more romantic reasons though, even if we ourselves were married in August – but that was betwixt academic years whilst I was still a student!

In the previous edition of *Village Voice*, Rev Kim Nally mentioned that 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible and of the many celebratory events that will take place. Already the BBC has put out two programmes presented by Adam Nicholson and Melvyn Bragg delving into the political and literary significance of this work, and I guess others will follow before the year is out. A simple *Google* search on “*KJV 400*” will bring up a whole host of event information though will perhaps not mention our own celebratory service at St Nicholas Church on the morning of Sunday 19th June.



Although like many I grew up with the King James Bible, thinking simply that it was *the* Bible, I became far more enthused, from my late teens onwards, by the more modern translations as they came out. The *New English Version*, the more colloquial *Good News Version*, then the *New International Version* and the more radical *Message Bible*; words that I could latch onto, make sense of and even challenge as I read through them over the years. I did however find a lot more sympathy with the old *King James* a few years ago when I happened to catch an interview on the BBC Radio *Today* programme with Alistair McGrath, then Professor of Historical Theology at Oxford University and Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, with prolific publications to his name. He was talking about his latest book *In the Beginning – the Story of the King James Bible – and how it changed a nation, a language and a culture*. What inspired me was hearing the way he enthused over the fact that contrary to modern popular belief, it was not how people spoke



back then in 1611, but rather written using language and phraseology of a more expressive, intimate and passionate nature akin to that of Shakespeare that excited and made it so desirable and accessible to many more folk than the translations that had gone before. Indeed he and others claim that the *KJV*, far from merely reflecting the common language of the time, had greatly contributed to its development and the expressions and turns of phrase that we use even today. McGrath's very readable book gives much insight into the motives, life and times and I see it is still available from sellers attached to Amazon.co.uk, (or you might even twist my arm into lending you my copy!) The Bible, whatever the version, need not be seen as the preserve of the deeply religious or committed church-goer but a book (or rather collection of books) well worth a read; around three pages a day for a year would see you right through it, or just read one of its 66 books as you would a novel or, in the case of *Psalms*, a book of poetry. There is no end of stories of faith, battles and political struggles but above all: expressions of intense intimacy, love and passion in all its forms to the highest level. This year, I am working my way through the so called *New King James Bible* that attempts to preserve the majestic style and form of the original, whilst updating the more archaic and obsolete words and phrases. The complete text of all these and a whole host of other versions can be accessed, searched and compared at www.biblegateway.com, although sadly missing is the *Bible in Cockney Rhyming Slang* (*well bits of it anyway*) that I once owned but unfortunately lent and never got back!

I suppose for me, as indeed many, music will always embrace the language of love, whether sacred or secular. I enjoy the opportunities I get to play my guitar and sing at the Gables Residential Home or the Day Centre in the Church Hall and recently for West Norfolk Befriending's New Year lunch at the Sandringham Visitor Centre. We get through a fair range of songs, old and new (or nearly new), and it is a treat to hear everyone joining in with such gusto in songs like "*Can't help falling in love*" or "*All I have to do is dream*". Through the winter months I have been leading a series of ten Sunday afternoon sessions entitled *Winter Warmer Worship* at St Nicholas Church, the last of which will be on 10th April at 3pm (to which any are welcome). In them we have sung our way through quite a variety of items from the relatively modern *Songs of Fellowship* books, but I think really it is back to Charles Wesley in the last line of his hymn *Love Divine* that for me sums up my overall aspiration for worship, which is of being "*Lost in wonder, love and praise.*"

Next week I am off again (hopefully) with my friend on our postponed three-day trip around the WW1 battlefields of Ypres in Belgium, staying at Talbot House, the original Toch H club at Poperinge. Although initially planned as a train and cycle excursion, we are now taking the more expedient option by car, albeit with our bikes onboard. I trust I may be able to report more on this in the next issue. Until then, I wish you a very lovely Easter!

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

The Norfolk Workhouse Experience

Village Voice Live Tuesday 1st February

If you have ever wondered what sort of event would attract a record turn-out in Dersingham, well here you have it! With our host running backwards and forward to set out extra chairs and still they kept coming! Maybe it is the feel good factor we get from hearing about those whose lives were so much more miserable than ours, or maybe that even at the new price of £3 a ticket including refreshments and raffle, Village Voice Live in St Nicholas Church Hall at 7:30 on the first Tuesday of each month is just a good economical way to spend an entertaining evening out in good company, especially after such a long cold wet winter!

Stephen Pope enlightened us with pictures past and present of the workhouse buildings around and about, their provision of housing and work for the poor and destitute, the proud boastful display of the providers' "charitable nature" and the harsh pre and post Dickensian-like realities of life within that would attempt to minimise the comfort and hence stay of the inmates. All this through to their ultimate demise last century, in some cases as late as the 1950's, when those buildings still worthy might be taken over as hospitals, homes for the elderly or, in the case of Gressenhall, a museum where we might relive the experience!

Brucie

The Coroner's Officer

Village Voice Live Tuesday March 1st

On Tuesday March 1st Brian Greenacre introduced his audience to life in the Coroner's Office which seems a strange way to describe it as by its very nature his work is in the most part concerned with death. In a gentle voice Brian admitted that he never really understood why he as a serving police officer had been called into the Chief's office one day to be offered the job of Coroner's Officer. Cautiously he agreed to take the job for a 6 month trial and over ten years later he was still there.

It was his responsibility to summon the witnesses and prepare all the paperwork for the coroner when an inquest had to be held into an unexpected or unexplained death. If the Coroner decided on reading the details that it was necessary for a jury to hear all the evidence then Brian had to organise it from a list of possible jurors held at central office. Unlike a criminal trial with its "twelve good men and true", only seven jurors are required at an inquest and the rules of evidence are also quite different. There was plenty of time allowed for all of us to ask questions and many interesting details were discussed.

After a break for refreshments Brian then introduced us to the other aspect of the Coroner's work concerning Treasure Trove. We saw pictures of the hoard of coins unearthed at Sedgford and to the surprise of some in the audience the silver cup of coins from the 17th century found in this village. The most interest was sparked by the amazing hoards found in Snettisham in the 1990's. Brian described the excitement when the inquest was held in King's Lynn and the police protection that was necessary for such a valuable hoard. He revealed the amounts awarded to the finders who usually shared their good fortune with the landowner. A little more information about the circumstances surrounding the discoveries would have enhanced the evening especially as the first magnificent torques were found in Snettisham in 1948. For those interested there was an article in the Village Voice Magazine No. 42 describing the Dersingham find and later in Issue 60 one telling in full the story of the Snettisham Hoard from 1948 to the latest finds that Brian dealt with. It was an interesting insight into the working of an Office that I suspect we mostly hope to avoid.

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TUESDAY	10.45 - 11.45 am	Active Seniors gentle aerobics	Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall suitable for most levels
TUESDAY	6.00 - 7.00 pm	Zumba shimmi shake and have fun an all over body workout	Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall (please book)
TUESDAY	7.05 - 8.05 pm	Legs Bums & Tums (and some arms too) an all over workout keeping to your own spot without complex choerography	Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall (please book)
WEDNESDAY	9.00 - 10.00 am	Core Stability find different ways to work your core with the stability ball and small balls	Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall
WEDNESDAY	6.00 - 7.00 pm	Zumba shimmi shake and have fun an all over body workout	Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall (please book)
WEDNESDAY	7.05 - 8.05 pm	Freestyle Fitness Yoga A fitness inspired Yoga class	Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall (please book)
THURSDAY	7.00 - 8.00 pm	Body Conditioning an all over workout working your heart and toning your muscles.	Dersingham Methodist Hall

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any enquiries call Suzie.

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Dersingham-On-Line is growing by Stella Gooch



Following the success of Heacham-On-Line and Hunstanton-On-Line, which have both been supporting and promoting the local community for many years, a family of local sites is becoming established. Among these is Dersingham-On-Line which launched in summer 2010 soon after the relaunch of Heacham-On-Line and Hunstanton-On-Line.

The News section can be as good as you the community make it. Just as Dersingham Village Voice needs contributions from the local community so does Dersingham-On-Line. Why not send in articles which will help promote your club, business or charity with a few photos from time to time. Remember the audience is not exclusive to Dersingham – you can attract interest from the surrounding area, the wider UK and even internationally. As the operator of Dersingham-On-Line, I will try to attend local events where possible and will create stories for the site myself. However, the more local contributions are forthcoming the better Dersingham can be promoted.

You can access Dersingham-On-Line via www.dersingham-on-line.co.uk but as a consequence of the enlarged website family you'll notice that the top of your web browser shows the pages as www.norfolk-on-line.co.uk/dersingham/..... This applies also to the other village sites. Either address will take you to the same content.

Naturally, advertisers are sought to help finance the website operations and if you are a business with a website then you need quality advert links to your website to help promote it within the search engines. There are free entries for local businesses on request. There are a number of free entries already on the site but please feel free to correct any errors that may have been introduced – why not check to see if your business is listed. If not, tell me. Paid advertising is also available for a modest fee if you have your own website. If you do not then a web page can be created for you with design, hosting and an advert in a relevant business section.

Local clubs and non-profit making organisations can have a free 1 column advert link to their website. If non-profits do not have a website a webpage can be created for a one-off fee with a thumbnail link from the Clubs page.

With your support Dersingham-On-Line can be as useful as Heacham and Hunstanton-On-Line and will help inform near and far how wonderful this part of Norfolk is.

Village Voice Sudoku No 17

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

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'I am not a name, I am a number'.

Those of you who remember the cult 1960s television series, *The Prisoner*, will recognise the title as a take-off of the words shouted by Patrick McGoochan's character - 'I am not a number, I am a free man'.

Since the early 1980s I have been a writer for the Mass Observation Archives based at the University of East Sussex in Brighton. The Mass Observation Project has existed since 1981 and is a unique writing programme. However, this was not the origins of Mass Observation; this began in 1937, founded by three young men who put together a panel of volunteer writers to study everyday life as it was lived at the time, by ordinary men and women. This continued until the 1950s.

Today it remains much the same and is there to provide a programme where 'ordinary people' can write about their lives, knowing this is being saved for future generations, for social research. This material is given by contributors in the form of directives, or open-ended questions, which they receive three times a year, by snail or email. Within these directives are two or three themes, with questions to stimulate memories and responses. These can be on very personal themes, on something of world or local interest, political and social issues. Contributors can always rest assured that their writing is stored safely and anonymously - hence 'I am not a name, I am a number'.

The themes for the directives come from a variety of sources. Sometimes they are chosen by Mass Observation correspondents, colleagues in the university, academics from other institutions doing particular research, sometimes local community projects or the media. If they are commissioned by an outside researcher, then they remain within the library archives, are kept just as safely and the person who has requested it has access to it the same as anyone else who applies. The criteria for choosing them is that they have to relate to the lives of everyone who writes, so that even if the correspondent isn't directly affected by it, they will at least have some opinions on the subject matter.

Great care is taken not to repeat themes, and to try and get a balance between serious and light-hearted themes, abstract and personal, so that within nearly every directive most people will get a feel for the themes and contribute something, no matter how brief. There is no limit on word count, contributions can be as brief (or not!) as the writer wishes. And responses can be emailed or mailed (freepost is available), they can be typed, handwritten, can contain press cuttings or photographs. There is no problem if you feel your grammar isn't very good, or spelling for that matter. The emphasis is on "self-expression, candour, and a willingness to be a vivid social commentator and to tell a good story".

Currently the project is only recruiting male writers between the ages of 16-44, living in all regions of the UK, except the south east.

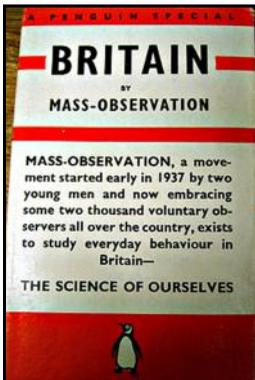
However, they do accept applications from people who meet two of the three criteria, therefore would accept a female writer, 16-44 years of age, living in the North, but due to limited resources cannot accept everyone.

There have been as many as four thousand writers; currently there are around five hundred and I am proud and happy to be one of them. □

I am grateful to Jessica and everyone at the Project for permission to use images and information from their website -

<http://www.massobs.org.uk>

Magwitch



Bicycle Time by Trevor Riches

Now spring is here, and temperatures beginning to rise, it's time to dust off your bikes and get pedalling. West Norfolk has lots of quiet back lanes to explore, and strategically placed tea rooms and pubs to supply the inner person. Riding a bike is delightful, either in solitude or in company. Clubs exist to cater for both those of a competitive nature and for those who want a more leisurely approach.

The **King's Lynn Cycling Club** was founded in 1931 to cater for those go fast persons who want to take part in time trials and other forms of competition. Their website can be found at: www.kingslynncyclingclub.co.uk and further information from Brian Williamson on King's Lynn (01553) 673608.

The **Cycle Touring Club (CTC)** was founded in 1878 to promote cycling as a healthy way of life, and has active branches throughout the United Kingdom. Our local branch is the West Norfolk CTC, and meets: on a Tuesday for a mardle (chat) at Castle Rising Tea Rooms at 11.00 am; on a Thursday at various spots in our area, usually tea room at 11.00 am and pub at 1.00 pm; and on a Sunday at Castle Acre Barnfields Tea Rooms at 11.00 am. Further details can be found on the national website at: www.ctc.org.uk, or from local secretary Felicity Peyman on 01945 880284, www.norfolkda.org.uk

The **BUG Group** (King's Lynn and West Norfolk Bike Users Group) was set up to campaign for better cycling facilities. We still do that but we prefer going on rides to sitting in council offices. With such easy access to the countryside can you blame us? It only takes 10 minutes to cycle from King's Lynn town centre to the countryside. For the vertically challenged cyclist this is your place, we do have hills but they are not very big. There is a lot of flat open fenland about, add a few very minor humps and the Royal Estate at Sandringham is just a few miles up the road.

There is a website at: www.klwnbug.co.uk which is in process of updating. Further information can be obtained from Trev Riches on Dersingham (01485) 543706, or Pete Ayton on King's Lynn (01553) 673647.

There are lots of bike shops in our area. If you are looking for a folding bike or a Pashley Trike have a word with John Wallis of Wallis Cycles at Heacham (01485) 571683. For off road bikes, or for advice on choosing, buying and servicing any sort of bike have a word with Tony Gosling at Surf 55, King's Lynn (01553) 679090. For advice on the excellent range of Boardman bikes ask for Barry at Halfords King's Lynn branch 01553 692688.

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk in partnership with Active Norfolk and the King's Lynn Bike Users Group (BUG) has organised a programme of bike rides which will be

led by local qualified British Cycling Ride Leaders. The aim is to encourage less experienced cyclists – young, old, and families alike – to get on their bikes and enjoy the benefits of cycling. If you are interested, contact Pete Ayton on 01553.673647. Finally, enjoy yourselves.□



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QUIZ NIGHT

Sponsored by the Carole Brown Health Centre PPG & The Friends of St Nicholas Church (FOSNC)

A grand total of 112 contestants in 20 teams participated in the Annual Quiz held at St Nicholas Church Hall on 4th March in aid of the above charitable causes. Never has so much brain power been concentrated in one room in Dersingham! You could see the steam rising from the building as contestants searched the depths of their brains for answers to the sometimes taxing questions set by the kind and generous quizmaster. Many teams had been ingenious in their choice of names with *The Universally Challenged* team proving not to be so, *The Amnesiacs* having an excellent memory recall of remote facts and the *Thicket* team being anything but thick!

The success of such evenings depends on the support that the event receives from the public and on this occasion the support exceeded all expectations with contestants from as far afield as King's Lynn taking part. The aim was to have an enjoyable evening whilst exercising a little brain power and all appeared to be having fun, even when sometimes frustrated by the obscurity of some of the questions. Still the wheat had to be sorted from the chaff! The 'icing on the cake' was the interval



food prepared by ladies from both organisations and delivered to each table at half-time. (See left to see how content the St Nics team was with the sustenance!) The aim of the function, as well as having fun, was to raise money in support of the PPG and FOSNC and no better start could have been made than that by Jackie Sisson who again proved to be one of the best saleswomen around. Equally important at such an event is the ability of the Master of Ceremonies to support the quizmaster and to keep the participants under control. Terry Finbow, who had travelled all the way from Huntington for the evening, once again displayed his ability to perform this task with his usual goodwill and humour.

The winning team was *Real Ale Madrid*, who for 5th time in a row, showed that they are the 'font of all knowledge' and who answered correctly 92 of the 100 questions set. *Thicket* came a creditable second and Notts 'n Norfolk third. Congratulations to the winners and our sincere thanks to all who took part.

Some £750 was raised and shared between the two organisations. The Friends of St Nicholas contribute to the maintenance of and enhancements to the fabric of the church whereas the PPG uses its funds to procure services and equipment that enhance patient care and which would not normally be available from statutory bodies.

Tom Morris - Quizmaster

Firing Squad answer

C calls out "I have a black hat". He says that he is certain that his hat is black, because if D could see two white hats (A having a white hat) D would know that he had a black hat. As D had not called out, his hat must be white, therefore C must be wearing a black hat.

Sandringham Squirrels

by Allan Coleby

This is the first in a series of stories about the Sandringham squirrels, a group of eight squirrels who play, feed and explore in the woods of Sandringham



Girl squirrels - Ella,
Eve, Cassie, Thora

Boy squirrels - Scoot,
Chip, Barney, Gus



1 - Going Down

'Ooh!' said Scoot. 'It's very bright out there.'

'Yes,' said his mum. 'It's good. You should go outside and then you can see it better.'

'Oh, I don't know.' Scoot put on a worried look. 'When I look out, all I can see is down. It goes down and down and I can't see the bottom. I think I'll stay here today.'

Scoot, one of the Sandringham squirrels, drew back from the edge and looked around his warm nest. It was not dark inside the nest in the fork of the tree that was his home, but it was gloomy and dull and it comforted Scoot.

'No. You have to go down the tree some time, Scoot, and today is a good day. It is dry and warm, the sun is shining, and you've been in here for seven weeks now. It is the end of spring and soon it will be summer. It's time to go out.'

Scoot pushed forward again, still worried.

'But what if I fall?' he asked Mum, pleading, looking into her face.

'You won't fall,' she said gently. 'Eve and Ella, your sisters, they went earlier and they didn't fall.'

Scoot was still not sure. He looked outside. Then he looked back at Mum.

Mum spoke again to keep him happy. 'You can hold the tree,' she said. 'This is our beech tree. It won't let you fall.'

There was a long silence. Scoot still had not decided.

'I'll help you to go out backwards and hold you until you have dug in your claws. Look. See those long, sharp claws on your five toes? You'll find they'll dig into the wood. Then the claws on your four fingers will do the same. You can work down the tree – slowly. Later on, I'll teach you to go down head first, but, for now, just go down backwards.'



Scoot was still not going, but then he felt his mum lifting him underneath his armpits and suddenly his feet were outside the nest and in the air. Quickly, he kicked with his toes and he felt them dig in. His mum was putting his hands on the tree just outside the nest and he held on.

The beech wood seemed quite soft, and suddenly he knew that he was outside. He felt warmth on his back. Everywhere was very light. He could see quite clearly.

Slowly, slowly, he lowered one of his feet a bit further. Then he lowered the other one. Left hand down. Right hand down. He had to keep going now. He was on the tree and lower than the nest.

So he went – down, down, slowly, slowly down. Each hand-hold and foot-hold felt better. Finally, he trod on the ground.

‘Well done, Scoot,’ said Ella.

‘Well done, Scoot,’ said Eve. ‘We were watching you all the way down.’

‘Mum helped us out, too,’ said Ella.

Scoot looked at them and grinned. He felt warm and happy. Then he looked up and saw Mum looking down. She was smiling.

Still feeling happy, and glad that he had come down and found Ella and Eve, he looked around him. The ground was brown and quite hard. There was some green grass growing, and some very dark brown leaves that smelt like the inside of the nest he had left. There were some stones and twigs, too.

He looked at a little heap of stones just a short distance away from the base of the tree, near where Eve and Ella were standing. They were also looking round and enjoying the sunshine. The stones were all shapes and sizes, mostly grey flecked with white, but some with brown patches on, perhaps part of the ground which they had rubbed against.

One of the stones was a funny shape. It had a pointed end. It was a dull, yellowish colour, with streaks and spots of brown. Then Scoot noticed that it had a small circular bit which stood out at the top. It gleamed because it reflected the sun. A slight golden tint reflected back at him as he watched.

Ella and Eve, who had gone very quiet, looked to see what Scoot was staring at. They, too, saw the golden tint reflecting back, with a black dot in the middle of it, on the narrow end of the stone. They saw that the lower, thicker end, looked like something coiled and wrapped up.

‘Whoosh!’ The stone exploded upwards and was gone.

‘Ooooooh!’ screamed Eve.

‘Ooooooh!’ shrieked Ella. Ella dived for the base of the tree. Eve followed. They both kicked at the tree trunk and reached for hand-holds. Up and up, they reached and climbed.

Scoot was jolted into action. He, too, dived for the tree, grabbed the base, and started to pull himself up again. All three swarmed upwards. They wanted to reach their mum and get home again.

Soon they reached the nest and there was Mum, smiling. They told her about the stone which exploded upwards and disappeared.

‘Oho! Oho!’ laughed Mum. She thought it was funny. ‘You’ve just met your first frog.’

Because Mum was not frightened, they were not frightened, either. They calmed down, and were proud of what they had done. Now that they could climb, they were real, outdoor squirrels. They had been out of the nest, down the tree and up again.

Scoot thought that there must be lots of other squirrels out there, and one day he would meet them.□

Dersingham Horticultural Society

A GARDENER'S FAIR

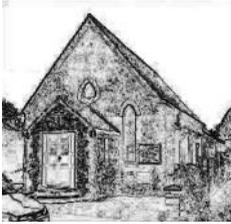
The Fair and a Coffee Morning will be held from 10.00am to 12.00noon
Saturday 7th May 2011, at Orchard Close, off Post Office Road, Dersingham.

There will be stalls for Plants, Cakes and a Tombola.

Many bargains will be on offer.

Proceeds will be used to support the Society and
other local organisations and charities.

Any gifts of plants for sale will be gratefully received on the morning of the event.



Greetings from the manse

Methodist Church coffee mornings - Many thanks to all who support our monthly coffee mornings and help us to raise funds for various charities. In February we raised £324 which was divided between Mission Britain, Methodist Homes for the Aged, Action for Children. The April coffee morning is on Saturday 16th 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon, funds raised will be for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital appeal for a portable incubator to transfer premature and sick new born babies to another hospital. Look forward to seeing you.

Easter - Good Friday Service 10.00 a.m. with Rev Kim Nally, Easter Sunday Services at 10.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. You are very welcome to attend any of these.

Dersingham Methodist Church – Annual Flower Festival Thursday 26th to Monday 30th May

We look forward to welcoming you to our Flower Festival, the theme is ‘Gifts and Talents’. Each of the displays will depict God’s gifts to us and our talents in using the gifts. The festival is held from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Thursday – Saturday and Monday, and 2.00 – 5.00 p.m. on Sunday. The children of Dersingham Infant and Nursery School will sing at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, and on Friday at 10.00 a.m. the children from St George’s School will sing. You will be able to see an art exhibition featuring the work of local artists, as well purchasing items from various stalls - cards, books, gifts, cakes, plants, not forgetting coffee, excellent lunches and teas, and of course the usual mouth watering selection of cakes. Service on Sunday 29th will be at 10.30 a.m. with Rev Gerry Bruce and a Songs of Praise at 6.00 p.m.

Come along and enjoy this annual event. Further information from Elizabeth Batstone tel: 01485 541068.

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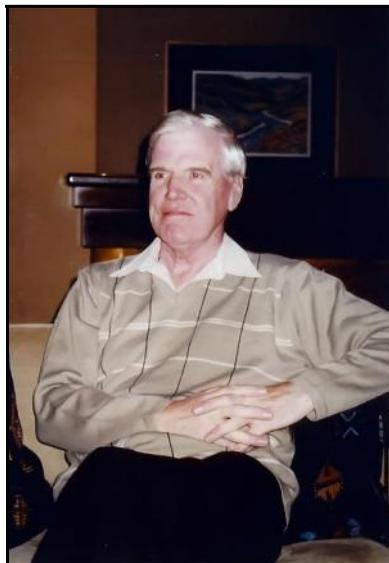
NEWS FROM ST CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

We were sorry to hear of the death of Rev. Len Matthews, who was deacon at St Cecilia's, on 14th March. Len had also been a parish councilor, school governor and had helped to set up the Heacham and District Car Scheme. He had been ill for some time. He is remembered with affection and respect and we extend our sympathy and promise of prayers to his wife, Joan, and to his family. May he rest in peace.

Our social programme for 2011 opened with a very enjoyable Games Evening on February 18th, followed by a traditional Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, March 8th, where we were happy to welcome the local Guides as well as the usual parishioners. We also celebrated a number of birthdays at the supper, including a 70th birthday for Brenda Baird. A good time was had by all!

There was a good attendance for the Ash Wednesday service, marking the start of Lent. We were marked with ashes to signify our sorrow for our failings and intention to make prayerful preparation for the great feast of Easter.

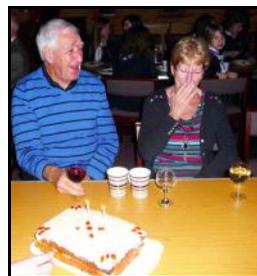
The dates and times of our main services for Holy Week and Easter are below. Further details are on our website - www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.



Maundy Thursday	April 21 st	7.30pm 11.45pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper & Vigil Compline	Hunstanton Hunstanton
Good Friday	April 22 nd	3.00pm 6.30pm	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion Stations of the Cross	Dersingham Hunstanton
Holy Saturday	April 23 rd	10.00am 8.30pm	Morning Prayer Solemn Easter Vigil	Hunstanton Hunstanton
Easter Sunday	April 24 th	9.00am 11.00am	Mass of Easter Day Mass of Easter Day	Dersingham Hunstanton

Our spring Ladies' Lunch will take place on Saturday, May 14th. All ladies in the area are warmly invited to join us at St Cecilia's – tickets are free, but you are asked to bring some food to share. If you would like to join us, please ring Sue Gostling on 01485 540701 for a ticket.

We are always happy to welcome visitors to our services, whether they are visiting the parish from elsewhere, or live in the area. Refreshments are served after the 9am Mass at Dersingham on the first Sunday of the month. We also have a friendly and informal gathering after the 10.15 Mass at Dersingham on Wednesdays. Do come and visit – we'd love to see you. □ *Tricia Steele*



CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE (CBHC) PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) NEWS

From: T G Morris, PPG Committee

CHRISTMAS DRAW

During the cold January weather, the report to the February edition of the Village Voice froze in mid air between the author and the editor. The wonders of modern science! So here, with apologies, is a late update on the outcome.

The purchasers of the tickets bearing the following numbers had an early Christmas present as a result of the PPG Christmas Draw.

0780 - £100	3470 - £50	Bed Linen – 2630
2300 – Lynsport Vouchers	1180 – Thaxters Voucher	1700 – Priors Voucher
2445 – Barn Hair & Beauty Voucher	2615 – Biscuits (Dersingham Newsagent)	
1205 – Sweets (Post Office)	1520 – Wine	3210 – Whisky.



All prizes have been claimed and the lucky winners of the first prize, Mr & Mrs Ramsey, are photographed left receiving their PPG Christmas bonus from Mrs Vanessa Blythe, PPG Chairman. Congratulations to all the winners, and our sincere thanks to those local businesses and individuals who kindly donated prizes. As a result of the generosity of those who bought tickets the £700 or so that was raised this year will, as usual, be spent on improving and enhancing facilities for patients of the Carole Brown Health Centre.

(Photograph courtesy of K Blythe)

A NEW DISPENSING SERVICE

The Practice now offers Universal Pharmacy dispensing to all patients who live in or around Dersingham regardless of how far you live from a pharmacy. This is a distant selling pharmacy with full backing from the practice. They will deliver your repeat medication back to the Carole Brown Health Centre for you to collect or deliver to your home within 72 hours. Emergency prescriptions will be delivered the same day. Call in at the dispensary if you wish to take advantage of this service.

APPOINTMENTS

Just a reminder that with the online service now available, you can view and book Doctors' appointments up to two weeks in advance, choosing from a list of suitable times and dates. Go to <http://www.thehealthcentre.org.uk> . It is simple to register and patients who wish to use the web services will need to come into the surgery and complete a simple form and bring a form of Photo Identification or a Birth Certificate. Through this service you will also be able to view, amend or cancel any future appointments you may have. You can also order your repeat prescription through this service.

PPG MEETING 10TH MARCH

Guest Speaker. An excellent presentation on Diabetes was given by Julie Widdowson (pictured), Lead Diabetes Educator/ Practitioner for Norfolk Community Care. She highlighted the diagnosis, diet and treatment aspects of the condition, stressing that early diagnosis is vital. She indicated that diet and exercise are the mainstream forms of both prevention and treatment although medication and injection of insulin may be necessary. Her presentation was concluded with a question and answer session.



Practice Matters. The Practice Manager, Ana Weston and Dr Steve Summers gave an update on developments within the practice.

These included:

- The absorption of the Downham Market Health Centre surgery into the practice which will now have three separate surgeries.
- Some patients had not been advised that their lead doctor had been changed due to staff changes. They apologised for this and affected patients will be advised by letter.
- The practice was attempting to recruit a further full-time doctor for the Carole Brown Health Centre (CBHC).
- CBHC patients were congratulated for being the ones taking the most advantage of the on-line (internet) appointments booking and repeat prescription services.
- In the near future, a 24 hour, 7 days a week (24/7) telephone appointment service will be available to those patients who do not have access to the internet facility.
- The development of a new and more comprehensive internet site, part of which will be dedicated separately to each of the three surgeries in the practice.
- A mobile Bone Density (Dexa) Scanner will shortly operate in the car park one day a week – an invaluable osteoporosis diagnostic service.
- The Endoscopy unit on the CBHC site was proving to be so successful that it will soon be taking patients from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.
- **The failure of patients to attend for their appointments and the resultant financial implications and loss in appointment slots for other patients. Despite the reminder service, 3% of allocated appointments are being missed.**
- The changes in General Practice following the government's White Paper on GP commissioning of services from other agencies such as hospitals. There is likely to be a period of 'hard times' in the health service!□

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Dersingham Flower Club celebrate 25 years

2011 marks 25 years of the founding of the club . The February meeting of the Flower club was a special Anniversary Celebration. Members brought along a lovely selection of party food. Hazel Wolff made a delicious cake, it was beautifully decorated with icing and a spray of sugar craft flowers by Ruth Mountain. Chairman Doreen Asker cut the cake and gave a toast for the future of a successful friendly club. The evening continued with our AGM. The chairman's report contained thanks to all who support our meetings in many different ways, including all the visitors to our Open Meetings when we have invited demonstrators to entertain us. On these evenings we have fundraising with a surprise gift stall or similar with the proceeds donated to various charities. In 2010 we donated £100 to Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly, £50 to Dersingham Phobbies, and £100 to Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides for their 100yrs Celebration of Guiding.



Our practice evenings are when members flower arrange showing some wonderful ideas and inspirations. Points are gained throughout the year. The winner of The Silver Salver was Rosemary Lee with the runner up for the Molly Bridges Rose Bowl being Linda Ward. A surprise presentation by Hazel Wolff to Doreen was of a Garden Voucher and a lovely bouquet of pink roses to show the committee's appreciation of the work she does as chairman.

A warm welcome was extended to our members and visitors in March for a Demonstration by Jean Crane of "Just for You", six beautiful arrangements for the raffle which filled the stage . A Surprise gift stall with parcels being given and then bought for £1.00 to raise funds, also a Lucky number competition for a Crochet blanket made by Eileen Lister, resulted in £100 which has been donated to The Chloe Newman Trust Fund. Chloe lives with her family at Dodds Hill. She is 7 years old, born blind, with cerebral palsy. Her family are trying to create a room for Chloe with more space to take the specialist equipment needed.□

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Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House News

Since the appointment of Richard Shaw (former Hospice trustee) as Chief Executive of the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House, significant changes have been made in the approach to obtaining funding, approaching new bodies, applying for grant funding and re-structuring the Fundraising Department. The Department moved out of the rented premises they occupied on Snettisham Market Place and can now be found at The Hospice itself in Common Road (West) Snettisham. This saves on rental expenses and enables the team to be more involved with the 280 patients and carers who are supported each month through either day care visits to the Hospice, home care or other support services such as bereavement counselling, equipment loan, lymphoedema support and many more.

It is vital that we get the message out to the community that although The Norfolk Hospice provides a wonderful service, the building is struggling to cope with the demands place upon it and it is NOT A BEDDED FACILITY and there is an urgent need for this service. Currently the hospice receives only 11% funding of the 1 Million + that it needs annually to provide these vital care services. All staff and the very dedicated volunteer workforce are working extremely hard, and although fundraising in the current economic climate is understandably difficult things are beginning to happen. Two existing members of the Fundraising Team, Zena Penty and Lindsey Atkin, are now working out in the Community to help raise awareness, recruit volunteers and encourage businesses, community groups and individuals to help raise money for their local Hospice. If you think you can help in any way please call 01485 542891 and they will get back to you.

Particularly successful was our recent Hospice Hold-Up whereby 10 members of the business community were arrested and held to ransom in the Old Gaol House in King's Lynn raising over £9,000 and receiving massive radio coverage on KLFM with Breakfast presenter Adam Newstead being arrested live on air! Other prisoners included a Bank Manager, Estate Agent, Shop & Restaurant Managers and our own Chief Executive Richard Shaw.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all prisoners who took part and their kind sponsors.



Major forthcoming events are as follows - please see our website www.norfolkhospice.org.uk for further details of these and other events.

- 1 May** Run 10k for the Norfolk Hospice in GEAR 2011
- 3 June** Charity Golf Day at Swaffham Golf Club
- 4 June** Reading Phoenix Choir Concert, Wells-next-the-sea



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Dersingham Tennis Club

As the evenings are getting warmer and longer, and spring is on the horizon, many of us are starting to think about playing tennis again.

Last year the tennis club arranged children's tennis lessons, taken by Jeremy Hodges, from the KES tennis centre, and hope to repeat this again this year. Posters will be displayed around the Village , or you can email me for an application form.

We also arranged a "Get Back Into Tennis" programme, which was extremely popular and run by Richard Smith. We were disappointed not to see anyone coming to club night following that, but maybe you all plan to come this year; we are very much looking forward to welcoming you.

Our team - ladies- went up a league, and struggled a little, so we may go back down again. We're keen to stay in the league though, so we would love to see some more keen, fun loving ladies!



Club night is on a Thursday - officially starting at 6pm, (for juniors, but most adults turn up around 7pm) also Sundays mornings 10am to 1pm. We play very friendly tennis, welcome players of all ages and abilities, with an aim simply to get more people playing tennis. As it is club night, you don't need to bring a partner (although you are very welcome to do so!) , this is because we can hopefully make up enough singles or doubles depending on the numbers.

If you are thinking of playing, it would be a pleasure to see you come along and trying it with no commitment to membership until you've been a few times.

Also, the courts are kept unlocked, so villagers can go along and play at most times when it's not club nights, lessons or matches.

Membership - juniors (Under 18) £15, seniors £25, families £45, and couples £35, this gives you organised club times, entry to the Wimbledon tickets draw, league matches, and great fun! We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible - the first club sessions will be Sunday 3rd April and Thursday 7th April 2011.

Rosie Russell, Secretary, Dersingham Tennis Club. Email: rosie@familyrussell.flyer.co.uk

The Old Biddie and her cottage garden

Valerie Anckorn

Wading across the February quagmire that in the summer was my back lawn, armed with plastic bags that escaped and blew across the muddy furrows by the gusts of ferocious winds, I chased after them as agile as a fat woman can – which was somewhat ponderously. Puffing and panting and disliking the need for the bags (dog poo duty) I caught one of the recalcitrant sacks right by the prettiest little pale mauve crocus bravely thrusting its way through the turgid mess of my back garden. The first harbinger of Spring – Thank the Lord! Momentarily I felt my black depression lift – the winter horror that for me always descends in dark clouds in February and renders me useless, curled up in my bed and wishing I could officially hibernate there until April. It is the same, every year, and I know that the depression will eventually lift – the lack of sunshine and flowers, the grey skies causing the problem. I had suspected I had all the symptoms of SAD (seasonal affective disorder) and knew that you could get light boxes which tricks your brain into believing it's sunshine, but had forgotten all that, until a friend mentioned it, so I, being the google Queen, found out all the information at the press of a button and decided to purchase one of the boxes that you sit in front of for a minimum of 20 minutes per day. I will inform of any progress when I receive it. Symptoms of SAD are depression, lethargy, sleeping problems – over sleeping but not feeling refreshed, avoiding company, joint pain and lots more. It seems that a very bright bulb is the key, and while there were very expensive boxes, I opted for a cheap one – and I will see how it goes. Finding the darling crocus, however, lifted the black veil for a delicious moment.

I have to say that some warm winds are a welcome change, though they have blown our wobbly fence over once more. It's no good, I am going to have to rob a bank somewhere and get it renewed.

It's been so very cold and our central heating system, never very good at the best of times – very annoying as it is all brand new and the builder has 'other things to do' – so whilst discomfited, I began thinking of the War Years when we couldn't see out of the windows for frost ferns, the toilet iced up and you had to sit on top of the fire to feel any warmth, I realised my problem wasn't that bad – how easily we forget real hardship - so donned some jumpers and stopped moaning to myself.

I've been looking out and the garden and trying to rev up some enthusiasm and energy to get out there and DO things....the only thing I have accomplished is to open the garage door to find the piece of metal that I made the holes for planting my willow fedge. There are some dead bits that need replacing, and now I have plenty of new 'wands' to cut and plantwell, I just now have to find the energy to actually go and do it. Not today though – a nice log fire and a torrid romance – book, that is.

Daffodil and tulip shoots are braving the elements – it always gladdens my heart when I see the first sightings – and all sorts of buds and leaves are just waiting to emerge. I think they are being a bit too positive – we haven't yet had the Mart at Lynn, and that always seems to bring terrible weather, doesn't it.

I noticed lots of jackdaws wheeling around the garden this morning. I don't know if they were just enjoying the flurries of wind and were playing in it, or that they were looking for food. I suspect the former, for while they are enjoying the elements, they can see where people have put food out and go swoop down and get some. I saw some pigeons being chased away by them. Don't pigeons have plump breasts – I always think what a nice meal they would make, but could never try and kill any. I like the collared doves, so pretty, but the strutting pigeons annoy me as they eat all the food I put out for the little birds. My dog Crow likes to rush out and see if he can catch one. He never can.

Crow seems to be in his terrible teens at the moment. As a Lurcher, he is built to run, and when I let him off in the woods, he races up and down with a huge smile, always coming back to me, but more frequently running further away from me, exploring all the little paths. Recently he has

ignored my calls when he has spotted another dog – he just wants to play and run with a new friend, but it must be terrifying for any dog owner to see this large grey creature pounding towards them at the speed of light, dewlaps flapping and white canines alarming. Probably terrifying for their dogs too, not used to hooligans. My ploy now is to immediately take him home when he has ignored my calls. I have to think of new tactics – unfortunately in my SAD state at the moment I have no energy and I'm finding it depressing. I apologise to any people who have been annoyed by Crow racing towards them in the woods. He is friendly, he only wants to play, but I know that is not the point. He will understand, hopefully, in the end, and I think for a while I will have to take him down to the beach, which is a shame, because I prefer woods to coastal regions. Sometimes as I walk through the woods I smell the rank smell of what can only be deer. It's a bit like goat, a bit like horse, and there is just a faint waft of it. Maybe a deer has just passed by, or is hiding in the undergrowth – maybe one has rubbed against a tree to 'mark' its territory - I love to think I am probably only feet away from these beautiful creatures.

Evidence that large deer have been in the garden again. While I don't particularly wish to have my hedges eaten, I love the thought that the beautiful creatures have been in my garden – on a par to having fairies take up residence.

I've been googling bags for growing potatoes. This seems to be quite a good idea to me, as I don't have space for vegetables and what space I have is all tree roots. The bags don't look any different, in the ads, to the bags you buy to put your weeds in. Can anyone tell me the difference? Would any bag do? I guess they would, though I suppose they need to be dark inside and not let in the sunshine. Something I must get down to, before too long. I note that the first plantings can be in February, so long as they are in a greenhouse or similar until the cold weather has finished. Must also look to see what seeds I am going to buy this year. I have mixed feelings when the seed catalogues turn up – so many wonderful things to buy and I salivate at all the items I wish to purchase, then after totting up an enormous amount, forget the whole thing and put the catalogue in the bin. One day, one day...

I think I shall grow some more asters this year. They make a lovely colourful display after the summer, and are prolific enough to cut plenty to bring indoors. It's certainly a lot, lot cheaper to grow your own and easy enough, if a bit fiddly.

I found a garden site on line that sells monkshood – a plant I have always been very fond of, looking good at the back of borders with lofty delphiniums, but a plant I have never found in local nurseries. I excitedly received my order in November, but didn't have time to plant them before the ghastly weather set in. I hope they haven't died off in their plastic pots over winter. Well, not long to find out now. Reminds me of the time when I did B&B in Walsingham and a party of Charismatic Christians booked in. I was just putting the finishing touches to their pretty rooms and was holding a vase of flowers in my hand when I opened the door to them. They looked my house over with horror, took one look at my beautiful posy and said they couldn't possibly stay with me. They took me for a witch, and I realised I had monkshood in the vase – which is a poisonous plant used in folk-law to create noxious witchy brews. I just see them as beautiful flowers, and I have no doubt that, like digitalis, also a poisonous plant, it's good for something. 'Thinks – lets google it'. Yup, have looked it up and like all plants, it has its uses - and can be effective poison on arrow tips! I will remember that next time I go hunting. It seems necessary to first reduce its toxicity to be used helpfully, so I think we can give that plant a miss regards anything to do with our better health. Another name for it is Wolfbane (which sounds a bit witchy, doesn't it), which I had heard of, but not realised it is the same plant. Recalling the days at Walsingham, I had some work accepted by Punch Magazine in its zenith – which was such a wonderful buzz for me as I regarded this as the apex of my writing career, but was appalled when they put the appellation 'by Our Lady of Walsingham' on my pieces. You can imagine how that went down with the devoted – all the more dreadful as I was accurately surmised as the author.

It's said that old people with gardens live longer than those who don't, and I am sure this is true – we oldies so look forward to watching out for our plants, seeing those first buds in the cold

winter, watching them mature and flower, enjoying just *being* in the garden, amongst the flowers, inhaling their perfumes, and therefore, even the thought of the coming Spring and Summer months spurs us on. I know it does me, especially with my usual February depression. What *can* those who live in town look forward to? I know of town people who ‘hate’ the country – ‘all that green’ they say – well, I suppose it is down to what you are used to – but give me the country and my garden any day. It’s a bit of a struggle to write about the garden when it is still submerged in the Underworld, sleeping safely until the sun awakens, but not long now before all the colour and deliciousness bursts forth.

As I write now we are into March, thank goodness and the dreary February days are over. On the first March I heard the dawn chorus. Beautiful, though not yet at full blast. 2nd March some daffodils came into full bloom, and now the garden is peppered with game Spring flowers with the promise of more hurrying behind. 4th March, the sun came out with blue skies and it felt hot on my face. Wonderful. Out I marched into the garden full of vigour and vim (well, as full of vigour as an old Biddy can be these days) and weeded and dug a small bed in the front garden. What a joy. I’d already trimmed back the overgrowth on the fedge and mended the worst of it where the little darlings had pulled it out. Hopefully they won’t notice and the new willow will be able to form roots. It’s the wrong time of the year to do it as sap is rising, rather than ebbing, but nature is pretty good, so expect them to live. I also went round the front garden collecting vodka bottles, beer cans, wine bottles and various other stray items that have been lobbed over during the winter months. Well, it could be a lot worse, couldn’t it.

Finally the back fence totally succumbed to the elements and it has been replaced. A visit to the bank to borrow more money and the worry now to pay it back. But, it’s done now and looking good.

By the way, I have to report that 20 minutes per day in front of the light box while I had my morning coffee in bed seems to have done the trick – the depression did lift. Maybe a placebo effect, but who cares if the result is good?

And, the monkshood plants still in their pots survived all the cold of winter and are now planted out in their new positions at the back of my rose bed.

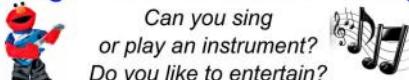
Already I feel like I have sipped at the elixir of youth with Spring’s harbingers heralding the imminent excitement of flowers, the smell of cut grass, busy birds in their nests and all the rest of the wonder in our gardens.

By the time this issue is in your hands Spring will have truly sprung and we all will have big smiles on our faces again, our gardens will be a burgeoning joy, fresh delightful aromas will be filling our senses and we can forget the winter blues.

p.s. As I lay in bed this morning I was trying to remember a silly rhyme we kids used to recite at this time of year: ‘Spring has sprung, the grass is griz, I wonder where the birdies is? There are the birds, upon the wing – don’t be absurd, the wings is on the birds!’□

Village Voice Live Musical Evening

Can you sing
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Village Voice Live on Tuesday 6th September is to be an evening of music and song provided by local musicians. From the proceeds a donation will be made to the Norfolk based charity:

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Priors Get Prizes

Most of us know how good Prior's sausages and pies are but now it's official. On Tuesday 8th February the British Pig Executive (BPEX), the promotional arm of the British pig industry, held a pork product evaluation competition at Newark Showground. There were categories for sausages, pies, bacon, ready meals and any other product made with pork in its content.

The products were judged on their appearance, texture, flavour, thickness of pastry on the pies and shrinkage on the sausages being the major points that were looked at.

Each product started with 100 points and points were deducted, or not, in ten 10 point sections. 95 points or over were awarded a gold, 90 to 94.5 points a silver award and 85 to 89.5 points a bronze award. Each product category had an overall champion.

Prior's Traditional Pork pie won a Gold award with 97 points, missing the overall champion prize by 1/2 a point. Only 6 gold awards and ten silver awards were gained from an entry of about 70 pies. Their Lincolnshire pork pie won a silver award with a score of 94.5 points and their faggots, made to David's own recipe, won a gold award with a score of 97 points, again missing the overall champion prize in the speciality pork product category by 1/2 a point.

Their traditional pork sausages won a bronze award with a score of 89.5 points, missing a silver by 1/2 a point. In this category the judges were deducting points for sausages that were cooked to a golden brown, they seemed to prefer a very pale finish and they lost 3 points for what Priors thought was a lovely golden banger.

To win an award with all the four products that they entered, was a very pleasing result as this was the first time for 15 years they had entered this type of competition.

David is now keeping an eye on the trade press for further competitions, hoping to get more prizes. □

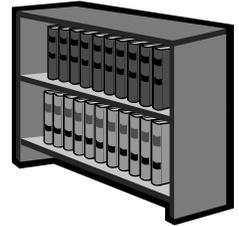
TB



Cliff & David Prior with their award winning pork products.

Dersingham Library

What's on at Dersingham Library during April and May



We are open:

Mondays: 10.00-1.00; 2.00-7.30;
Wednesdays: 10.00-1.00; 2.00-5.00;
Thursdays: 10.00-1.00; 2.00-7.30;
Saturdays: 10.00-1.00
You can contact us on 01485 540181

Easter Events for children

DS try out afternoon Wednesday 13th April from 2.30-3.30

Bring your own console and try out the games before you borrow them.

Board Games morning Thursday 21st April from 10.30-12.

Come along and play twister, kerplunk, pictionary, and many more games.

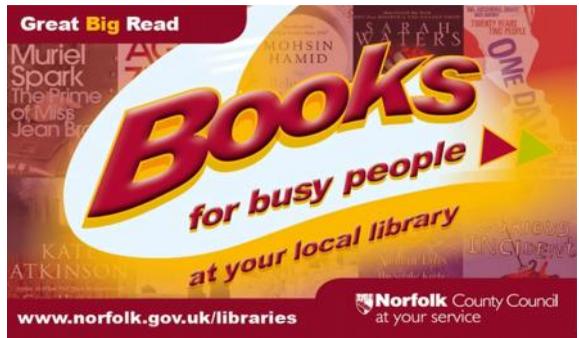
Weekly Scrabble Club Mondays at 2.00pm Make new friends over a game or two - refreshments provided

Knit and natter Thursdays 10.30am – 12.00noon

A weekly drop in morning for those who knit or crochet (or those who are interested in learning how to do both). Coffee and tea provided.

Books for Busy Parents No time to find a book for yourself? Would you like to talk about the books you like with other busy parents? Why not come along to this monthly group, meet other parents and let library staff offer help and suggestions?

Under 5s are very welcome. There will be a story and a colouring activity and then a book discussion. 10.30 - 11.30am on Thursday 7 April and Thursday 5 May



Computer Help Hour Thursdays from 12.00 – 1.00pm

Would you like tips on how to shop safely on the internet? Are you having troubles with your email attachments? Do you want to learn how to upload your digital photos? Then why not come along and we'll try our best to help you out! There's no need to book, just come along. Please note there may be a short waiting time to be seen.

Dersingham Book Club

We meet monthly on Tuesday evenings at 6pm and new members are very welcome. The next dates are 26 April and 31 May.

Dersingham Crime Book Club

Meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm. The next dates are 12th April and 10th May.

Get online tasters We have more dates for our two hour tasters so if you are interested, please give us a call on 01485 540181.

Happy Reading., *Alison*

THE GARDEN FARMER - DIG FOR THE FUTURE

by Brian Beers

Spring is rapidly approaching and the soil is warming up. This is my favourite time of the year; the weather can be mild and gently warming without the full glare of the summer sun, and the garden is starting to show it's potential after the long cold winter.

By the time you are reading this I hope to be harvesting the first of my new season salad crops; particularly the fast growing oriental brassicas which were sown in February in the greenhouse.

This is a good time to sow carrots and parsnips. Many people like to sow their parsnips as early as February but I prefer to leave it to April as the extra soil warmth leads to a higher rate of germination and I don't want my parsnips to be ready to eat before October. With both of these crops it is important to sow very thinly; for carrots I space the seed about an inch apart in rows a foot apart, this way you avoid having to thin the seedling at a later date; the smell of a freshly thinned carrots is attractive to the carrot root fly, which can ruin your crop. With parsnips I put two seeds together every couple of inches, also in rows a foot apart. When I worked on an organic farm we developed a trick to speed up germination by covering the newly sown seed with a black plastic sheet. This has a powerful heating effect and traps moisture in the soil. I found that this could halve the time taken for the seed to germinate and give a much higher rate of germination. It is important not to leave the sheet on too long, a week should be long enough, as the seedlings need light and air to grow properly.

Early peas can also be sown now. One way to get these started quickly is to sow them in a piece of rainwater gutter, filled with soil or compost, as this will warm up faster than open soil, particularly if you can put it in a greenhouse. Once the peas are three or four inches high the gutter can be moved outside, a shallow trench dug in the garden and with a bit of care the contents of the gutter can be slid into the trench.



If you still have compost in your compost bins, now is the time to get it spread. I tend to think of compost foremost as a feed for the soil rather than for the plants. As the soil warms up the microbes, microfungi, bacteria and earthworms start to become active and hungry so we need to look after them and they in turn will feed our plants for us. It doesn't matter if the compost is a little coarse, the soil organisms will soon break it down into nutrients which your plants can absorb.

Your fruit bushes and trees will also benefit from attention now if they have been neglected through the winter. Make sure they are well weeded, taking care not to damage the shallow roots, give them a good water if it's been dry and a generous feed compost feed. It's a good idea to regularly mulch around fruit bushes and trees, this helps keep the soil moist and weeds in check. You can use lawn clippings; if you lay them only a couple of inches deep they are decomposed quickly becoming a plant food without forming that horrible slimy mess you get with a large heap of clippings.

It is also good not to leave your soil bare as this can lead to loss of nutrients by the wind and sun. Sowing a green manure now, such as phacelia or mustard, will quickly give a load of green organic material which can be hoed and incorporated into the soil in a couple of months.□

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Recipes from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen

by Lindsey Davis

Pan Haggerty

1 tbsp vegetable oil
250g streaky bacon - chopped
6 medium potatoes – sliced into thin rounds
2 onions – thinly sliced
5 medium carrots – thinly sliced
500ml vegetable stock
150g cheddar cheese - grated

Serves 4

1. Heat oil in pan, fry bacon until it starts to crisp up. Add onions and when cooked remove bacon and onions from pan and set aside, leaving fat and juice in pan.
2. While these are cooking, put potatoes and carrots in separate pans and bring to the boil, leave 1-2 mins then drain.
3. Place a layer of potatoes in bottom of pan. Add layer of bacon and onion, then carrots. Season. Repeat layers, finishing up with a layer of potatoes. Season.
4. Pour over stock. Cover pan. Bring to boil and leave to simmer for 20 mins, until potatoes and carrots are cooked.
5. Top with grated cheese and place under hot grill until bubbling and golden.



Good served with broccoli or other green vegetable.

And one from somewhere else - Caroline's sure fire hit Cookie Recipe

These cookies are simple to make – promise – and are always a hit with children and adults alike. I have included the proper formal method of making them if you have time and like to be methodical – but I must confess that as a working girl who likes home made goodies - I just put everything in my food mixer at the same time...whiz a bit, dollop spoonfuls on a tray and all is fine.

Oh yes – for double chocolate cookies, just use 1oz Cocoa and then 5oz SR flour.

3oz butter/Margarine, 3oz granulated sugar, 3oz light brown sugar, 1tsp vanilla essence,
1 egg beaten, 6oz self raising flour, a pinch of salt, 7 oz choc drops – I use either the cooking
chocolate drops – or indeed a bag of chocolate buttons – if the children haven't found them first!!

1. Cream the butter and sugar until very soft. Add the beaten egg.
2. Sift the flour into the bowl fold carefully into the butter and sugar mixture.
3. Add the chocolate drops.
4. Roll the mixture into egg size balls.
5. Place on greased baking sheet and bake for 10 - 12 minutes at 180 or until golden brown.

Caroline Bosworth



A Most Atrocious Murder by Elizabeth Fiddick Stanfield Hall 1848

In 1848 Stanfield Hall, the former home of Amy Robsart where she was born, and in 1549, met her future husband Robert Dudley, was now the home of Isaac Jermy, Magistrate of the County and Recorder of the city of Norwich. He lived there with his wife, son Isaac and baby daughter. The house that Amy had known had been greatly altered over the intervening centuries so that it was now a very spacious house situated in a well wooded park. It was surrounded by a moat and the entrance was gained by crossing a bridge.

It was at the end of November that year that the Lynn News shocked its readers with an account of "*one of the most horrible and fiendish attempts at the destruction of a whole family.*" The correspondent reported that on Tuesday November 28th shortly after nine o'clock Isaac Jermy together with his son was assassinated and Mrs. Jermy and a maid servant severely wounded. The particulars of the case were as follows. Mr. Jermy, Mr. Jermy Junior and Mrs Jermy had dined together that evening. The Butler, two female servants and a man servant were on the premises but two other female servants had gone into Wymondham so were not present in the Hall at that time. At 8.30 Mr. Jermy had left the dining room and walked through the hall to the front of the building. On returning a man wrapped in a cloak and wearing a mask fired a pistol at him Mr Jermy fell and "*instantly expired.*" The assassin or *demon* as the reporter called him then went toward the servants' entrance where he met the Butler coming to investigate the noise. The Butler "*greatly alarmed at the apparition of a masked man wrapped up in a cloak presenting two pistols*" beat a hasty retreat to the pantry. The demon crossed the passage to a dark recess as young Mr. Jermy, alarmed at the pistol shot, had left the dining room to investigate. There the intruder fired at him and shot him in the chest. He instantly fell down dead. Mrs. Jermy hearing the noise went to the same place and, "*while standing over the lifeless body of her husband the same diabolical assassin fired a pistol at her.*" The shot entered her arm and wounded her in the breast. Her maid more courageous than the other servants went to the same place and was shot and wounded in the thigh. The other female servants fearing they would all be murdered hid themselves. The man servant, who had been in the stables supposing the house was under attack by a gang of ruffians leapt into the moat, swam across, clambered out and ran to the house of Mr. Colman who lived nearby and breathless and agitated he gasped out his story. Mr. Colman fetched a horse and the servant galloped off to Wymondham. There using the latest in modern technology an urgent message was sent to Norwich police by the electric telegraph.

Meanwhile the two women servants had returned from Wymondham with two young men and were standing outside the Hall talking. They heard the gunfire and saw the flash but supposed it was young Mr. Jermy having a joke and trying to scare them. They all retired to the lodge. As soon as the telegraph message reached Norwich, Superintendent Yarrington was alerted and left at once for Wymondham on that other marvel of the age the train. Once at Wymondham Yarrington with Inspectors Minns, Thompson and Amiss plus four constables sped to Stanfield Hall by post chaise. They arrived at about 1 o'clock in the morning to find a state of great alarm. The news of the terrible events had spread and many of the local people had gathered at the Hall to see if it were true, Constable Pout of the rural force was there trying to control the situation. Yarrington found the bodies of the unfortunate victims and ascertained that Mrs. Jermy and the maid servant were severely wounded. Two surgeons had been summoned to the Hall at around ten o'clock that Tuesday to help the wounded although they would not properly examine the victims until Thursday. Yarrington took charge and ordered an immediate search of the premises. Constable Pout and the city police set about the task but the assassin had obviously fled and all that was found was the ramrod of a pistol. The Butler, Watson and the cook maid were questioned and both identified the assassin as one James Rush a tenant on the estate. Mrs. Jermy's maid although wounded also swore

that it was Rush who had fired on her and her mistress. So about 2 o'clock that morning Constable Pout with other police went to watch the house of Mr. Rush. They remained concealed until about 5o'clock when they saw Rush strike a light and call for his servant. They then stormed the premises and took Rush into custody. The house was searched and a damp cloak was found on the bed with some very wet shoes and a wig. One of the constables took charge of these whilst Constable Pout gathered up a couple of loaded fowling pieces and two powder flasks

The events of the next couple of days seem very odd to us. We are so used to seeing on our televisions the crime scene taped off and scenes of crime officers arriving swathed head to foot in white paper suits and wearing face masks so that they do not contaminate the evidence. On that Wednesday morning at Stanfield Hall a great number of gentlemen arrived to survey the scene. The news reporter gave a most graphic description of the bodies of the unfortunate victims as they still lay where they had fallen. Later the local magistrate held an examination there and once more questioned all the servants. Mr. Rush was brought to the bedside of the wounded maid so that she could positively identify him as the assailant. On the Thursday the inquest was held and after the jury was sworn in they were taken to the Hall to view the bodies which were still stretched out where they fell. From the inquest report we learn that the three year old daughter "*a beautiful child*" had not been hurt. Also as the "*ruffian*" left the house he had dropped a piece of paper with the following message. "*There are seven of us all armed, two inside and five out. You servants keep in the servants' hall. If any of you attempt to follow you will be shot dead. We are come to take possession of the estate. Signed Thomas Preston, the rightful owner.*" On the Wednesday night Mr. Rush, the assassin, the ruffian, the demon, the suspected murderer as he was variously described in the press was examined at the House of Correction in Wymondham by the County Magistrate. The questioning lasted from 10pm to 3 a.m. There was much circumstantial evidence as it was shown that he was absent from his farm at the time of the murders. Rush protested his innocence rigorously but bail was refused.

The reporter noted that "*a vast concourse of persons*" had invaded the Hall so it was ordered that the police should take firm control of the house and grounds and limit admission. The condition of Mrs. Jermy and the maid was extremely serious. The surgeons had carried out an amputation of Mrs. Jermy's arm and newspaper reports expressed doubts that either woman would be able to survive the trauma they had experienced. Meanwhile the police were very busy. It was only in 1829 that Robert Peel had established the Metropolitan Police in London and laid the foundations of a "modern" force. Here at Stanfield Hall the search was on for evidence, in particular the pistols or pistol that had been used. A vast number of labourers were employed to empty the moat in case they had been thrown there. At Rush's home, Potash Farm, fences and ditches were cut down or drained. Twenty pits were dug out and the mud removed, every rabbit hole was probed, turnip fields examined and muck heaps were removed. In the house, hearths and floors were removed and chimneys carefully examined. The field at the back of the garden was completely dug up and every tree in the park was climbed and minutely examined. The pistols were not found nor were the boots that Rush had been wearing that night but certain documents were found that would prove of great significance at the trial. Other details were noticed namely that the path that Rush, if indeed it were him, would have used to get to the Hall had recently had straw lain over it to that no footsteps could be detected in the mud.

The pistols were of course a vital piece of evidence. By February 1849 they had still not been found and as it was known that Rush had travelled to London several times just prior to the murders a Police Sergeant was directed to make inquiries of the pawnshops and gunsmiths in the city to see if Rush had purchased them there. At the pawnshop of a Mr. Russell an assistant was certain that it was Rush who had bought a five-barrelled pistol. The assistant was taken to Norwich and at the prison Rush, with ten other prisoners, was ordered to walk about the yard to see if Mr. Balls could identify Rush as the purchaser of the pistol. The evidence against Rush was mounting so if he was indeed the demon, the awful assassin why did he wish to kill the Jermy family? What was the background to these tragic events? Over the weeks after the murder an amazing story began to emerge.

Isaac Jermy had inherited the Hall and estate on the death of his father in October 1837. However

another family called Larner had disputed the terms of the will and maintained that they were the rightful owners of the estate. They tried to occupy the house but were quickly evicted by a group of men led by James Rush who had been employed as an agent and steward by the father of the late Mr. Jermy. However John Larner did not let matters rest and in September 1838 he and a lawyer named Mr. Wingfield with 80 to 90 labourers and tradesmen arrived at the house. After forcibly turning out Mrs. Sims the housekeeper, and a visiting friend Miss Bloomfield they put the furniture out on the lawn and barricaded themselves in the Hall. James Rush once more raised the alarm and a troop of dragoons was called to the scene. The local magistrate read the riot act at every window and then ordered the dragoons to prepare to fire. At this John Larner surrendered and he, the lawyer and 80 others were taken into custody. At the local assize they pleaded guilty to a charge of simple riot as Mr. Jermy did not press the more serious charge of “*feloniously and tumultuously assembling*”. Larner and Wingfield were sentenced to three months in prison and Mr. Jermy had been in quiet possession of his home since that time. However it was not long after these events that relations between Rush and Jermy took a turn for the worse as Rush got into financial difficulty. On August 9th 1843 at about 7.30 p.m. a great thunderstorm mixed with heavy rain and fierce hail broke over the city of Norwich and the surrounding area. “*Nothing could be seen through the falling mass. Very old men have never before witnessed so fearful a scene.*” reported the Norwich Chronicle. It was so intense and the alarm of both actresses and audience so great that the performance at the Theatre Royal was stopped. The cellars and basements became blocked with ice. Hail covered the streets to a depth of four or five inches. At the Bell Hotel hundreds of squares of glass were shattered and one poor woman was swept off her feet by the torrent and carried downhill. The Lakenham factory suffered a fusillade of hail that smashed 700 windows and the Market Place became a lake. All around the county crops were ruined, glasshouses smashed, mills damaged, trees uprooted and gardens cut to pieces. Hail stones were picked up as large as pigeon’s eggs. It was a complete disaster for farmers as there was no compensation.

An Insurance scheme did not exist although it was because of this disaster that the Norwich Union Insurance Company was formed. This of course was too late for James Rush who was subsequently bankrupted and unable to pay the rents on the farms he leased from Jermy. Eviction notices were served and thus began the long, bitter legal disputes between the two men. When it came to court the decision went against Rush and as a result he published a damning pamphlet against Jermy. He now clearly sided with those who disputed Jermy’s right to the estate, describing his behaviour as villainous and disgraceful. He recalled how he had lost £1700 in the great hailstorm and that he had documents to prove the case against Jermy. He just hoped that someone would come along to “*oust this fellow*”. Rush did not let the matter rest there. Over the next few months he travelled to London several times with Mr. Larner the man who had tried to occupy the Hall to consult a lawyer. From the documents recovered in the police search of his house it appears he began drawing up agreements between himself and Jermy in which he was given the right to retain Potash Farm, and the right to shoot over the adjoining property. Another document even cancels the Mortgage agreement altogether and all the papers were supposedly signed by Jermy and witnessed by Emily Sandford Housekeeper to Rush. The prosecution would maintain that these were forgeries and could only be realistically produced if Jermy were dead. Thus the case against Rush built up and on March 31st 1849 it came to trial.

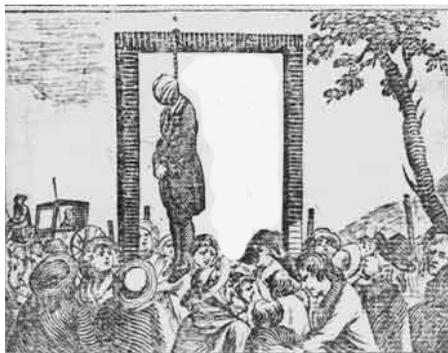
The Trial

There was huge excitement as the trial opened. The London Press sent reporters to cover the event and special engines were kept ready at the station to send news immediately to the capital. When the doors opened there a great rush of people “*peers and magistrates struggling to get the best places reminding one of the pit of the opera on a Jenny Lind night.*” The Jury was formed and then the prisoner was called. According to one reporter he walked in with an unerring step, a well built fellow who had apparently allowed his hair and beard to grow to an immoderate length. His voice, it was noted, had the “*peculiar twang for which all natives of this county are remarkable*”. In this peculiar twang James Rush entered a plea of Not Guilty and stated that he

would represent himself. The evidence offered by the prosecution seemed extremely strong.

There were several witnesses, including the wounded maidservant, who firmly identified Rush as the assailant. Although none saw his face they were convinced by his build, his gait and the way he carried his head which was very familiar to all of them. At times Rush was asked to don the wig found at his house to help with identification. Other witnesses testified that they had met Rush outside the house that very evening and that he had asked if the Jernys were at home. The history of the legal disputes were laid before the jury and the pamphlet he had published containing such bitter comments was a prime exhibit. One witness testified that he had heard Rush threaten Jermy. *"Damn him. I will do for him at the first opportunity."* It was also established that the handwriting on the papers dropped at the scene was that of Rush. Also in true CSI fashion it was proved that these papers had been torn from a book found at Potash Farm. The most telling evidence was perhaps the apparent forging of documents in an attempt to cheat Jermy. In this testimony of Rush's housekeeper Emily Sandford was damning indeed. She described how she now regretted that she had been persuaded to sign these papers as a witness. She added that Rush had left the house that night and on his return much later he had gone to his room. He then came out, without his boots on, and told her that if anyone was to enquire she was to say that he had been out only ten minutes. He told her to go to bed as soon as she could. When she asked which room she was to sleep in he instructed her to go to her own room that night for, as the reporter delicately wrote, *"unfortunately there had been an improper intimacy between herself and Rush."* In fact Emily had given birth to a daughter just prior to the trial. Rush defended himself robustly and declared his innocence of the crime. He even named two other men who were really the guilty parties but the burden of proof was against him. He had even admitted that he had burned a coat that night but mysteriously his boots were never found. After a lengthy summing up the Judge asked the Jury to retire to consider their verdict. The local reporter recorded, *"After just five minutes they returned and to the usual question. "How say you, gentlemen, Guilty or not guilty?" The foreman, amidst breathless silence returned the verdict GUILTY"*.

Rush was sentenced to death by hanging and the execution was to be carried out at Norwich Castle. A scaffold was erected on the centre of the bridge that spans the dry moat and the whole tragic event could be witnessed by an immense multitude. A great number of people from all around came and the Eastern Counties and East Anglia Railway Companies ran extra trains to Norwich. The train laid on from London carried many members of the London police force who were there to keep a watch on the swell-mob and the Whitechapel pickpockets who were known to be aboard. At each station the police used the electric telegraph to warn their colleagues that the gangs were on their way. At Attleborough station the police recognised members of a gang known in London as the "banking house thieves" and Inspector Trew sternly warned them *"We shall keep our eye on you."* All this seems unbelievable to us now. The execution of Rush was the last one to be carried out at Norwich and his body was buried in the prison grounds.



This is not quite the end of this tragic affair. In May of that same year a labourer was emptying out a quantity of manure from a shed at the back of Potash Farm when he uncovered a large double barrelled short gun without a ramrod. It was discovered that the ramrod found at Stanfield Hall on the night of the murder was a perfect fit. Also a pair of boots had been found near the house. Each boot secreted in a different place but proved to be those worn by Rush on that fatal night.

Finally in June 1849 Emily Sandford and child left Gravesend in the barque *Caspar* bound for Adelaide. She looked care-worn and haggard.□

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 70	Wednesday 4th May	Monday 23rd May
No 71	Wednesday 6th July	Monday 25th July
No 72	Wednesday 7th September	Monday 26th Sept
No 73	Wednesday 9th November	Monday 28th Nov

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

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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 £15.10 for an eighth of a page black and white or £21.25 for colour per issue, to be very cost effective. (Prices include VAT)

Advertisements for inclusion in the next magazine should be in the hands of Anita Moore, Dersingham Parish Council, 7b Hunstanton Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HH by **Wednesday 4th May 2011**

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 4th May 2011 for publication on Monday 23rd May 2011.**

(Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication). Should you be providing graphics to accompany advertisements or articles, it would be appreciated if these could be in JPEG format.

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

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

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

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

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

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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday April 5th

Castle Rising & the Babbingley River

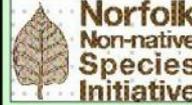


presented by
Kevin Efleet with Sylvia & Fred Cooke
of the
Castle Rising History Group

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.00 including refreshments & raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday May 3rd



TURNING THE TIDE ON THE ALIEN INVASION!

An illustrated talk by
Mike Sutton-Croft
co-ordinator of the
Norfolk Non-native
species initiative



Find out about
Giant Hogweed
Signal Crayfish
Floating Pennywort
Mink
Coypu
and many more.

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.00 including refreshments & raffle