

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine

A young girl with a joyful expression is driving a green tractor on a paved track. She is wearing a blue vest over a white shirt, a pink hat with a cartoon character, and pink shorts. The tractor is green with large black tires. In the background, other children are also driving tractors, and there are several tires lined up on the side of the track. A wooden chair and a 'GIVE WAY' sign are also visible. The scene is set outdoors on a sunny day with a barn and trees in the distance.

Fun on the farm



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Editors Notes Tony Bubb



It's summer, and don't we know it. At least it is at the time I write this but by publication day we may well be back to normal with cold, rain and gales.

Early June saw us go on a visit to Pensthorpe which is always a good day out. Sadly, part of the park was being redeveloped so the Cranes were out of sight as was a large chunk of the grounds.

We also went up north for a holiday with a couple of nights in Northumberland and thence to Scotland. There is in fact a small Scottish theme here as Steve and Lindsey Davis have written about their trip up there which was, in fact, to a place fairly close to our chosen spot. If you like boats, canals and tranquillity then I can recommend Crinan. This wonderful place is on the western end of the similarly named canal and comes with a hotel, seafood restaurant, tea shop and boats.



Based at Crinan is Vic 32 which looked familiar when it steamed in and I discovered, in a chat with the skipper, has been on the box several times.

It has a website so do look it up.



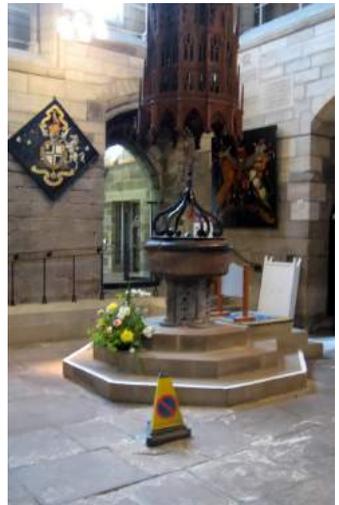
If you are looking for diversions closer to home then do visit the Lynn Museum with your children/ grandchildren or just by yourselves to see the new A-Z of animals exhibition that I went to the opening of. Each letter is represented, although they did struggle with depicting X, by a facet of the world of nature. The rest of the displays are jolly good as well.

There are several longish articles this time and, of course, most of the usual suspects but, once

again, a lack of fiction and poetry. How about you submitting a piece? For notices about forthcoming events please bear in mind the publication dates of VV, we still get things to advertise that don't allow for this.

Once again our limerick writers have been busy and here is the next first line for you to wrestle with - A Wolferton lady named Mary. Remember, keep it clean.

I will finish with a picture I took in Hexham Abbey. It is enormous and every wall has radiators against it - hundreds of them. Do they really have a parking problem at the font? □



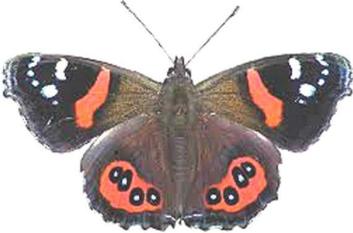


Dear Village Voice



I rather think I supplied the editor with too many images in my article on the Red Admiral. Quite understandably some had to be omitted. *(I think you got them all. Ed)* But I thought I'd send in the image of the New Zealand Red Admiral as it's quite spectacular!

Brian Anderson



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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

by Sue Payne



Councillor Vacancy

We have a vacancy to fill by co-option. If you are interested in applying, please speak to the Clerk.

Village Centre

Construction is nearing completion, and it has been good to see walls plastered and painted. We are now planning a week of activities after a community opening event early in October.

June Mullarkey, Dersingham Pottery, has been working on a design for the sponsored 'bricks'. It has not been possible to have a feature brick wall for them but smaller brick shaped tiles will be used including the name(s) of the donor and a short message. Cllr Chris Davey is writing to all sponsors to explain how their 'brick' will look.

For more information, please contact Chris via email: Christopher.davey@dersingham.org or the Parish Office.

Events

The Village Community Day, including Fun Dog Show took place on Sunday June 10th. Luckily, the weather was kind and the sun shone. A huge **Thank You** to Keith Blackwell and Rex Makemson for organising the event, and to Sarah and Geri, our staff, for their help before and on the day itself. Especial thanks to Millhouse Vets, and Pooch's Pet Treats for judging and sponsoring the Dog Show. Pooch's donated several bags of their dog treats as prizes and also to sell with proceeds going to the Village Centre. The next event will be the Christmas Lights Switch-On.

Grass Cutting and Village Cleaning

We have recently selected contractors to undertake cleaning duties and also cutting the areas of grass that we are responsible for. Meanwhile, we have been arranging ad-hoc cuts and hope the village will soon look its best again.

November 11th 2018

As you will no doubt be aware, this year's commemoration is also the anniversary of the end of the First World War. Provisional arrangements are: Church service at St Nicholas at 10:30 as usual, Civic event at the War Memorial at around midday, Beacon lighting and bell-ringing at 7:05pm with a wreath laying at the Memorial in St Nicholas Churchyard. There will also be a dinner, based on recipes from the WW1 era, in the Village Centre. Further information will be published in Village Voice, St Nicholas Church newsletter and on posters around the village.

Skatepark

A group of local parents and children have been holding fundraising events, and the Allotments Association donated half the proceeds from their recent Open Day. Grant funding will be needed to add to any funds raised and the earmarked Parish Council reserves. The Parish Council will involve users in the design and will consult residents in the vicinity before a final plan is agreed.

Parish Council Meetings

The frequency of Full Council meetings will stay with two Full Council meetings a month until October. Meetings will then be held in the Village Centre. Members of the public are very welcome and there is time allotted for parishioners to ask questions on agenda items.

Please contact the Clerk for more information on meetings and advice about Parish matters. Tel: 01485 541465; email: clerk@dersingham.org.uk Visit the Parish website: www.dersingham.org.uk □

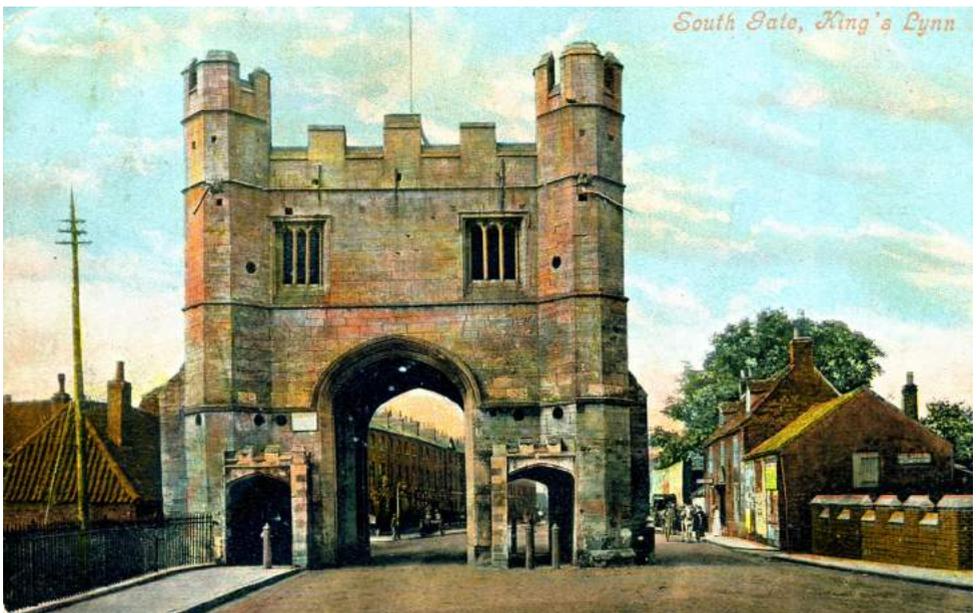
Old Picture Corner By Tony Bubb



It's interesting how the best postcards of a place are often found a long way from where they depict. Take the one below. I was having a rummage in an antique centre in Barnard Castle, County Durham and had just bought a Beneagles squirrel. These small models were made by Beswick and were sold in little boxes and contained whisky.

There are some 25 in the series and I am trying to get the set which includes models of Scottish wildlife, the Loch Ness Monster and a haggis. But I digress. There in a box of mixed postcards was this one of the South Gate. Hand coloured and franked on July 17th 1905 it was sent to a lady in Scarborough. Sadly, the almost unreadable message mainly mentions a Mrs Atkinson who was due to visit.

The building is shortly closing for renovations but will reopen much improved. □





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Dersingham Village Centre Moving Forward

by Chris Davey

Construction work on the new Centre has made great strides during the last two months with works being carried out by various specialists including electricians, plumbers, carpenters, and glaziers. The timber cladding is now easy to view from the road, with the new Parish Office windows now installed on



the ground floor. There were two major milestone events during the two months, with the first being the pouring of the concrete screed over the underfloor heating. This work was completed in a day with six separate batches of concrete delivered to the site

With the concrete screed set, works accelerated in the Main Hall, and soon the time came to bury the

Time Capsule. The Time Capsule contained



numerous artefacts, coins, a magazine and photographs which should be interesting to anyone finding the capsule if the Centre is ever dismantled. Following the completion of the



concrete screed, the walls were given their first coat of paint.

The second major milestone started with installing the grid in the roof to carry the acoustic ceiling. As this is installed the full impact of the capacity of the Main Hall is felt.

All those who have had a chance to see inside the Hall have been impressed by the scope and capacity of the new Centre.

And soon everyone will have a chance to come and see it for themselves.



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The Dersingham Walking Group

In the last issue of Village Voice I wrote about paths flooded, torrential rain and the question "Will summer ever come?". Answer, yes and now we all wish for rain. But as the old Chinese proverb says, be careful what you wish for, you may get it! The bottom line is that where the weather is concerned, we get what we're given, but rain or shine a good walk is always something to be enjoyed.

Now I've mentioned it before in this column, but to ensure that the Walking Group continues to thrive, we do need to recruit some more walks leaders. It's a good thing to do and you'll be helping the community and ensuring that our regular programme of country walks can continue. We have a selection of different walks that you could undertake, or you can devise your own, which is part of the fun. Do please get in touch if you can help, my contact details are below.

Over the next couple of months we will be walking along the coast and through the countryside, with walks at Syderstone, Heacham, Ingoldisthorpe and Old Hunstanton on the calendar. Syderstone is a nice village in an area that we haven't visited for a while, so I'm looking forward to leading that walk. At Heacham there's a good walk that starts at the famous duck pond before going along the beach towards Snettisham and back via the sea bank. Experience has shown us that this is a route best done in summer rather than in the winter months when we have experienced the proverbial lazy wind. It doesn't go around you, it goes straight through you! A little later, on the 27th September we will be doing one of our most popular routes, through old Hunstanton Park and Ringstead Downs. The Park is only open on Thursdays, so note the change of day.

Full details of all these walks are below, including the National Grid reference if you're not sure about the exact start point. There's also information on the Dersingham Walking Group web page, which you can find on the Parish Council website at www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup/. Or you can phone the leader of the particular walk to get more information.

There is no cost involved with Dersingham Walking Group walks, just turn up with your boots on. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do his or her best to look after you, of course, but it is a condition of coming on a walk that you take responsibility for your own safety. As that great hiker Alfred Wainwright said "Watch where you put your feet!"

Stephen Martyn

Our next few walks

Wednesday 8th August 2.00pm

A tour of Syderstone and the surrounding countryside. Meet at Syderstone Church. 5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333. Start point grid ref: TF 832 326.

Wednesday 22nd August 2.00pm

Along the beach and through the dunes. Meet at Heacham, Bray's Pit duck pond. 4.5 miles. Leaders: Steve and Lindsey Davis 01485 543138. Start point grid ref: TF 672 374.

Wednesday 12th September 2.00pm

An Ingoldisthorpe walk including Park Farm. Meet at the big layby near Ingoldisthorpe crossroads. 4.5 miles. Leader: Pat Reed 01485 540757. Start point grid ref: TF 683 324.

Thursday 27th September 2.00pm

Explore Old Hunstanton Park and Ringstead Downs. Meet at St Mary's church car park Old Hunstanton. Parking £1 per car. 5 miles. Leaders: Steve and Lindsey Davis 01485 543138. Start point grid ref: TF 688 420.

PLEASE NOTE THAT the leaders are happy to organize and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. Group coordinator: Stephen Martyn Tel: 01485 541333 Email: stephenmartyn@gmail.com

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It's been a hot few weeks and the garden is suffering but it has looked lovely with so many colours, especially from the poppies.

'The Great Get Together' - On Saturday 23rd June we held a very successful afternoon tea. The donated cakes came in en masse and were really lovely, thanks everyone. It was a beautiful sunny day, a relaxing time to just sit and chat and meet new people.

On Wednesday 4th July Doreen Reed gave a very interesting talk entitled: Nourishing Winter Meals Planned by a Prudent Pensioner.

She spoke about eating healthily, planning and making batches of meals to prepare ahead and reduce waste.

Future Events

For Children - throughout the school summer holidays there are activities being organised. Look out for the posters or contact the library for more information. 01485 540181



We have a new group meeting at the library – **Dersingham Writer's Group**. Did you enjoy writing at school? Do you enjoy writing now? If so come along and join our friendly writing group and take part in some fun activities. This event happens in open library time so please see staff for details of how to sign up or call 01485 540181

- Next meeting is 28th August 1.30pm-3.30pm

During the **Second Week of September** the Hunstanton & District Camera Club are exhibiting some of their photographs at the Library and on the **13th September at 7.30 pm** Chris Holt is giving a visual talk titled The Coastal Path, King's Lynn to Gt. Yarmouth. Tickets in advance are £3.00 per person and Booking is Essential for this talk.

On the **Tuesday 16th October at 5.00 p.m.** we have Carl Smith, Critical Care Paramedic, returning for those who missed his talk and demonstration last year or, as in my case, need a refresher on what to do if you find someone who has collapsed and went into cardiac arrest. He will also show how to use a defibrillator, similar to the one we have at the library. This was a most successful evening last year and very informative. Donations will go to the Air Ambulance and NARS.

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The next Friends Meeting is on Thursday 2nd August 4.30 pm.□

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The Heacham Songsters

We meet every Wednesday at the Pine Residents Hall, Wilton Road, Heacham. We charge £5 a month to cover the cost of the hall hire, tea and biscuits.

Please come along and join us, we practice 10am – 12noon, we sing to recordings of popular tunes (no formal music training required). When we have a set programme, we then sing for residential homes and clubs in the surrounding area on request. We are a non-profit making group but are happy to receive donations for charity.



The pictures show our donations to two charities – Nelsons Journey £400 and Norfolk Befrienders £400. Contact Pam Swan on 01485 298592□



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Dersingham Carpet Bowls



As I write this on a scorching June day the snow and ice of late February and early March area is a distant memory. It did happen however and, as a result, the matches in the Mayors trophy competition were severely delayed. By the time the next round was



due to be played several of the original team had moved on to outdoor bowling and were unavailable. Luckily volunteers stepped into the breach and, over 2 legs, beat Wiggenhall by 59 to 51 to progress to the finals at Lynnsport on 20th May. With Margaret being the only surviving team member a slightly different team ended up as runners up and received the appropriate trophies. Due to a hiatus in the organisation, the summer league individual trophies were very late in arriving. Our secretary David Hart also acquired the runners up trophies due to Sporle and Methwold clubs and it was decided to deliver the trophies and have friendly matches at the same time.

So on 20th June 6 members travelled to Sporle on a lonely sunny afternoon. We are now more used to the definite slope in their floor but, provided you remember it's uphill towards the church and down hill away. You are O.K. a pleasant afternoon of good company rounded off by tea and cake.

Friday 22nd June saw the club A.G.M, 19 members attended, and apologies received

from some of the outdoor bowlers. The Chairman gave a quick resume of the year's activities and thanked everyone for their help during the year and a round of applause was given to the Treasurer Alan and Secretary David, without whom the club could not function. Also, special mention to Steve the caretaker who helps in many ways over the year. The Treasurer's report was circulated and accepted. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer agreed to stand for another year and were returned unopposed. Maureen agreed to remain as Social Secretary and members Sue, Ulla, Judith and Rosemary were voted in en bloc as committee. □



A pompous old colonel from Heacham
Approached Tony Bubb to beseech
him

"to rhyme Holm Hale or Sporle

Is no trouble at all

But nothing much else rhymes with
Heacham

A pompous old colonel from Heacham

Said to his wife "this'll teach 'em

I've spent half the night

Trying to get my smalls white

So now I've decided to bleach 'em"



Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Welcome to the final entry of the academic year and what a terrific final term it's been!

At the Early Years Site, Journeys has been the predominant interest for many of the younger children, especially since the sunny weather has arrived. Nursery age children had an amazing visit to Snettisham Park Farm, for many it was their first time on a coach! The children went on a deer safari, fed the deer and farm animals, and even collected freshly laid eggs. A fabulous day was had by all.



Reception age children have been visiting the main site as they get ready to become Year 1's! A visit from the peripatetic music service was a real highlight on one of their visits, as the tuba player played some of the children's favourite songs!

The Early Years site's summer fair was a huge success with over £400 raised in total. A huge

thank you to local businesses, parents, families and friends for supporting us once again. The children at the main site worked extremely hard, making, baking, creating and preparing games and produce for their stalls and raised £622.

Year 1 have been busy travelling back in time millions of years and had a wonderful educational visit to the Dinosaur park!

A visit to Cley Marsh Nature reserve was a fantastic experience for the Year 2's, where they went Dyke Dipping, habitat rambling and experienced the tremendous power of the waves on the beach, from a safe distance of course! Detectives Class opened the Flower Festival at the Methodist Church, where they sang songs and displayed their writing and pictures. A big thank you for the warm welcome and delicious refreshments served up!

Year 3 Scavengers have been busy with their Predator topic. The children looked at fossil dinosaur teeth and also the sharp teeth and claws of their mini predator visitor! They then used lions as a basis for their South African stall at the summer fair, for which the children got really involved creating their own lion games, flag bunting and South African snacks to sell. They were impressed with how much money was raised!

Year 4 have been studying the work of PT Barnum, the American showman, and comparing his life story with the film, 'The Greatest Showman.' This has included building working fairground models and culminated in 'Candyfloss Science', demonstrating dissolving substances into a solution and then recovering them back again. The Year 4 children were also incredibly fortunate to have a songwriter work with the class to produce their own song and attend the 'Big Pump Organ Project' making their own wind instruments using recycled



materials.

Year 5 have been busy this term working on their enterprise project, 'Make £5 Grow.' The children gained real experience of starting a small business, providing context for literacy and numeracy, whilst also developing their teamwork and problem solving skills. The result was a fantastic 'Farmers Market' held at Dersingham Social Club. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and made it such a success for our children!

Year 6 have had a very busy half term. The children have been working on their end of year performance, *Mystery at Magpie Manor*, making props and scenery, learning songs and dances, and practising their lines. During



Refugee Week, they heard stories of children escaping from difficult situations around the world. The students responded to this by producing some incredibly thoughtful work. To celebrate the end of their time in primary school, the children have been out on



several visits including adventurous outdoor activities, den building, swimming, trampolining and a day at the seaside. They are looking forward to celebrating their time at Dersingham School with an end of year prom.

Dersingham Primary School prides itself on being a healthy school and, earlier in the



term, the children participated in a keeping healthy week, where they challenged themselves to leave the car at home and park and stride, scooter or bike to school. They learnt about healthy eating, particularly what they have for lunch at school and in their lunch box and they participated in lots of fitness activities. Understanding the importance of sleep, hydration and a positive mental attitude was also explored. The week culminated in a Royal Wedding Lunch and a special Golden Time, where parents joined their



children for majestic art and craft activities.

Sporting events have featured highly during the summer term with our fantastic Kwick Cricket girl's team becoming West Norfolk champions and going on to represent the region at the School Games finals in Norwich. The mixed team continued in the same vein winning the cluster event and progressing to the finals at Runcton. Dersingham hosted the off road cycle event once again, with a fabulous turn out and wall to wall sunshine! Yrs 2 and 3 participated in a swim gala at Glebe and Yr 5 enjoyed a water polo festival. Finally, the school saw phenomenal success at Area Sports, with every child winning a medal. Tunnel ball was particularly successful this year!

From everyone here at Dersingham Primary School, we wish you a very happy summer ☐

Dersingham Allotments Association Open Day



The Dersingham Allotments Association held a successful Open Day on Sunday 24 June and despite the drought conditions with most water butts almost empty and growth at a standstill visitors were able to buy freshly picked soft fruit, plenty



of veggies, plants and flowers. Tombola, bric-a-brac, cake and preserves stalls were kept busy, and a gaily decorated stall tempted visitors with rhubarb cocktails and other delicacies. Visitors enjoyed wandering around the allotments to see the great variety of crops and to wonder at the work that



must go into them, particularly those awarded certificates as best for 2018. As on previous Open Days, the barbecue was kept busy serving beefburgers, hot dogs and drinks, with welcome seats in the shade. A number of children enjoyed taking part in a hunt for eleven scarecrows, all made by allotment holders, that were dotted around the allotments. Each scarecrow had been given a name by their owners and the children had to collect all the names to receive a small prize.



All the proceeds from the Allotment Open Days are given to local charities. This year the £670 total was shared between the Scouts and Guides Association and the village skateboard project. Cheques were presented at a gathering on the allotments on Sunday 7 July to Sue Payne on behalf of the Parish Council for the skateboard project and to the local Secretary and Treasurer of the Scouts and Guides. □

A pompous old colonel from Heacham
Had a toothless and blind hound
called Beecham
Though the dog could not bite
He took great delight
In latching on tight just to leech 'em

A pompous old colonel from Heacham
Whose soldiers re-named him
Beacham
When he went for a walk
Did nothing but talk
Of his recruits and what he could
teach 'em

Just a thought.... By Steve Oliver



A few months ago I went to a relative's funeral. I was told it was to be a naturalist funeral, Jill thought I had said naturist which conjured up no end of possibilities and laughter, but in fact it was to be a humanist funeral.

This was a strange affair as there were obviously no hymns and prayers, but it was held in a church with the cross removed and presided by a Priest in a shirt and tie. There was music played, one of which was Chris Ria's "Tell me there's a heaven". Finally, we had a blessing and the Lord's Prayer was said. It was a lovely service, and I can only presume because the spouse was religious they had decided to try and blend the two beliefs into a simple but effective farewell.

Since that time, I have tried to imagine what it must be like to be a humanist and live without God in my life, and to be honest it is an impossible task. Living without God is living without the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and without that there can be no thought of forgiveness, no thought of an everlasting peace and hope of an eternal life within the love of God; for that alone I pray those who are yet to find God in their lives will one day hear His word and be alive to the gospel of Christ.

Burnham Market Craft Fair

Sat 18th August

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I remember not so long-ago John Humphrey's of Radio 4 fame questioning faith leaders from Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities on how someone like him who does not believe finds God. As I listened to them answering very searching questions, it became obvious that to explain God just through words alone to those who do not believe is extremely difficult. It also helped me understand how important the words of Jesus are when he said "**you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.**" To find God is an experience of the whole body; yes there must be an understanding of who God is, but then it is absorbing that understanding and letting it flow throughout the body and the soul.

We who trust and believe in God must continue to explore our understanding through worship prayer and study so that those who have yet to believe may be inspired by our experience of who God is and what He can do in our lives. □



Opening Sentences

By Brian Anderson

A famous publisher (it might have been Victor Gollancz) is said to have remarked that he could judge whether a book was worth publishing by reading the first paragraph - this may be apocryphal. But I have occasionally wondered how much the first *sentence* told you about the book, either in terms of the plot or its general ambience. It may be necessary to read the book first and judge the first sentence later. I make no pretence of any expertise in literary analysis so what follows is a very personal look at the opening sentences of a range of novels (and one novelised memoir).



***Pride and Prejudice* Jane Austen.**

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife."

This must be the most famous opening sentence of all. Austen tells us immediately that this story is going to be (at least in part) about marriage. Anyone who has read the book will think of Lizzie Bennet and Mr Darcy, who do marry after

overcoming the barriers of pride and prejudice. But the book is replete with marriages. Eventually Jane Bennet (Lizzie's older sister) marries Mr Bingley. Both of these marriages are for love. Charlotte Lucas marries the appalling Mr Collins for pragmatic reasons of financial security. Lydia Bennet marries Mr Wickham after eloping with him - almost a shotgun wedding to avoid scandal. And there is the enduring marriage of Mr and Mrs Bennet, the girls' parents.

***Nineteen Eighty-four* George Orwell.**

"It was a bright cold day in April and the clocks were striking thirteen"

It's clear that something out of the ordinary has happened or is happening. The clocks we know don't strike thirteen. The choice of April echoes the beginning of T S Eliot's *The Waste Land* which begins "April is the cruellest month". I was very pleased with myself for having established this link. But hubris has a cost and it wasn't long before I discovered that many others had been there before me. Many literary analysts have pointed out the thematic similarities - the general feeling of pessimism, the attempts to fit tangible elements of the past into a coherent view of the present. Orwell is known to have been an admirer of Eliot and certainly read *The Waste Land*. The only difference is that the poem ends with some feeling of hope whereas *1984* offers only a future of deceit, violence and brutality.



***The War of the Worlds* H G Wells**

"No-one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's but as mortal as his own: that as men busied themselves about their various concerns they were scrutinised and studied, perhaps almost as narrowly as a man with a microscope might scrutinise the transient creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water"

To the modern reader we know *exactly* what this is about - it's an alien invasion from outer space. But to the Victorian reader of 1898 they would have little idea of what was to follow - the heat-ray, the giant striding metal tripods, the subjugation of the Earth by the Martians. Because this was the *first* extraterrestrial invasion novel, often copied, perhaps never surpassed. Wells deploys prose in a way that is masterly. Let me quote from later in that opening paragraph in which he describes the Martians as having "intellects vast cool, and unsympathetic regarded this earth with envious eyes".



This period saw Wells at his most inventive - over a fairly short period he wrote *The Time Machine*, *The Invisible Man*, *The First men in the Moon* and a large number of short stories, one of which (*The Sea Raiders*) prefigures *The War of the Worlds* but with aggressive squid rather than Martians and set in Sidmouth in Devon. It was published in 1896.

Rebecca Daphne Du Maurier

"Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again"

This opening sentence must be nearly as famous as Jane Austen's! I always think that a

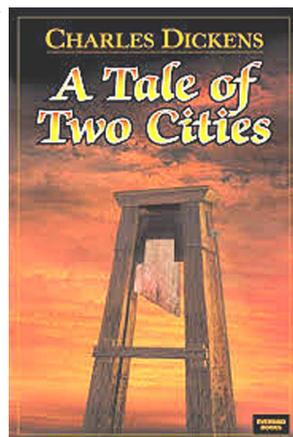


story that starts with a dream has something strange, perhaps bizarre about it. In this story Du Maurier has achieved something quite remarkable - she has managed to produce a Gothic (or perhaps I should say Gothick) novel of the form popular in the eighteenth century and brought in seamlessly into the twentieth. All the ingredients are there - the remote country house, superficially attractive but solemn, the malevolent housekeeper Mrs Danvers, the brooding presence of the previous deceased lady of the house, Rebecca, wife of the owner Maxim de

Winter. Into this story comes a naive unnamed narrator who is de Winter's second wife. The plot gradually reveals what really happened to Rebecca - I shall say no more in case you haven't read it!

A Tale of Two Cities Charles Dickens

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

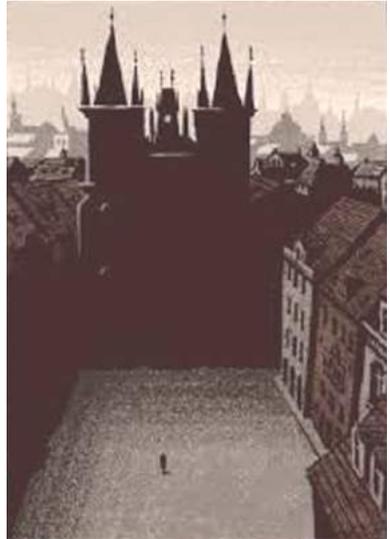


It is a long sentence - Dickens is known for long sentences but then he was paid by the word! The opening addresses the tumultuous and universal theme - The French Revolution and captures, I believe, the intellectual ferment that was gripping much of Europe at that time. There is not the space here to detail the plot but it is regarded as one of the Dickens' masterworks and is one of only two historical novels that he wrote, the other being *Barnaby Rudge*.

The Trial Franz Kafka

"Someone must have been telling lies about Joseph K., for without having done anything wrong he was arrested one fine morning."

So begins one of the strangest and most perplexing books I have ever read. The charge against Joseph K. is never specified, nothing is ever explained. It has been described as a *Pilgrim's Progress* of the unconscious but I see it as an account of the inexplicability of life where individuals are cast hither and thither by forces they can neither understand nor control.



Cider With Rosie Laurie Lee

"I was set down from the carrier's cart at the age of three; and there with a sense of bewilderment and terror my life in the village began."



Here I have been pre-empted, for the noted author Susan Hill, in her introduction to a new edition of the book says *You recognize that some books are immortal after reading a chapter or two, others as you turn the last page. But Cider with Rosie is immortal from its opening sentence. It communicates a freshness and immediacy, but there is from those first lines*

something more, rather more difficult to define. Let it be called confidence.

It details the childhood and coming of age of the author in a valley in rural Gloucestershire and for me it summarises a forgotten rural life, sometimes idyllic, sometimes not. But it is a wonderful account and well worth the read.

Of course, not all books have revealing opening sentences. *War and Peace*, held by many to be the greatest novel ever written begins: "*Eh bien mon prince*, so Genoa and Lucca are now no more than private estates of the Bonaparte family".

This tells you little about what is to follow. But then you could just at the title... □



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RNLI Afternoon Tea from Mandy Styles

Here are a few photos of the Afternoon Tea we held in our garden on the 14th June.



The two ladies with me in the cake stall photo are left Lesley Watson and right Sue Bolton, with me in the middle. The two ladies on the RNLI stand are Nikki Gray and Tina Barton, both RNLI shop volunteers at Old Hunstanton Lifeboat Station.



After a very blustery morning, 40mph gusts, the wind died down,

the sun came out and we had a glorious afternoon. We think roughly 40 people joined us, enjoying tea and cakes in the garden. We raised an amazing total of £511, half of that was made on the RNLI shop stand and the rest from the sale of tea, cakes, books and a raffle plus a few donations from those that couldn't attend.

I'd like to thank the ladies for all their help on the day and big thank you to those from my Pilates class and Art group who made cakes, biscuits, pies and flans for us to sell.

We may do it all again next year but ask me in about 3 months time! □



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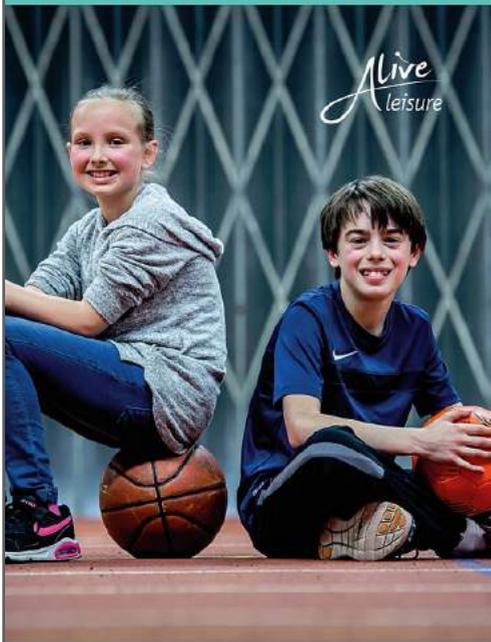
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Organised by the Norfolk Branch of Astro Brain Tumour Fund, charity no. 1132961



Going For Ingoldisthorpe From Ben Allen

Parents are to attempt the National 3 Peaks Challenge to raise money for much needed space at their children's school

A group of intrepid West Norfolk parents are training hard for the 3 Peaks Challenge to raise vital funds for their local school (Ingoldisthorpe Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School). They will summit the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales in 24 hours from dusk on 31st August, walking over 23 miles, climbing a total of over 10,000ft and driving 1138 miles.



The completion of the challenge will help secure two exciting new developments for Ingoldisthorpe Primary: an outdoor log cabin classroom which will provide much needed space at their children's school and a stage piano to strengthen the school's music provision.

A log cabin to match the existing classrooms will cost around £8,000 to buy and site on the school field. It will offer the school space for Music Lessons which are an important part of the curriculum, along with room for Art, Reading and intervention sessions for small groups of children.

The group of 9 parents initially formed in September last year via the #schoolrunrun campaign to try and get parents active together. One of the regular runners, Lexy Ridgway, suggested the challenge as a great way to raise money for the school and so the parents will make their 24 hour attempt of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon with the School Secretary driving and feeding the team.

Headteacher, Sean Wright, said: "Funding-raising is such an important part of education in today's ever-changing landscape. It's wonderful to see so many parents, staff and children committing their time, energy and skills to benefit our school community."

Taking the challenge is not only promoting a healthy lifestyle, a sensible approach to exercise, but also raising money for a local cause. The group's gofund me page is: <https://www.gofundme.com/going-for-ingoldisthorpe> and any businesses that would like to sponsor the team are encouraged to get in contact to have their logo displayed at the top of each peak on a banner. Follow the team by searching for the handle #goingforingoldisthorpe on Social Media! □



DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE – OPEN FOR USE FROM 1ST OCTOBER!

from David Collingham, chairman

Yes, we are getting really close to the time our entire community can benefit from the new Centre facilities.

Below is a diagrammatic representation of the available space – which includes two large rooms for events and meetings, and the extra large Main Hall for events, parties, celebrations and films. We are currently ordering chairs and tables which will allow seated functions of up to 160 and other non-tabled functions of up to 200. **BOOK NOW!!** You will soon be receiving a pamphlet that gives you all the information including hire charges and terms and conditions. In the meantime, these can be seen on our website: www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk and you can RESERVE all or parts of the Centre online right now for October 1st onwards.

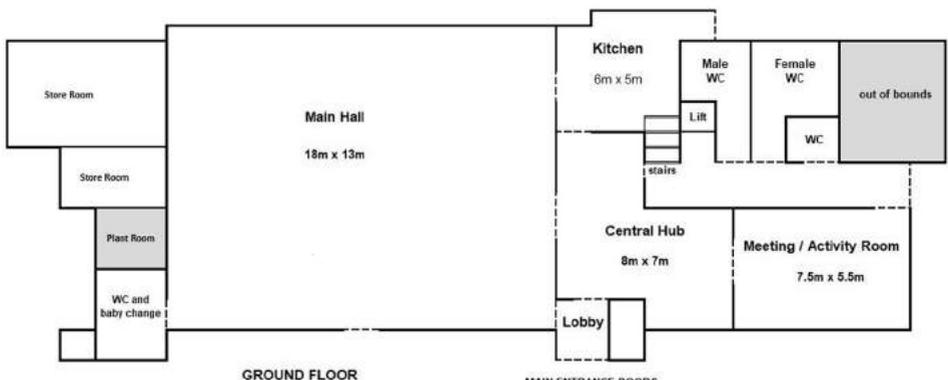
We are planning a Opening Week from October 20th culminating in a Ceilidh (Barn Dance) with a live band on Saturday October 27th. Dersingham residents and others from surrounding districts are warmly invited to drop in that week to see the facilities and there will be some planned free events for all to enjoy.

Other DVCA activities continue with Film Club monthly, the reinstatement of Village Voice Live talks and of course the Village Lottery.

Last month's Lottery winning numbers were: 60, 19 and 37. All funds raised go to buying crockery, blinds, kitchen equipment and other interior furnishings. Please sign up on our website or through the Parish Council Office

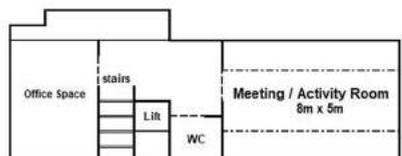
We have new members on the committee of the DVCA and invite anyone who would like to contribute to the successful operation of the Centre, or to funding further fixtures and fittings, to contact me, as Chairman, either through the website or by phoning: 01485 540271.

Huge thanks to all who have helped make the Dersingham Village Centre a final reality.□



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Dersingham Village Centre





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Environmental specialist presented with a prestigious Churchill Medallion at a London award ceremony

Duncan Vaughan from Dersingham in Norfolk is a Senior Environmental Specialist for Natural England - the conservation advisor in England. Duncan was presented with a Churchill Medallion at a prestigious award ceremony in London recently.

The medallion was awarded to Duncan to mark the successful completion of his overseas research as a Churchill Fellow.

For his Fellowship, Duncan travelled to Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, France and the USA to investigate how marine planning could deliver environmental benefits. Speaking about his Fellowship, Duncan said, "Marine planning in England is a developing subject area with marine plans being required to be in place throughout English waters by



2021. My travels overseas gave me new ideas for how we can influence plan development to secure environmental benefits. Being a Churchill Fellow enabled me to speak directly to the global leaders in this subject area at length. I'd urge anyone who wants to make a difference in their chosen field to apply for a Churchill Fellowship."

The Fellowships were set up in memory of Sir Winston Churchill on his death in 1965, and over 5,400 Fellowships have been awarded since then. Anyone can apply, regardless of age, qualifications or background. Churchill Fellows are funded to travel for 4-8 weeks overseas, researching new ideas that can

make a difference to their communities or professions in the UK. Applications are now open until 18 September 2018, for travel in 2019, at www.wcmt.org.uk.

This year's Churchill Medallions were presented by distinguished photojournalist Nick Danziger, whose career began with a Churchill Fellowship that took him across Central Asia in 1982. This year Danziger presented medallions to 130 Churchill Fellows at the biennial Churchill Fellows Award Ceremony. It was held at Church House, Westminster, which was Winston Churchill's temporary office during World War Two.

The Churchill Medallion itself is a unique piece designed by world-famous glass artist Professor Brian Clarke, himself a Churchill Fellow of 1974. He is particularly noted for his architectural and stained glass. It features a digital image of Winston Churchill in striking blue cloisonné enamel on a solid silver disc, with the Fellows' name engraved on the reverse. Clarke explains: "The digitised image of Sir Winston is drawn from the iconic portrait by celebrated photographer Yousuf Karsh, taken in 1941. It is intended to glow with the reflected light of the silver, through the transparent vitreous enamel." □



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Wartime Dersingham

Peter Hooks has sent in some wonderful old pictures taken locally. Some of you might recognise a few faces



The Sandringham Newsletter

By kind permission of the Sandringham estate

Compiled by Helen Walch



The biggest event at Sandringham in May was the live screening of the wedding of HRH Prince Harry and Ms Meghan Markle, on a huge outdoor screen at the Visitor Centre. More than two thousand people came to enjoy the coverage on a beautiful sunny day and brought with them a relaxed and happy atmosphere. The Visitor Centre lawn was left almost spotless at the end of the day, too!

On the Farm, all the spring sowing was completed in May. Beans, oats, wheat and sugar beet were drilled, together with red and white clover to improve soil fertility next year. Then attention turned to keeping on top of maintaining road verges and repairing farm tracks while the weather continued dry. Organic and conversion crops of wheat, barley and beans are being harrowed to keep weed growth down.



In the Gardens, good growing conditions kept staff busy mowing lawns and hoeing weeds. Most of the bedding plants raised in the greenhouses have been planted in the North Garden and the Walled Garden, and the pots and planters on the West Terrace have been filled for the summer displays. Excess bedding plants, including heliotrope and Calocephalus (also known as the “Silver Bush” or “Snow Bush”) were sent up to the Visitor Centre and are now available at the Plant Centre there

In Sandringham Park, the Horse Driving Trials took place at the end of June. Entry is free for spectators, and the skill of the drivers and the elegance of the sport are well worth going to see. In addition this year, members of the Coaching Club once again brought full-sized coaches and horse teams; with the drivers and passengers beautifully turned out, the Club's visit to Sandringham on Friday 29th June really was a sight to behold. In addition, on the Saturday and Sunday, there was a Meet and Drive of the Attelage de Tradition, a group which encourages the use of traditional carriages built before 1945, and also a ridden Trec event, a competition designed to test and improve the skills of trail riders.



At the Visitor Centre, the improvement in the weather in May saw an increase in the number of people visiting. Changes to the displays in the Plant Centre and a shift to a local nursery supplier have proved popular with visitors, and one of the best-sellers is the “Wire Netting Plant”, a small New Zealand shrub called Corokia cotoneaster, which is much prettier than it sounds. The Restaurant's home-made lemon and elderflower cupcake, and rhubarb and ginger ice cream made with rhubarb from the Gardens have both been going down well, too, and the new herb garden is making an excellent display. The summer programme of concerts by visiting brass bands began in June with the City of Ely band and will continue through until the middle of September. □

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Dersingham Evening WI from Maggie guest

The WI group have had several day outings. A trip to the Gordon Boswell Romany Museum was an amazing collection he had made of artefacts, historical photos and Romany caravans and equipment.

We were given hot drinks there and this was followed by a trip to Springfields where members had lunch, browsed in the shops and admired the plants.

The next outing was to the amazing Flower Festival in Ely Cathedral. A pleasure to wander around the city later.

Lastly, for the time being, was a day trip to the Royal Norfolk Show. We had a very knowledgeable driver who had us leave a bit early so we went straight in with no queue and absolutely no traffic when we left. The sun shone all day but we were treated to a lovely breeze. The WI had their own marquee with home-made produce available. Members were free to wander where they wanted. Such a vast amount to see we were busy all day.



The May meeting was unusual in so far as members discussed the resolutions in small groups. These are issues the WI feel are of national importance and go forward to a national meeting for a final decision on what the WI will campaign on. After the meeting

everyone was able to try puddings that members had made and brought along. At the June meeting, Maureen Rispin dressed appropriately, gave us a talk on how she had met Queen Mary. Madge Watts was a Canadian lady who introduced the WI to the UK. She formed over 300 WIs including the one at Sandringham following an invitation from Queen Mary.



The Dining Club had 25 members enjoying themselves at the White Horse at Holme where excellent food was prepared and the service was superb. A great evening organised by Cyn and Lyn. Well

done to them .

Other groups continue to thrive and we have had coffee mornings at Anne's with a plant sale and at Sharon's with a raffle. These are always very friendly occasions and a chance to chat and meet people in small groups.

No meeting in August but we are having a tea party in Diane's garden. The September meeting is on the 19th September when Alison Thorne talks to us about Libraries in the 21st Century. We start at 7.15pm and there are always people to meet you on the door. □



2nd Dersingham Brownies go wild in Bewilderwood by Lynn Wheeler

The girls and leaders of the 2nd Dersingham Brownies took advantage of the hot weather by enjoying a day at Bewilderwood; the outdoor tree-house adventure park near Wroxham.



Despite the warm weather, the Brownies

were always on the go; they enjoyed a boat ride to the scary lake, crafts in the big top and a picnic lunch under the trees. They spent their time climbing and exploring all the different mazes and tree-houses and sliding down the slides, many times. There was also time for ice creams and a visit to the gift shop. It was a very exhausting, but enjoyable day. □



The West Norfolk Members' Group invites you to:-
an illustrated talk

by **Sonia Reveley**
of the Bat Conservation Trust

- An Introduction to Bats -

on

Thursday 27th September - 7.30pm

Venue: Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street
Cost: £2.50 members / £3.00 visitors



Car Wash: Slavery?

Rev Mark Capron Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe & Shernborne



Drivers are being encouraged to join a national information-gathering campaign launched by the Church of England and the Catholic Church in England and Wales aimed at eradicating modern slavery in hand car washes.

What is modern day slavery? Modern day slavery is the severe exploitation of people for personal or financial gain, and affects millions around the world. Victims are forced, deceived or coerced into a situation which they cannot leave. This could be – but isn't limited to – forced labour, human trafficking or sexual exploitation.



In any case the perpetrator could use threats, abuse of power and emotional manipulation to gain benefits from the victim. Modern day slavery typically begins when a person who doesn't reside in the UK is promised a job in the country.

The offer will often involve 'recruitment' costs and an advanced payment to cover travel – money which is borrowed from the traffickers. Once the victim arrives in the UK, they're then forced to pay off their debt, with working and living conditions they have absolutely no control over. The debt contributes hugely to controlling of the victims".

Keeping our cars clean can inadvertently be supporting modern slavery. Anti-slavery campaigners and other key agencies, including the police and councils, are backing the Safe Car Wash App, launched by *The Clewer Initiative*, the Church of England's campaign against modern slavery, and the Santa Marta Group, the Catholic Church's anti-slavery project.

The Safe Car Wash app can be downloaded for free on to Apple and Android devices. Users can open the app when they are at the car wash and pinpoint their exact location using GPS.

They will be then taken through a series of indicators of modern slavery. They range from practical details - such as whether workers have suitable protective clothing - to behavioural clues, such as whether they appear withdrawn. If the answers indicate a high likelihood, users will be directed to the Modern Slavery Helpline. Will Kerr, Director of Vulnerabilities for the National Crime Agency (NCA) said: *"This App will help to engage the public in identifying car washes, where slavery is suspected, and will also help law enforcement identify those people who may be at risk, as well as those criminals who are exploiting the vulnerable."* The App is also endorsed by the National Police Chiefs' Council, the Local Government Association and the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

When Jesus was in the synagogue in Nazareth he stood up and read from Isaiah saying: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free' (Luke 4:18). Jesus leads us by example in setting the oppressed free; William Wilberforce followed his example and stood up for others and brought massive changes to slavery in his era. Now we can do our part to set the oppressed free: Safe Car Wash App.

Coming soon:- 1st September The Hunstanton Concert Band, 6th October - Rock Choir: West Norfolk LIVE!

Both in the Church at 7pm. Tickets on door £6

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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny



York Cottage

Well now here we go again, it is time for me to write another page or two in the Dersingham Village Voice No 113 for the months of August/ September 2018. As no doubt many of you have read in the press, Her Majesty The Queen is thinking of giving York Cottage, Sandringham to Prince Harry and his bride Meghan as a wedding gift. People have said to me, "Dick, where in Sandringham is York Cottage." Well it is down a private road in the grounds of Sandringham House. I will now tell you all a little bit more about it.

York Cottage was built in the 1860s before the original Sandringham Hall was demolished in order to provide additional much-needed accommodation for guests. With Sandringham House rebuilt and extended, the then Prince of Wales gave the cottage to his son in time for him to have it completely redecorated and fully furnished by the London department store Maples before his wedding, and it was at York Cottage that Prince George and Princess May (Mary) spent their honeymoon.

Many extensions were made to York Cottage; it became a warren of staff bedrooms and attics. Even so there was always a shortage of space, both for guests and staff. Up until Prince George had been gifted York Cottage it had been known as Bachelor's Cottage; it became a rambling old building with an assortment of gables, turrets, balconies, and chimneys, partly brick and carstone. Prince George and Princess Mary lived there whenever they were in Norfolk for the next 33 years, even after he had become king in 1910, moving into Sandringham House only after the death of Queen Alexandra in 1926. Prince John, George and Mary's youngest son, was born in 1905. When he was four years old he was found to be severely epileptic, so he was moved from York Cottage to Wood Farm, Wolferton where he was looked after by his nanny and a male orderly. On the 18th of January 1919 he passed away in his sleep; he was just 13 years old and on the 21st of January 1919 he was buried in Sandringham churchyard. For all of the 13 years of his short life he was looked after by his nanny Lala Bill, who in later years lived in West Newton. After 1926 York Cottage started to be used to provide staff accommodation; in 1936 it was offered to the newly appointed land agent (Captain Fellows) but, perhaps daunted by the tangle of rooms and staircases, he went to live at "Laycocks", a much smaller house on the West Newton / Sandringham boundary. Since 1936 the land agents have always lived in this house.

During World War Two York Cottage was offered as military accommodation and alternatively as a convalescent home. After the war there was a proposal to demolish the entire building, as it was need of major repairs. However, as the building, which then housed the estate office, was rapidly becoming too small, it was then decided to use York Cottage as the estate office and convert the upper floors into flats. It is still used in this way today. When I went to St George's school at Dersingham I was friendly with a boy whose father worked on the estate and they lived in a flat at York Cottage. The son was allowed to go fishing in the lake just out the back of York Cottage and he got permission to take me with him, which he did. The lake was full of small roach, and we never caught any other fish. We put them back but it was good sport.

The Warren

There was a very interesting letter in the Lynn News on May the 11th by a Prof T Mulligan, who was having a walk around the area down The Drift, Dersingham, that is now called The Warren, when he came across a man-made pit that he said had stagnant water in it and no sign of any wild life around it. For many years there was a moat near to this pit or man-made pond; it had been there for 200 years or more and is marked on a lot of old maps. When I lived in Dersingham over fifty years ago it was always called Baldings Moat. as the land around it was farmed by a family of that name. The moat was then surrounded by small trees and bushes and there was always two to three feet of water in it, even in the summer time, and I never knew it to dry out. There was always

plenty of wild life around it (no fish) including water fowl like mallard duck, shell duck, coot, and water hens, and now and again you would get swans gliding along on the water. When the houses and bungalows were built on this land, for some unknown reason the moat was but almost filled in. After a few years the Parish Council decided to construct another moat (pit) on this site but it has not worked; the original moat should have been left alone.

As for this site being called The Warren, there was never a warren there. Many years back there was a warren that covered some 1,000 acres; this warren started at the southern end of Dersingham Fen, it then went across Wolferton Fen, across Sandringham Heath and finished up on the outskirts of West Newton. It is much too late now but the moat should never have been interfered with, and what is now called The Warren should have been named after the Balding family that had farmed it for years. Over the years in recent times people come along and change the name of areas of land, roads, lanes and woods. One fine example in Dersingham was the changing of Dersingham Fen to Dersingham Bog. In time these old names will be lost to the village and its people forever.

Queen Mary

There was a nice write up in the Village Voice for June/July by Pat Linford about Mr Humfrey, Queen Mary's retired chauffeur, who lived in Heath Road. Until I read Pat's article I always thought Mr Humfrey was from Scotland; you never know what you are going to learn just by reading the Village Voice. In 1946 my mother and father and I moved from No 41 Lynn Road, Dersingham to No 63. The elderly couple that lived next door at No 65 were a Mr and Mrs Patterson. They had both worked at Sandringham House for Queen Alexandra - Mr Patterson as a coachman and Mrs Patterson as a seamstress. After Queen Alexandra passed away both worked for King George V and Queen Mary; after they retired they came to live in Dersingham. When Queen Mary went to visit Mr Humfrey she would at the same time visit the Pattersons. Their little cottage (two up, two down,) was like an Aladdin's cave with the walls covered in pictures, ornaments, furniture and knick-knacks everywhere, upstairs as well. Queen Mary always wanted to look around all of the house. The stairs had no handrails so my mother would have to go round and help the Queen's lady-in-waiting guide Queen Mary up and down the stairs. As my mother was by far the youngest she would hold the Queen's hands, walking backwards up and down the stairs whilst her lady-in-waiting walked behind the Queen in case she slipped. It must have been a right old sight. I never saw this go on as I was told to stay in our house, keep quiet and out of site.

When Queen Mary was at Sandringham, and this was a lot after the king passed away in 1936, she was not one for staying in. After the war she would often be seen walking along the promenade at Hunstanton or going round the shops in King's Lynn. One of her favourite shops to visit was Jermyn and Sons departmental store in the High Street. Another of her pastimes was going to church fetes and jumble sales at Sandringham and the surrounding villages.

Sandringham House

I was asked about Sandringham House during the Second World War. Well, it was shut up for the duration; the formal gardens on the west lawn and the nine hole golf course in the park were ploughed up to grow crops, mainly rye and potatoes. The Royal Family did still visit Norfolk during World War Two from time to time but stayed on those occasions in Appleton House, formerly the residence of Queen Maud of Norway (daughter of Edward VII and hence King George VI's aunt) until her death in 1938.

Just one more thing, Sir Marcus O'loné who has been the land agent on Sandringham estate for over fifteen years retired on the 1st of July 2018 and his position was taken over by Mr Edward Parsons.

Well as I always say, keep on a troshin, and by the time you read this I Should be eating some nice fresh samphire for my breakfast, dinner and tea.□

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A new, updated Norfolk - Your guide to care and support for adults 2018/19 has been published in association with Norfolk County Council. It gives readers crucial information on how to find and access care and support services throughout the county.

If you are looking for information on what your choices may be, this guide can help. With information to help you understand your options, where to go for advice and how the paying for care system works, the guide can support you to make informed decisions.

The new edition of Norfolk - Your guide to care and support for adults 2018/19 and accompanying website give information on all aspects of arranging care and support in and around Norfolk. It includes information about how to stay independent for as long as possible, the different care and support options available and what to look for when choosing a care provider if you need one.

It also offers guidance on important issues such as paying for care and what financial assistance may be available from the local authority. There are comprehensive listings of all registered care services throughout Norfolk, plus checklists to help you ask the right questions when visiting services.

It can be downloaded from www.norfolk.gov.uk/careservices and is available in spoken word. For a free copy of Norfolk – Your guide to care and support for adults 2018/19 contact Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020 or email information@norfolk.gov.uk. It is also available throughout the region from various outlets including hospitals, GP surgeries, Age UK and the Alzheimer's Society. □



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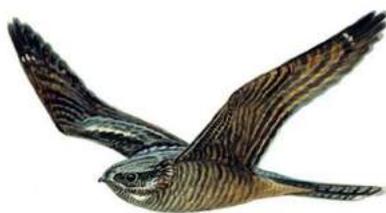
Bog News by Tom Bolderstone

NATURAL
ENGLAND

Since the last article the weather has changed somewhat and has been rather warm for quite a few weeks rather than very gusty winds! This has been a welcome change and for me one of the warmest early summers for a long while.

This time of year is a key time of year for one of the sites specialist birds, the Nightjar. It is something that site staff are always anticipating the return of as their distinctive churring call is a unique experience no matter how many times it is heard. Nightjar are a migrant bird and they first arrive back to the UK and Dersingham Bog in late April, if the winds over the continent are favourable. Nightjars are ground nesting birds with a distinct camouflage that blends in with the greys and browns of the sandy heathland soils found at Dersingham Bog NNR. They will only lay two eggs and tend to have two broods or nesting attempts whilst they are in the UK. They will then tend to return back to Africa in late August early September.

Site staff and volunteers have been monitoring the nesting patterns of Nightjar over the last few years and an interesting pattern has started to emerge, most likely caused by less than favourable migratory winds. What seems to be happening is that the male birds are arriving before the majority of the females as the females are getting held up on migration. The females are then arriving a few weeks late and this means that some pairs are only having one brood rather than two. This means that the birds may only fledge two young a season rather than four. It may be that the last few years they have been unlucky with the weather so it will be interesting to see over the next few years whether this pattern continues. Staff and volunteers have been completing evening Nightjar surveys to confirm the number of territories on site and at the end of the season these will be collated to give a total number of territories for the site. This will then be used with previous year's data to try and compare and analyse the trends for Nightjar on the site. This data can also be used to show both local trends for Nightjar and also National trends for nightjar populations and for that reason it is a very important dataset.



From late July into August also sees the end of the breeding season for many of the other breeding species at Dersingham Bog, and birds such as Stonechat, Woodlark and Tree Pipit will all be working on ensuring that their last nests and broods of the season are successful before the autumn and winter months. Tree pipits will be thinking of returning to their wintering grounds in Africa at the end of August with their youngsters in tow.

During July the first pinks and purples of heather flowers begin to come through and the site begins to change colour very quickly into early August when the peak flowering time of the heather occurs. This can be the best time of year to see the heather in full bloom and the site is also awash with insects feeding on the pollen and nectar of the heather and can also give some wonderfully colourful photo opportunities.

It is a great time to be out at Dersingham Bog with the wonderful colours, numerous insects, churring Nightjars and young birds in their juvenile plumages.

Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk

1st Dersingham Rainbows by Lynn Wheeler



The 1st Dersingham Rainbows had a wonderful summer outing by spending a gloriously sunny day at Church Farm Rare Breeds



Centre at Stow Bardolph. The Rainbows were able to get up close to animals, making friends with sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits and lots of pigs of all sizes.

They enjoyed a tractor ride around the estate and were able to feed two pigs called Lily and Ruby - names shared with three of the Rainbows! There was also time throughout the day to



rush around the play area with its climbing frames, trampolines and mini tractor driving course as well as the indoor area with slides and even more climbing. In between meeting the animals and playing the girls had a picnic lunch and an ice cream.

The day ended with the Pig Racing Grand National, although the pigs did prefer stopping and eating to racing! It was a great day, which ended with a lot of happy, but tired Rainbows.□

Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

Indoor Meetings at the Barn Theatre,
Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham.
Access and parking from Sporle Road.



The Great Fen Project – A Future Wetland and more with Henry Stanier- Tuesday 28th August 7.30pm

The Great Fen is a 50-year project – one of the largest in Europe - to create a huge wetland area between Peterborough and Huntingdon for the benefit both of wildlife and of people. Henry Stanier, from the Great Fen, will talk about the project's background, the amazing progress so far and the vision for the future.

Birds of Thetford Forest. Nightjars, Tree Pipits, Firecrests and more with Greg Conway- Tuesday 25th September, 7.30pm

Greg has worked for the British Trust for Ornithology for 20 years and has led many studies on the birds of Thetford Forest, covering such species as Nightjar, Woodlark, Firecrest, Tree Pipit and Stonechat. We have the same habitat and a similar range of species in the NarVOS area so Greg's talk should be particularly enlightening. Come along to find out more about these and other fascinating bird species.

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

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Dersingham Methodist Church by Elizabeth Batstone



Thank you for attending our annual flower festival and 128th Church anniversary. The theme of 'Step by Step' Biblical journeys was well depicted in the thirteen displays such as the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, Naomi and Ruth on their journey, Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem. We were blessed with fine weather and many visitors who enjoyed coffee and tea, the lunches, sumptuous cakes and browsing the stalls as well as enjoying the beautiful flowers and reading the Bible stories.

Children from Dersingham Primary and Nursery School sang for us on the Thursday and Friday mornings. Year 2 had worked hard on providing an informative board display of Joseph's journeys. A board display on Jonah and the whale by the 1st Dersingham Rainbows included lots of colourful and interesting sea creatures. In the hall the 1st Sandringham Guides' display board included paper flowers and pictures of the life of Jesus.

We raised, after expenses, £2,301.98, of this £500 has been given to the Fund for the Rifton Dynamic Walker for Alfie Rump, the remainder is for Church funds. The collection at the Sunday evening Songs of Praise raised £251.55 towards a special car seat for Alfie.

The Chicken Foot evening in June also donated £63 to Alfie's fund and the Church Bowls Club donated £250, this with an anonymous donation raised £2,025, a wonderful amount. Alfie's walker and chair have been ordered and should be delivered in early October.

Many thanks for helping us to support Alfie and his family.

Coffee mornings
– **Saturday 28th July** 10.00 a.m. to

12 noon West Norfolk

Befrienders will be present and funds will be divided equally between Church funds and West Norfolk Befrienders.

Saturday 29th September 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon for Farming Community Network and Church funds. □

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Tennis in Dersingham Rosie Russell and Debbie Sheils

On Friday 1st June, 16 ladies enjoyed a great day of tennis and a fantastic lunch to raise funds for Breast Cancer Care. The magnificent sum of £700 was raised by playing tennis, eating food, holding a raffle, receiving donations, a few work games and a small plant stall.

Dersingham Tennis Club kindly offered use of the courts so as to ensure that all money raised went to this very important charity and we are extremely grateful.

Tennis can be enjoyed at anytime in Dersingham and for more information, visit the Dersingham Tennis club website for details and contacts.

There are club sessions, league and friendly matches and there is a great need for new, enthusiastic, improving, or any level of players.

The warmer weather is here, so cold windy nights are behind us and a little bit of dusting off of old habits now will encourage you to continue playing all year round.

We look forward to hearing from you. □



From your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb

Summer is upon us with uncharacteristically glorious weather. What better part of the country could anyone be living in when the sun is shining from a totally blue sky and the beach and sea look like scenes on postcard.

We hope that concerns over grass cutting have been allayed, as the village is now looking tidy and congratulations should go to the maintenance team especially for the planting in Post Office Road.

Dersingham Open Gardens was a lively event, with some 20 gardens participating. We made a profit of around £5,000, and more importantly everyone who visited seemed to enjoy themselves and were full of praise for the diversity and beauty of the gardens they visited. Thank you to all involved especially the catering team who coped with serving refreshments from the back of the church; next year we will have a new hall with its new kitchen so catering should be easier.

As far as the Council is concerned we are working with The Business Improvement District initiative which is being rolled out in Kings Lynn which will look at ways to drive business into our town and Borough.

It is Festival Season and Festival Two launched a week or so back on a wonderful summer evening; a lively rock performance in Kings Staithe Square and fireworks from West Lynn lit up the sky and river as the sun set over the water. What a scene, what an amazing venue.

We hope everyone in our ward has a relaxing and happy summer with friends and family. Your Borough Councillors, Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb. □



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Dersingham Day Centre By Alice Worth

It is just twelve months since we were offered a meeting place at the Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club. We moved in at the beginning of September last year and have spent a very happy year there. The Day Centre will be closing for our summer break on the 25th July. As I write in June we have no firm date for the completion of the new Village Hall, so hopefully we will be able to stay in Ingoldisthorpe for the near future.

As usual we have been very busy at the Day Centre since my last report. On June 2nd we held a Craft Fair at the Dersingham Methodist Church, organized by Kathy Carter, the proceeds going to the Day Centre. On one stall there was a very large, long, soft-toy Tiger. Ann Saunder's grandson Archie Simms (10 years old) insisted on purchasing the Tiger. Ann made it quite clear that if he did buy it, then it was to go home with him and not be left at her house. It caused a lot of laughs and Archie got his Tiger (see photo). Thank you, Kathy, and all those who helped in the setting-up and clearing up afterwards.



On June 6th we went to the United Services Club in Hunstanton. This was our second visit to the Club under its new Management. Everyone enjoyed a very good lunch and we were well looked after.

On the 13th June we had a Quiz, which is always very competitive and fun. The next one will be on the 18th July and these will continue to be held every other month throughout our Autumn Session.

On the 20th June, after lunch, we had Exercises to Music with Shelly Ross. Members find it very useful to know how to exercise safely in their own homes and, more importantly, sitting down. We also had a strawberry and ice cream treat that day, thanks to Joe Earl. What could be better on a hot day.

Now for our birthdays in June. First came Colin Carter's on the 4th June. He arranged for the Village Fryer to come and serve us all with fish and chips. Thank you, Colin, for sharing your birthday with us. Then came two other gentlemen who had reached that magic Number 90. Frank Shenton was first on the 8th June followed by Jim Sherritt on the 28th June. Both Frank and Jim arranged for us to have a special lunch to celebrate their birthdays and Alison made two lovely personalized birthday cakes. Congratulations and thank you gentlemen for the special lunches you treated us to.

On the 11th July we should be going to the United Services Club for yet another luncheon outing. I think there will be quite a few of us looking to lose some weight over the holiday period because, apart from our trips out, birthday cakes etc., we enjoy good lunches every week. Thanks to Carol and Avril whose efforts are very much appreciated by us all.

I am retiring from my Day Centre duties in July, so this will be my last report to Village Voice. Derrick and I came to Dersingham 19 years ago not knowing anyone. We both

got involved very quickly with the Day Centre and it was the best thing we ever did. We made so many friends because of this and Dersingham became our "forever home". We shared over 18 years with our friends at the Day Centre and with many others in the village through their contact with the Day Centre. I stand down happy in the knowledge that it is in very good hands and will continue its valuable service to the elderly in our village. It has a first-class team of volunteers, headed by Ann Saunders, who I know will continue to give it their full support. Ann was a founder member of the Day Centre some 37 years ago, a record no one else can match, and she is still going strong. Well done Annie.

I shall be keeping in touch with everyone and will continue to do the Quiz afternoon on alternate months. So, on behalf of the Day Centre Volunteers and Members I wish you all a good summer and thank you for the support you give us. We will be back in Ingoldsthorpe on the 5th September □

DERSINGHAM INSTITUTE BOWLS CLUB

by Jan Rawstron

As reported in the last issue, we do have places available for new members to come and join our friendly club. We are involved in three leagues, The North-West Norfolk, The Albert Victor and the Countryside, for those who have a competitive streak. But if not, we have a friendly internal league on Wednesday afternoons, a Roll-up on Saturday afternoons, and friendly games against other local clubs throughout the season. We also have an active social scene, with barbecues, Fish and Chip Suppers and Buffets. We also support a local charity each year.

It is our intention to hold an open day on Sunday September 9th between 10am and 4pm. Why not come and try bowls for the first time, or if you are already a bowler, come and say hello. Our qualified coaches will be available to give advice and Tea/Coffee/Soft drinks and Cakes/Biscuits will be available. Bowls will be supplied if needed, but please, no heeled shoes.



Our greenkeeping staff are still doing an excellent job, despite the hot weather, and the challenge of a mole(s) which seems to find the verge around the green very attractive. As yet we have not had damage to the green, thank goodness, but we are on mole-alert!

Meanwhile, our League teams continue to strive for excellence! We are having mixed results in the Albert Victor League, but are doing reasonably well in both the Countryside and North-West Norfolk Leagues. Our team gained a 1 shot victory over Houghton, in the Eddie Hipkin Cup after a nail-biting second leg. We now look forward to meeting the team from Searles in the next round.

Our members are preparing for the second leg of our annual Ladies v Men Challenge on July 21st. The 1st leg finished with the ladies ahead by 10 shots, so a tight match is anticipated. The day will be rounded off with a fish and chip supper. This day will also be supported by a raffle, proceeds of which will go to our nominated charity this year, Hunstanton RNLI.

We are all currently enjoying this prolonged spell of good weather and hope it will continue for a while yet. □

The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle



Good God! I've just cleaned my kitchen. I've never been the best of housewives, but this morning, after lolling with no energy whatsoever, I tidied up as per usual, but then actually noticed (I don't notice these things often) the grease infested fridge doors, so finding an abandoned kitchen spray, applied it and gave them a wash. Then I realised it wasn't a well-done job. I needed a scourer. I couldn't find one. There are some in the bottom of boxes under the sink, but that will need a week to go through, plus an age putting them back, so it will be easier for me to go out and buy some. Having begun cleaning, I then saw that the kitchen cupboards were grimy too. Oh my goodness, why had I not noticed before? Well, I have gone round with the spray and warm water and a dishcloth and everything looks noticeably whiter and cleaner. I don't expect that Remote Control Man will notice the difference (he didn't!) but I am feeling like a saint right now and it's not even a quarter to eight yet.

I keep threatening the dogs with the RSPCA because of their recalcitrant ways, but what would happen if they got a cruel owner? Whoever had Florence would soon get fed up with her in-house toilet habits, so I shall have to struggle on. My son phoned recently and asked, "Have you got rid of the dogs yet?" so I replied, "You and your sister drove me round the bend when you were little, but I kept you, so I decided to struggle on with them" and he said, "Yes, you did, but you did tell me you were going to sell me once." I said, "No! Surely not! Did I really say that?" (but couldn't help laughing) "Yes you did, and as it happened, a man came up the path at that moment and you said, "Oh, here he is now." Oh dear, what a dreadful mother - but there we are.



I am stuck with the Duchess and the Scullery Maid. Yes, Florence acts like a Duchess and if I allowed her to sleep on my bed and eat caviar, I would have no problems with her at all. She is elegant, poised and every movement fluid and beautiful. Rosie, on the other hand, really does seem like a hard-done-by below-stairs scullery maid and has short little legs - unusual for a Lurcher - and kipper feet. Her ears look all wrong as if bundled up in a hair net like Ena Sharples and we think probably she has two right ears, they look so odd. She really has no redeeming features, other than her love, which is boundless, and she aims to please. They squabble like mad together, and yet get upset and whine if they are apart, so there seems never to be any peace. I have been a complete nervous wreck and half way to the loony bin (is one allowed to use those terms these days?) But I am sure it will pass as they get a little older.

Then, of course, there is Barnaby Conker Brown, the chocolate coloured cat with the stumpy tail who could never win a cat club rosette. Mad as a hatter to boot with a definite screw loose. I was reluctant to let him be an outdoor cat, wanting to keep him inside and safe - but as the better weather arrived, how could I not let him out into the fresh air and sunshine? All would have been well, had not a beautiful silver spotty tabby from two doors down not arrived and peered through the window at him. Barnaby jumped down and made friends with it through the window, and eventually, they met up face to face. There was no fighting, but a tentative friendship formed, and I would note that the older cat was showing the younger where the blackbird nests were, and explaining what you had to do to get the babies out of the nest. Silver, as I have christened him or her (Barnaby told me it was a girl, but I don't know if I can trust what he says yet) thinks it is okay to come into

the house and frighten the parrots - but Mr. Flynn calls out to Dimity, "It's alright Dimity" which alerts me to the fact that a silver cat is licking its lips by their cages and maybe it's not actually alright at all! She, if it is a she, is definitely showing Barnaby the ropes and escorting him around the area and goodness knows what they are getting up to. I waited up for him the other night with arms crossed and asked him what time he thought it was. Ten o'clock he said. Long past my bed time!
Barnaby is clearly a good hunter and is decimating the bird and mouse population in the area. Horrible. That is the part I don't like about cats - their killing instinct - and there are so few birds left these days as it is.

Anyway, animals aside, I am on a bucket list project, which is driving me even madder! I have always wanted to be able to paint, and did reasonably well with my water colouring, though still have a long way to go before I am as accomplished as I would like. Having discovered the art place at Grimston where I went to draw the naked man, I noted there were day classes in acrylics, but unfortunately much too expensive for me. Then I thought, for heavens sake, if you don't do it now you never will, and those nice Visa people will pay for it. So I joined up and was almost in tears at the first class. (forgetting, by the way, how expensive are tubes of paint and canvas - which the nice Visa people also paid for.) I've got better each week and am pleased with my progress. So far, a nice view of the Sandringham water tower and area around it, a yellow pepper on a purple background, an 'at dusk' view of the sun setting into a Mediterranean sea, and what I am most pleased with, a 'study' of Florence in the local woods.

Bonkers Conkers has just rushed in to use his litter tray. He hasn't cottoned on yet that he is allowed to use the big outdoors. Wish the dogs had his toilet commitment...

So now we are informed we have to have our pensions paid into a bank instead of drawing it out in cash from the Post Office. This means I am going to have to learn how to use a cash machine. I don't want to do that. You hear such dreadful stories. If you are not robbed of your cash at the dispenser, you can have your 'identity stolen' by clever people who know how to read your cards...and the Post Office seems to be the last place where you actually get to talk to a real person and have a bit of banter through the glass partition...I don't like all this 'progress'.

I liked the good old days when you went daily to the grocers to get your gossip, together with a slice of cheese wrapped up in grease-proofed paper - none of this dreadful plastic

strangulation which I never seem able to unwrap - and if you didn't have enough money in your purse left over from your £4. a week housekeeping money, you asked if you could have it on tick...and it was a place where you could leave your baby safely outside in it's pram, with the dog sitting beside it.



Potatoes and other below the ground vegetables were still muddy and cabbages usually had a herd of caterpillars living inside them but they didn't come with tons of plastic wrapped around them, nor had they

been stored in a cold warehouse for months with all the nutrition leached out of them. Strawberries taste all wrong these days, as do tomatoes - I don't care for all these genetically grown fruit and veg - they might last longer, but they are not so tasty nor do they smell as they should - how can they, being stored for so long?

Modern living has many advantages, but is it better really? I certainly love my dish washer and washing machine (and my computer). God, how I used to hate 'treading' my sheets and the baby's nappies in the bath! And trying to wring them by hand, then trailing water until I got them outside on the line. In the winter, the washing went stiff as a board with frost, but made the whites a little whiter, or so we believed.

A least we don't have 'pea souper' fogs any more. I remember trying to feel my way home from school when you couldn't see a hand in front of your face, and one night, walking home from the London to Sevenoaks train after work, I thought I was being followed by a dirty old man who had the most awful phlegmy cough - but when the fog shifted a little, I realised the field by the path was full of sheep, their outlines looking ghostly and who were coughing as they ruminated...

Remote Control Man drove me 'darn sarf' to Whitstable last Sunday. I have an uncle there aged ninety-three who, whilst getting a bit frail, still has all his marbles. He certainly can tell a story and we were spellbound as we heard all about his time during the Second World War, aged 19, part of a team flying Lancaster bombers. He said there wasn't time to be frightened when any action was going on, and I had to think of today's 'yoof' in their silly buttock-showing, crotch-to-the knee trousers, tapping away on their phones, not noticing life around them or doing very much with their own, having been brought up in a non-danger generation (no playing conkers, mustn't play competitive sport as losing will upset them - that kind of thing) How would they manage - flying, navigating, dealing in a cramped small space with enemy aircraft trying to shoot them down? Well, they wouldn't, would they.

Waiting for the bank to open this morning in Sunny Hunny, I was overwhelmed with the lovely view of the sea and sky (as I always am.) Then when I popped into Norfolk Lavender I was delighted to see all the purple flowers looking (and smelling) so good against the azure sky.

Homeward bound and driving by the lavender fields that looked so lovely, I stopped to take a photo thinking how lucky I am to live in such a great area with so much beauty on my doorstep.



Well, that's enough of my ramblings for now. Have a lovely summer. Mrs. D. □

A pompous old colonel from Heacham
At school his job was to teach 'em
At front of the class
He was a bit of an ass
He just wasn't able to reach 'em

A pompous old colonel from Heacham
Assembled his soldiers to teach 'em
To be brave in a fight
But it wouldn't go right
No matter how much he beseeched 'em



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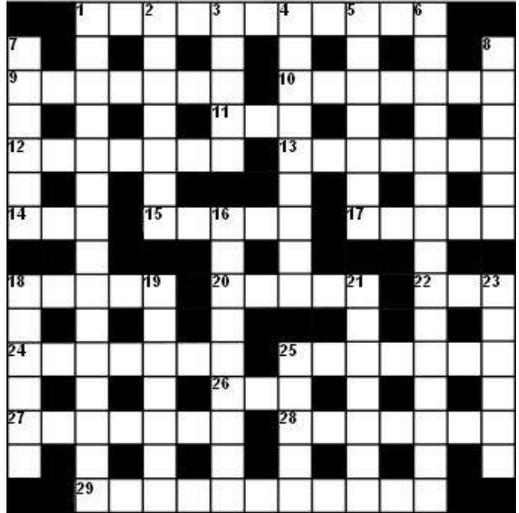
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PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword 10 by Philip Neal

Across

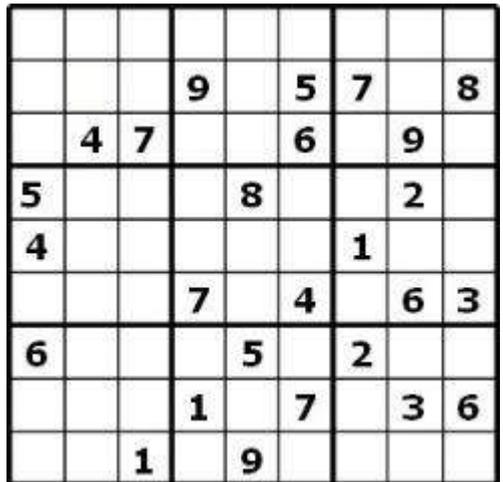
- 1 American caught by Nazis on short £25 stroll (7,4)
- 9 Round the world in a torque ground circle (7)
- 10 Queen covering worm – eradicated by lindane? (7)
- 11 Space station flew over edge (3)
- 12 Mums keeping cap for Gandhi (7)
- 13 On the 4th and 5th November British Rail lubricant causes mix up (7)
- 14 Caught in between bowled maiden over (3)
- 15 Convey posh car in low island (5)
- 17 Impertinent Fascists from one caught in say visas syndrome (5)
- 18 Iron endless Daly entertains (5)
- 20 Hes in the civil service mate (5)
- 22 Muscles leave cushion for one round ball initially (3)
- 24 Umpire drops into song (7)
- 25 Controllers doctor four Queens (7)
- 26 Used by 25 (3)
- 27 Brae that is on 3rd August designed for fishing guru (7)
- 28 Scuffle about notice for carpenters (7)
- 29 Para chap kit himself out to become a bureaucrat (11)



Down

- 1 RAF switch sea out in Namibia (5,4,6)
- 2 Unstable pantomimist in a small capital (7)
- 3 Weapon inside known as eastern retribution (5)
- 4 Erse party dancing for car or corporation (5,4)
- 5 All of us in mob mingled in collection of works shown earlier (7)
- 6 Beryl initially paddled boat somewhere in Wyoming (11,4)
- 7 English following would be relevant to this European (6)
- 8 Square eggs maybe – and strangely they're only a day old (3,3)
- 16 Yarn spinner found playing on near court (9)
- 18 Say goodbye to Harry goofer (6)
- 19 Close pal abroad forgets English seafood (7)
- 21 Crispin ached inside for some tasty leaves (7)
- 23 Scramble to promote subtle changes (6)
- 25 Before it ended she came out to pay out (5)

Sudoku



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WORD WALL BY Philip Neal

Sort the following into 4 groups of connected words

PADDINGTON	RUPERT	CORINTH	SHAKO
BRIDGEWATER	ST.PANCRAS	WATERLOO	KINGS CROSS
FEDORA	KODIAK	PANAMA	YOGI
EUSTON	SUEZ	BUSBY	GRAND



The annual Strawberry Fair held at St Cecilia's on Saturday 30th June raised just over £800. A great result and thanks go to all the volunteers and to everyone involved in any way.

On Saturday 11th August the parish will hold the annual family BBQ starting at 12 noon at the parish church, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. Tickets will be on sale soon at both churches. Hopefully this lovely dry warm weather will continue for this event. See the weekly bulletin for more details.

In September there will be the sponsored walk on Sunday 9th starting from the parish church about 12.30, children and dogs also welcome and if you are unable to walk please sponsor someone, sponsorship forms will be available at both churches. Then a coffee morning on Saturday 22nd, in the Garnet room at the parish church, Hunstanton, from 11am.

The next ladies shared lunch at St Cecilia's will be on Saturday 10th November, starting at 12 noon, more details closer to the time.

Foodbank supplies are still required, items can be left in the porches of both churches. Please ensure that all items are well in date. Thank you for your continued support. There is a *Fair Trade Stall* at St Cecilia's after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. Please support this very worthwhile cause by buying fairly traded goods to support families abroad trying to earn a living. For more information please contact Caroline Brooks on 01553 673069.

All social events will be well publicised in the weekly bulletins and on the website. Everyone, whether Catholic or not, is welcome to all of our services and social occasions. We have refreshments after the 11am Mass every Sunday and after 10.15am Mass every Wednesday. There are also refreshments after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the month at Dersingham. Everyone will be most welcome.

Daily Masses will be 10am in the parish church at Hunstanton on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday mass is at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham.

Sunday Masses are **9am** at St Cecilia's, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and **11am** at the Parish Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmunds, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

If you require a Priest urgently please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220.

or email; parishpriest763@gmail.com **Website:** www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

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A pompous old colonel from Heacham
When washing his shirts, liked to bleach 'em
They turned whiter than white
Even brighter than bright
So he could strut his stuff on the beach... hmmm?

Keeping a Lookout with Steve & Lindsey Davis



Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have the run of a remote island all to yourself for a week? Well we managed to do just that during mid-May just gone. Not a desert island; quite cool for the time of year in fact,



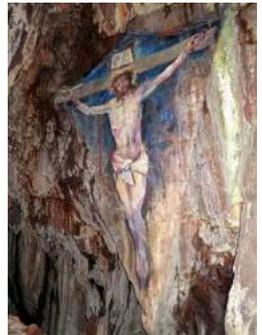
even when the sun was out, but oh so peaceful and tranquil. In truth, one or two other folk did occasionally come ashore for an hour or two and I suppose it wasn't *that* remote, though it certainly felt like it! We were of course quite free to come and go each day but for the most part we chose to stay. Let me explain.



In recent years Lindsey and I have enjoyed our times away in Scotland and last year, I was studying Google and OS maps musing over potential places where we might go this year. Such a tangle of peninsulas and islands



over to the west of Scotland, which as you zoom in on the map reveal some hidden gems, one such being the small *Davaar Island* connected by what looked like a causeway of some sort just to the west of the harbour town of Campbeltown in a bay at the bottom of the Kintyre peninsula. A quick Google search on “Davaar” and the first ‘hit’ was a link to a Wikipedia page telling me about this 52 hectare (128 acre) tidal island, part of the 4000 acre Kildalloig Farming Estate, inhabited by sheep, goats and the occasional mink, that was linked to the mainland by a natural shingle causeway or *Doirlinn* (or *Dhorlin*) that could be crossed at low tide. It made mention of a lighthouse built in 1854 and *The Lookout* built during World War II to house naval men whose task was to stretch nets across the vulnerable bay to protect Campbeltown from submarine attack. It also made mention of the island's caves, one of which included a cave painting by local artist Archibald MacKinnon in 1887, maintained and restored a few times since. My next Google hit highlighted details of a walk over to the island to see the cave paintings.



My third Google hit took me to www.kintyre cottages.com/davaar-island/ where I learned that the island had just two holiday rental properties, a *Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage* and *The Lookout*, the latter having a week available at the time of year we wanted to go and after a hasty spontaneous consultation, we booked it!

Leaving just before 5am on the May Thursday morning, our journey there of over 500 miles was punctuated with a visit to Fountains Abbey in Ripon, an overnight stop at the Carlisle M6, Jct 44 Premier Inn, a visit to the Loch Lomond RSPB reserve, Balloch Castle Country Park before a second stopover at the Helenburgh Seafront Travelodge. Then after a bracing early Saturday morning stroll along the seafront at Helenburgh we set off on the final leg of our scenic journey all the way up to the northern tip of Loch Fyne, then back down the western side on down the long Kintyre Peninsula arriving at the harbour town of Campbeltown and our first glimpse of Davaar island



that looked so much bigger and more domed than we had envisaged. After lunch (at *Bluebell Café*), we made our 3pm rendezvous at the *Davaar Island pull-in* with the Estate



Manager who would drive the two of us with all our gear, across the very uneven shingle Doirlinn in his Landrover to our accommodation for the week. Did I forget to mention that we couldn't take our own car over there? Rather we had to leave it at the pull-in, a walk of some 35 minutes away at low tide!



Once on the island, the uneven track led us along past an assortment of grazing sheep with their lambs together with "Rambo", the island's very laid-back yet undoubtedly prolific



ram, then on around past a jetty and up a slope toward the northern tip of the island where, before us, was the picturesque lighthouse with its outbuildings, and just before that, on its own elevated mound, *The Lookout*. Inside, it was



everything the descriptions we had read and more. Simple, light, bright and elegant accommodation on the ground floor with entrance porch, sitting room with wood-burning stove and screened off kitchen area, double bedroom and shower. Around the back was an outside staircase leading up to a roof patio with seating and entrance to a very comfortable



lounge/observatory room complete with telescope and the commanding view across the combining sea stretches of Campbeltown Loch, Kilbrannan Sound over to the Isle of Arran and around toward the Firth of Clyde. This observatory could also be accessed, for those of us 'brave' enough to tackle it, via a trap door in the corner with a vertical ladder directly from the entrance porch below.

We also learned on our way across that the island's only other rental property, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage*, was not currently occupied so, for that week, we were to be the sole inhabitants (together with the sheep, goats and a variety of birds of course).



That's not to say that we wouldn't encounter the occasional human visitor during the couple of hours or so either side of low tide whilst the Diorlinn was walkable. They, for the most part, would be coming across to view the cave painting which was around the other side from us after a clamber over rocky and potentially slippery coastline at the base of the cliffs. We did venture there ourselves and it was certainly worth the effort,

though we decided once was enough. What we did enjoy was our daily clambers up and over the heights of the island following sheep tracks along the soft, peaty, sometimes slightly boggy landscape with its bracken, heather, sparse bushes and reed clumps with pipits, wagtails and stonechats to keep us company. Its pinnacle OS Trig point





at 115 metres affords wonderful 360° panoramic views with the pudding basin island of Ailsa Craig clearly visible to the south-east and the Galloway mainland beyond.



No matter where we stood in The Lookout, there were always views to be had, be it from one of the many windows or the sheltered seat just outside the front door and it was such a delight to watch gannets diving, seals and dolphins swimming and even, on occasions, a



visit from an otter to the shore below us whilst it munched away on its catch. Sitting up in bed of a morning, one could see sea out of windows on three sides – since we were the only ones there



why bother drawing curtains? To the right we faced the lighthouse and if awake around 5am could watch the magnificent sunrise or occasionally at night from the other sides view the deep unhampered proliferation of stars. Of course, being a lighthouse, meant it flashed at night but, having been recently converted to using a modern LED light-source, we didn't find that a problem being ever-ready for a good night's sleep at the end of a day full of fresh sea air, although there were black-out blinds there had we wanted to use them.

When visiting a new area, one researches places to visit. I'd aspirations to drive the southern coastal road around the Mull of Kintyre until it simply came to a dead end amongst craggy mountainous coastline. We did attempt it one afternoon, but the twisty undulating track requiring all my concentration was obviously going to take a lot longer than planned, so we abandoned the idea, knowing that we had plenty enough views of our own where we were. We did have just the one day off the island, on the recommendation of the estate owner, to take the ferry across from the west side of the Kintyre peninsula to the Isle of Gigha, a community run island which had pleasant enough views and certainly gave us a good day's walking along its six mile length. On our return however, after a fish and chip meal at the



ferry café, we stocked up on supplies at the Campbeltown Co-op to see us through the rest of the week where we were quite happy and content to stay put. It's a bit of a cliché, but we simply enjoyed being human *beings* rather than human *doings!*

Even right up to the time when our Land Rover Taxi Service came to collect us early the following Saturday morning, I couldn't resist one final climb up the hill at the back of our Lookout to admire the view for the last time. Our journey home took us more or less along the same route with another

two overnight stops, taking in very worthwhile visits to the National Trust for Scotland's Crarae Gardens at Inveraray, the National Trust's Acorn Bank, just off the A66 and Clumber Park near Worksop for a brisk walk around the lake and picnic lunch.

So, would we go again? We certainly hope so though, rather than endure the long drive, have been looking into ways of using public transport. It's certainly possible to travel by bus and train to Glasgow then on either by four-hour bus ride or, more appealingly, train to Ardrossan and ferry to Campbeltown in one day. (Flying to Campbeltown is also possible), then after a night's B&B in Campbeltown, the Davaar Island owners would be happy to meet you the next day at say the Campbeltown Co-op, to ferry you and your week's supplies across. Food for thought as we dream on and, if you'd like to share the experience further with us, then do watch our six-minute video distilled from the 900 photos and video clips taken whilst away. You should find it on *YouTube.com* simply by searching for *Davaar Island*. Last time I checked, ours had made the first YouTube hit though if you also include *Steve and Lindsey* in your search you're sure to get it. □





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Crossword Answers

Across

1.SHANKSS,PONY 9.EQUATOR 10.ANNELID 11.MIR 12.MAHATMA 13.EMBROIL
14.NEE 15.CARRY 17.SASSY 18.FETES 20.CHESS 22.ORB 24.REFRAIN 25.DRIVER
26.TEE 27.GHILLIE 28.BRADAWL 29.APPARATCHIK

Down

1.SOUTH,WEST,AFRICA 2.ASTATIC
3.KARMA 4.SPARE,TYRE 5.OMNIBUS
6.YELLOWSTONE,PARK 7.GERMAN
8.ODD,LAY 16.RACONTEUR
18.FOREGO 19.SCALLOP 21.SPINACH
23.BUSTLE 25.DEBIT

Sudoku Answers

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

Word Wall Answers

London main line stations: Euston, St. Pancras, King's Cross, Waterloo

Bears: Paddington, Yogi, Kodiak, Rupert

Hats: Panama, Busby, Shako, Fedora

Canals: Bridgewater, Corinth, Grand, Suez

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Sandringham Parish Council

Ben Colson

The Parish Council met on 4th July at the Social Club at Wolferton. Two members of the public attended who were welcomed.

Raising a Precept

The issue which has caused the greatest concern to Parish Councillors concerns the very future of the council itself. We meet every two months, and at almost every meeting now, councillors are told of new burdens placed on it, without any funding to offset the extra costs. The latest, which has really brought this home, is the new burden which the Borough Council intends to place on parishes from May 2019, under which they pay for their elections, even if an election doesn't take place. Put another way, every four years an election is due, but even if the number of candidates does not reach the number of Councillors required, so all the candidates are returned to office unopposed, then still the Borough will charge us. A lower charge rate it may be, but a charge it still is.

This is of particular issue to this parish council, because we do not raise a Precept, which means that we do not place an extra burden on our householders to pay for the services we have to provide or ensure are provided, such as grass cutting. For many years, the Sandringham Estate has provided these services without charge, but now we face costs imposed from 'on high' such as the election cost burden or the regulatory requirement to have a website now, but no compensating funding to pay for it.

The council has started a conversation between its councillors to decide whether or not to raise a Precept from May 2019 or seek out other ways of paying for these extra, and we would say, unfair burdens. A vote will be formally taken at our January meeting.

Naming of streets in the parish

You cannot help but notice that street name boards have been put up in various places, including along the most deserted of country roads, to give the name of the road. This has been required by the Borough Council by law, even if some of the boards seem to us all to be nothing other than a complete waste of money. The parish council resisted as long as it could but in the end set about minimising the number of them.

Post Office for West Newton

We are not completely sure yet, but the signs are good that a new mobile post office service will visit West Newton on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Again, we don't yet have a start date, but the signs are encouraging. We have asked that the van be located in the entrance way to the village hall so that it is clearly visible to visitors to Howard's Butchers, and we would hope that that would make it good for both organisations' trade. More details as soon as we have them.

Issues with the bus service

The Parish Council has made repeated representations to the County Council concerning failings in the new bus timetable for West Newton and Sandringham. The key failure is the last bus leaving town at 4pm (but later on Sundays) so that it is too early for college students or town workers, and too early at Sandringham for those who work at Sandringham Visitor Centre or Church and return home when they finish work at about 5pm. Our County Councillor has become involved in trying to get this satisfactorily resolved.

Funding the parish website

The Government has required all parishes, including smaller ones such as ours, to have a website and had been funding the set up and ongoing hosting and maintenance costs for smaller authorities. That funding has suddenly been withdrawn in 2018 without explanation or advance notice. The parish council therefore has to find alternative sources of funding, so has asked each business and organisation in the parish to consider funding to the tune of £40 a year each – at the time of writing there has been one reply.



Wolferton village news

St Peter's Church services are held at 9.30am on the second Sunday of each month, which are followed by coffee and biscuits, making it quite a social occasion which draws from adjacent parishes.

The Church Roof project group is progressing with an application to the Norfolk Churches Trust and other funding bodies as it moves towards the start of the essential work to repair the roof to protect other vital timbers in the building.

The Social Club remains an active centre for village activities and especially the popular folk club and prize bingo held there. The club is open Wednesday to Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes and all are welcome.

Eyes down for Prize Bingo is at 7.30pm one Tuesday a month, on the following dates for the rest of the year:

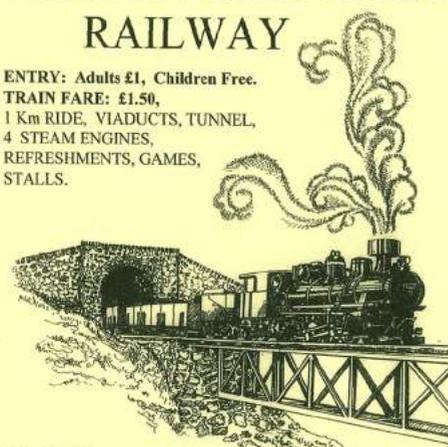
August: 21st
 September: 18th
 October: 16th
 November: 20th
 December: 18th

The Wolf Folk Club meets at 8pm alternate Thursdays at the Club and advertises its "music on the wild side" and 'singarounds'. Future dates for the rest of the year are:

August: 16th, 30th
 September: 13th, 27th
 October: 11th, 25th
 November: 8th, 22nd
 December: 6th, 20th

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An Open and Shut Case

By Elizabeth Fiddick



We are so fortunate here to have such lovely places to walk and relax close at hand. It is always a pleasure on a fine day, especially when the national and international news is so depressing, to be able to walk up onto the open common and admire the view and maybe catch sight of a buzzard circling overhead. Then perhaps to cross the Main Road, follow the paths over the fen before crossing back and making way through the shut up common perhaps as far as a welcome cuppa in Sandringham. Our three commons, the open, the shut up and the fen have been a valued source of support and relaxation for centuries of Dersingham residents.

In the early centuries after Domesday land was categorised as “common” or “waste” and Common land was under the control of the Lord of the Manor but rights were held by nearby properties or held in gross by the manorial tenants. “Waste land “ was land without value because it was too narrow, in an awkward location or perhaps bare rock. In early medieval times more than 25% of Norfolk was common land and every parish had its share.

Land was cultivated on a two or three field system of crop rotation with one field always lying fallow. The fields were divided into strips with those of the Lord scattered among those of his labourers. In return the peasant owed certain duties to his Lord. For example he would be required to work on the Lord’s land for so many days a week, bringing his own ox team if he had one. He would be expected to work on the Lord’s land during the harvest but he would have a share in the use and profit of the village meadows, pastures and woodland.

This system was slowly changed as the Landowner began to find it more convenient to substitute rent charges for services, or to lease land to farmers and to hire men to work his land rather than rely on the services of an often disgruntled and unwilling labourer. In 1349 the Black Death, a virulent bubonic and pneumonic plague swept this country and Europe. 25 million people, about one third of the population perished. The consequent reduction in the labour force meant the agricultural worker could command much better remuneration for his labours but this increase in expense meant many landowners turned to sheep farming as a cheaper use of the land.

Norfolk and West Suffolk operated a farming system that was unique to the area. It was known as the Fold Course system whereby the Manorial Lord had the right to graze his sheep over his tenants’ strips in the open fields after harvest until sowing. The manure dropped by the sheep was of great benefit to the arable crops. Tenants were often allowed to run a few sheep in their Lord’s flock and cattle were allowed on the open fields with the sheep in winter. The system should have been mutually beneficial but the manorial Courts are full of instances of the Lord abusing the privilege. The tenants began to consolidate their strips and not allow access to the Lord’s flock. Also the system led to great social division as the Landowner could run flocks with as many as 15,000 sheep whilst the tenants could own only a few sheep or cattle and relied on arable crops for income. The whole system of strip farming was uneconomical and gradually during 16th, 17th and 18th centuries landowners applied for their land to be enclosed, consolidated and redistributed. The first official enclosure act was in 1604.

Villagers were resistant to this change as the old strip system meant that they each had a fair share of both the good and bad land. Consolidation could mean a peasant having all poor land, or land at the edge of the village and far from his home. The importance of the

common land to local villagers meant that there were numerous battles fought against enclosures including that of Kett's rebellion in 1549 when defence of the commons was one of the factors. It was of course always the most fertile land that was enclosed first leaving the boggy, stony or heath land for the village.

From the 18th century enclosures were regulated by Parliament but a separate Act of Enclosure was required for each village that wished to enclose its land. Owners of at least three quarters of the village land had to agree to the enclosure. A notice had to be posted on the church door informing the village of the intention to enclose. A meeting would be held when any objections could be voiced and then Parliament would pass or reject the plan. For successful bids three Commissioners were appointed to supervise the enclosure and a map would be drawn up marking out the individual strips. Landowners had to prove their right to the land they farmed before a new map could be compiled.

Landowners could enclose their plots with hedges, fences, or walls and build access roads to farmhouses or new land.



There were great advantages to the new system. There was far less wastage of land, and the land of a good farmer was not spoiled by neglect on the next

strip. It encouraged experimentation and animal diseases were less likely to spread. But of course there were major losers. Villagers who held no land of their own but had kept animals on the common pasture were evicted which led to considerable migration of the poorest members of society to the towns and cities to seek work. This created problems there.

In 1779 Dersingham Little Common, Marsh Common and Badger Fen Common were subject to Acts of Inclosure. This is recorded in all the Directories thus: "*At the inclosure in 1779 160 acres were allotted in lieu of vicarial tithes, and 457 acres were enclosed within a ring fence for the use of the parish viz. 329 acres of marsh as a stinted common and 128 acres of heath for providing whins and turf.*"

There were numerous commoner's rights that were fiercely maintained and defended.

The right of a commoner to take resources from a piece of common land was called *right of common*. This could be the right to graze livestock, cattle, horses, sheep, donkeys or geese, on the land. However overgrazing would cause enormous damage so a Common was often *stinted* which meant a limit on the number of animals any villager could put out to graze was enforced as protection. This was the case in Dersingham for the Marsh Common.

Piscary was the right to fish. *Turbary* was the right to cut sods or turf for fuel. Commoners had the right to extract sands, gravels, marl, walling stone or wood. *Mast or Pannage* gave them the right to turn out pigs to eat mast (acorns, nuts etc.). The right to take sufficient wood, small trees, bushes, gorse, or fallen branches for their house or holding was termed *Estovers*. In their report in 1839, the Charity trustees for Dersingham

noted that the Commissioners had stipulated that parts of the waste land should be let out, *“for the necessary firing for the poor persons as for the occupiers of Common Right houses”* Thirty acres were set by the Commissioners where the poor could cut turf without restriction.

Arthur Young, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture compiled a report on the effect of the Enclosures on the agriculture of Norfolk. The entry for Dersingham reads: *Rent: doubled. Corn: At least twice as much corn raised as before the enclosure. Sheep: increased. Cows: About the same as before. Tithe: Remains subject. Poor: The poor are not affected except by increase of employment. The Common remains stinted by the Commissioners*

On the Tithe map of 1839 the area we now know as the open common and the shut up common are clearly shown as one large area as Heath Road did not then exist. It was known as Rice’s Common. On the opposite side of the Main Road lay Badger Fen Common that stretched all down by the drift towards the marshes.

The other area of common was the land that covered the area where the present recreation ground and allotments are situated. This common extended across Station Road and on the opposite side of the Main Road up to Chapel Road. However there were further enclosures enacted in 1859 when villagers were compensated with plots of land elsewhere in the village which led to the creation of Heath Road. The Schedule of property at the time also states that, *“A piece or parcel of land containing 3 acres, situate in the parish of Dersingham, allotted as a place for exercise and recreation of the inhabitants.”* It is dated 17th February 1859 and this area would eventually in the years to come change from an open common like the others to become the recreation ground and the allotments we know today.

So as we enter the twentieth century the villagers of Dersingham could enjoy the open common, the shut up common, the fen on the opposite side of the road, and the area by Station Road known as the recreation ground.

The recreation ground was very different then to the present day. It would seem to have been much like the open common. In the minutes of the Charity Trustees we learn that the pathway across the ground had to be levelled using barrow and spade



labour and that pipes for drainage were to be laid across the ground. A hill in the ground was to be levelled and the surplus earth used to cover the pipes. There are numerous mentions of cutting back the gorse bushes and the area was let for pasturage so fences and gates had to be maintained. It was in 1918 -19 at the end of WW1 when the erection of a war memorial was discussed that it was decided that responsibility for the site should be taken over by the Parish Council. The legal process was completed in 1920 and the Council took over the responsibility for the Memorial and the surrounding area from the Trustees. Thus the recreation ground as we know it today came into being.

It was early in the 20th century that the Trustees leased part of the fen common for the purposes of erecting a rifle range. It stood there for many years and Derek Reynolds was one of the villagers who could remember it well. He recalled that he and his mates used to play there and they would watch the firing practices although a red flag used to be flown to warn of the danger. Afterwards he said they would search for, and dig out spent bullets and sell them to the other boys.



It was on the open common that the War Office sited an A.A. gun at the start of WW1. The crew that manned the gun were housed in the Barn at the side of Heath House. In 1918 the Trustees approached the War Office to seek compensation for the "large piece of the poor's common land occupied by the A.A. gun and crew." The concrete block that supported the gun is still on the common today but rather hidden by the trees that have grown up around it. It became a favourite rendezvous point for the local youngsters.

A constantly recurring problem for the Trustees was the lighting of fires on the common. In 1906 Sergeant Collyer stated that he had made great efforts to stop the firing of the common by the young men of the village and legal proceedings were duly taken against two of these young men but the problem persisted. In 1910 the police again reported that they had evidence against certain young men wilfully setting fire to gorse and litter. When I first came here fires still occurred quite regularly as youngsters built their dens on the common among the gorse bushes and lit a fire to bake some potatoes with the inevitable consequences. Dick Melton also recalls the many fires in more recent times many as a result of the sparks and ashes from the steam trains. He tells me that the fire engine then was kept in the barn next to Heath House so it was quickly on the scene.

The other seemingly intractable problem was the dumping of rubbish. Throughout the minutes are constant references to "clearing the common of tins and rubbish". An application to deposit Laundry waste on the common was refused. A notice board was erected warning persons not to dump rubbish or litter but obviously the practice continued. In 1933 the Clerk of the Trustees was instructed to approach Mr. Cross to arrange the clearing up of the Common and the burying of tins and rubbish. A site must have been selected to establish an official village refuse dump as in 1935 it was decided to plant trees to screen the unsightly dump but it was reported later that the trees had been destroyed by rabbits. In 1937 the Trustees agreed to grant the application of the Parish Council for a small piece of the Common land to be used as a rubbish dump for the village at a nominal rent of 1/- per annum. Later in 1938 the Trustees agreed to let the dump to Docking District Council for one year at £2 per annum. Dick Melton remembers the site well. He tells me that if you went through the five barred gate at the top of Heath Road opposite the open common and looked to your right you would have seen the rubbish tip. By 1947 however there was much dissatisfaction about the state and position of the refuse dump and discussions were held to find an alternative site. By 1947 the clerk was reporting cases where refuse had been dumped on the common and not on the dump. The pumping of the contents of cesspools on the dump and other parts of the common was condemned and it was urged that action should be taken. By Nov. 1947 the decision was taken to close the dump. Sandringham Estate offered to lend their bulldozer to the Trustees to level the site and cover it over. The dump was moved across the Main Road with the entrance through the gate which still stands just before you reach the roundabout from the Lynn side. It now leads into the fen area managed by Natural

England. I remember bringing my garden waste here and watching the hosts of sand martins that made their nests in the sandy walls of the quarry.

Another interesting problem faced by the Trustees early in the century was the digging and ferreting for rabbits on the open common. In 1908 two men accused of this crime defended themselves by saying they believed and were told they had the right to do so. So a notice was posted in the Lynn papers stating that "Any person found digging, ferreting or taking rabbits (without authority) on the open common and its adjoining banks and fences will be prosecuted."

Other problems that throw an interesting light on the times involved the agreement in 1898 to take action against any travellers camping on the common. I have a photo taken from the top of the open common where horse drawn travellers' caravans can clearly be seen parked by the road. Some of the older villagers I have spoken to remember them as regular visitors in the summer to work on the fields. In 1951 W. J. Ewer who ran the shop in Post Office Road which now houses the council offices applied for permission to erect a postcard stall on the open common. Permission was refused!

Dick Melton has many fond memories of the three commons when he was a boy. He recalls that as you entered the open common from the main Road there used to be a flat area of grass about the size of a tennis court that was known as Hoddy's Hole "after an old boy who lived up the corner in a old hovel made from wood and turfs." The boys of the village played many a game of football often with a tin can and goal posts made from wood provided by the Birch trees. In the shut up common there is still the faint outline and the depression caused by the oval cycle track the lads constructed.

He remembers that the older residents would often be found sitting on the seats at the top of the open common watching the traffic on the road below. They made good use of all the commons had to offer. The blackened remains of the gorse bushes after a fire would be cut and used for the fire under the copper to heat the water on washdays. Men would cut down the silver birch trees and use the branches for pea sticks whilst the trunk would make a good bean pole. Bracken would be cut and then left in the sun to dry and brown. Then it would collected and taken to the allotments to use on their potato clamps or even as bedding for the pigs. Although the right to graze animals on the common had been well used in the past Dick only remembers that Mr. Towers the butcher grazed his pony there.

The commons are still well used today although the old customs have died out. However most of the people I have written about in the past, Old George the decoy man, Mr. Firth the headmaster, Samuel and Thomas Kerrich our past vicars, would hardly recognise the commons as the ones they knew. Even I, a comparative newcomer, have noticed how much has changed over the years I have lived here. When I used to take my dog up onto the open common it was covered in heather not trees and the stone stood clearly visible in the purple sea. Some years ago work was carried out on the fen to remove trees and restore the open acid marsh that it is. The old photos demonstrate how much has changed. The heaths and common land are rapidly disappearing beneath a blanket of scrub, bracken and trees. So the plants, many quite rare, the insects, birds and animals which depend on that environment are quickly disappearing too. We have already lost too many species world wide due to our own actions. In 1832 the last Great Bustard was killed on Dersingham Heath and possibly in England. We are the custodians of our commons and we must accept the responsibility. But I will write more about the importance of these areas and what we are in danger of losing in another article, for now I will shut down this computer, fetch my walking shoes and walk over to what Dick Melton described to me as, "the best place in the world." I agree Dick. It's an open and shut case.□

Forthcoming Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

For articles, reports of events, meetings, advertisements and details of forthcoming attractions:

Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
No 114 (Oct/Nov 18)	Tuesday 11th Sept 2018	Monday 1 Oct 2018
No 115 (Dec/Jan 19)	Tuesday 6th Nov 2018	Monday 26 Nov 2018
No 116 (Feb/Mar 19)	Tuesday 8th Jan 2019	Monday 28 Jan 2019

Advertising in Village Voice

Around 2,500 residential and business properties in Dersingham receive a copy of Village Voice with another 600 available to subscribers, businesses and shop counters around and about. It is also available online from our website at dersingham.org.uk Do please support the services advertisers provide and mention where you saw their advert. Our advert prices are £18.50 for an eighth page, £28.50 for a quarter, £55 for a half and £110 for a full page. Discounts available for block bookings paid up-front. VAT is no longer payable. Full details and booking forms can be downloaded from our website or obtained from the Parish Office or email:

clerk@dersingham.org.uk and returned together with payment by mid-day of the copy deadlines given above at the latest.

Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice

These should be preferably emailed directly to the Editor: villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk or posted to **The Editor, % Dersingham Parish Council Office** (address below), ideally well ahead of the above copy deadlines to stand a better chance of inclusion. Available space for articles is governed by the both the physical limitations of the publication as well as the revenue received from advertising. We like Village Voice to be special for our primarily Dersingham readers, so articles should try to be customised accordingly and not just part of a round-robin Press Release to all local publications. Dates of forthcoming events mentioned must take place after the publication dates listed at the top of this page. Items/flyers purely to advertise non-profit making events should aim to fit (and be readable) within a quarter page slot. We hope you will provide photos/graphics/logos etc to accompany promotions or articles. Digital pictures need to be 300 dots/pixels per inch (about 118 per cm.). Most Office document and picture file formats are accepted.

The Editor reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Any contributions will be accepted on the understanding that, unless requested otherwise, names, addresses, etc, may be included and maintained on the Parish Council's database. Published material will also appear on the Parish Council website. Copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor and the Parish Council do not necessarily agree with opinions expressed, or accuracy of statements made, by contributors. □

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