

*Number 125*

*August/September 2020*

# Village Voice

## The Dersingham Magazine



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## Editor's Notes Jo Halpin Jones



This edition of Village Voice has come hot on the heels of the July issue because we did not publish in June. We plan now to be back to getting the magazine to you every two months.

Thank you to Tony Bubb for his front cover photograph of a peaceful rural scene in a quiet corner of Dersingham. We can all do with a bit of calm in the midst of the ongoing saga of Covid-19, which is by no means over.

In this edition of Village Voice you will find the latest news on what parts of the village should have been opened up again by the time this magazine reaches you, as the lockdown eases for some people. You will see that the Village Centre is planning to gradually reintroduce various activities. For the latest information look at the notice boards at the Centre or visit [dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](https://dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk).

Thank you to all the contributors who have continued to send in updates on their groups, and also to those sending in stories and reminiscences. Elizabeth Fiddick has researched the fascinating story of one Claude Tidd, a Norfolk boy who emigrated to Canada, joined the Mounties and lived in very remote areas, before eventually retiring to Dersingham because of ill health. We can look forward to the second part of this article in the next edition of Village Voice. I have a particular interest in this story as I emigrated to Canada myself back in the 1960s and lived there for seven years. I didn't join the Mounties, but I did help to build a lakeside log cabin in the back woods of Quebec!!

Do please continue to send in items for publication and let us know what else you might like to see in **your** magazine: send to [villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk) □

## Dersingham Task Force Dennis Weatherill

Following a compulsory suspension of Task Force activities, owing to Coronavirus regulations, we have now recommenced our activities.

We have restricted our work to the rose bed at the end of Post Office Road as the flower bed in the children's play area is currently inaccessible. At the time of writing there are plans to reopen this as soon as practicable, in which case we should shortly be maintaining this little garden to a high standard after several months of inattention. There may be occasions when we have sufficient members to trim overgrowth on some of our wilder footpaths.

Most of you will have seen the springtime daffodils on the roadside verges, by the recreation ground and also near the village speed limit signs just south of the village. These, too, are the result of bulb planting efforts by our team.

If you wish to join us, only an hour every two weeks, then please contact me, Dennis Weatherill, on 07482 913399. □

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## Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd



As it is only a month since I wrote my last column this will be a brief message. I would like to thank all of the contributors and the editorial team for putting together an excellent last edition. It will be a historical record of how the village coped and made the best of lockdown. I would also like to thank all of those who give up an hour or two of their time to deliver the magazine to all of our residents, summer and winter, rain or shine.

Now the pace of easing out of lockdown has stepped up, it is difficult to keep up with all of the government advice and I think we are all somewhat bemused and confused by the contradictions. For example, you can sit next to a stranger on a plane for several hours but you cannot do the same in a theatre; the Village Centre has been allowed to re-open, but they are not allowed to have any keep fit or dance classes (**See next page for update to this**). The government is trying to steer a difficult path between controlling the spread of the virus and opening the economy. Your perspective depends on your age, and those of us over a certain age are likely to be more cautious. However, it is a return to normality, but a new normal as we are still required to maintain social distancing and are having to get used to seeing each other in masks and visors. Sadly, we cannot give each other a hug in a time of need and we cannot even shake hands. It is a stark reminder that the virus is still out there, so we must all continue to respect the current rules and continue to be vigilant so that we do not have a local lockdown.

As I reported last time, the Parish Council has started to have virtual meetings and we are slowly getting used to the technology. Our business will continue to operate in this way as advised by government. Our next full council meeting is on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm and as with face to face sessions it is open to the public. If you wish to attend please contact the clerk who will give you details and a link to be able to join us: [clerk@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:clerk@dersingham.org.uk) or telephone 01485 541465. Hopefully you will have received your copy of Village Voice before this date.

### Dersingham Open Gardens 2020

What a strange time we are all living through at the moment. So, knowing how much you have missed us and to give you the excitement of putting something into your diary, Dersingham Open Gardens is back! We will be opening our gardens on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 11am-5pm.

Government guidelines on Covid-19 will be in place, which may mean some of our original gardens are not suitable for opening. However, we aim to give you a great couple of days. It is the first time we have opened later in the year, although it has been suggested before. It will mean that all visitors will have the pleasure of seeing the gardens looking very different from usual. It will also be a wonderful opportunity to see how our gardens have fared, as our gardeners will have had a lot more time to devote to them. However, I know that we have had some of our usual problems with muntjac and moles, and the dry spring.

To get your ticket (£5.00) start at the Village Centre, where refreshments will also be served on both days. Government guidelines on Covid-19 will be in place. Proceeds will be shared between St Nicholas Church and the Village Centre. We look forward to seeing you then!



**Dersingham Village Centre**  
**David Collingham, Chairman DVCA**

After three months of inactivity, the Village Centre opened its doors to the public on Monday July 6<sup>th</sup>. Many of our activity groups have indicated they would like to resume their classes as soon as government regulations for community centres allow and we look forward to welcoming them back. The Centre management team has put in place Covid-19 Secure Guidelines and a thorough Risk Assessment following the recommendations of UK Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE). Thus we believe we have done everything we need and can do to protect our Centre users, visitors, volunteers and staff. So, we will gradually be welcoming back all the various activities seen before lockdown in March. We also hope to resume Film Club showings and Village Voice Live – details for all of which will be announced on the Centre notice board and on the website: [dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](http://dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk). **STOP PRESS:** The Centre is hoping to open to activity classes from Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup>, in line with Government advice. We suggest all users contact their group leaders for further information.

We have also appointed Caretaker, Ian Wright, and Relief Caretaker, Simon Kidd and we warmly welcome them to the team.

If you would like further information about our activities, or wish to book the Centre for a special event, please email us using the [bookings@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](mailto:bookings@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk) address. Alternatively, you can telephone us on 07707 832295 or 01485 543195.

A special thanks to the hardworking Gardening Team who have done such a great job at planting new beds and for engaging constantly with the wild foraging enemies.

The Village Centre Lottery winners for June were numbers 3, 16 and 70, and for July were 28, 38, and 16. If you would like to join the Lottery, please contact us via the website or by calling in for an application form.

The Dersingham Village Centre AGM is to be held at 7pm on Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be two ways to join the meeting - either in person at the Centre, subject to relevant social distancing, or join remotely on Zoom. How to do this will be shown on our website the previous week. For any further information please email [enquiries@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk), or telephone 07707 832295. If you intend to be present in person please let us know in advance. □

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## Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

As lockdown restrictions begin to lift, the school has been delighted to welcome more children back to school and is now running at capacity, having received children back across the year groups. New Pods have been established to keep children and adults safe in their bubbles and hygiene and social distancing measures have been embraced by those returning to school.

It was great fun to see the Early Years bouncing on trampolines into their new Colour Pods and older children finally being able to meet up with at least some of their friends. New, easy to clean, playground equipment has appeared, much to the delight of children and staff, to ensure everyone is staying active and healthy in the great outdoors. Forest Schools, PE, IT and Baking have all been carefully timetabled to ensure each Pod has



the opportunity to enjoy enriched activities, while maintaining safe social distancing and hygiene. New equipment and resources have helped to make the transition into a new way of learning possible.

### **Building Bridges**

Stem Science activities and DT have been a focus recently with the Bridge topic lending itself beautifully to designing, building and testing bridges, using a whole array of materials like pasta, newspaper and natural materials. The school corridors are looking stunning as displays of children's work pop up daily! Children at school and at home joined in the School Games Rainbow Run, dressing up and getting fit and sharing their experiences via the school's Dojo system. Exploring flight, the art of perseverance and resilience, through the film 'Soar,' is next on the list of exciting stories to engage children in their learning.

For those children still being educated from home, Padlets have been created to share work, inspire children and help one another stay connected. Virtual lessons have been carried out daily via Zoom meetings and the versatility of children,



**School baking Padlet**

parents and staff has been phenomenal! Children have even enjoyed scavenger hunts and quizzes from the comfort of their own home, while staff play host from school. Thinking about children's health and emotional wellbeing is always central to the school's philosophy. At no other time has this been more crucial to address. As more



**Weaving in the forest**



**Mr Williamson captured in the forest**

children return to school, during what is still a pandemic, exploring stories and issues around self-esteem, the sense of belonging and one's place in this very different world, is a high priority for school staff. As the summer looms large, for some, more time away



**Uniting rainbow hands**

from school and friends may not arouse the same sense of excitement and sense of release as previous holidays. The knowledge that missing out on educational visits, sports day, end of year performances and for Year 6 that all important prom, which is their opportunity to say goodbye to friends going to different high schools, can be a bitter blow. The school is busy organising ways to ensure children have a smooth transition back into school in September, whether into new year groups at Dersingham Primary School, or in their new high school. Maintaining the communication, support and trust that has

built up between home and school is crucial as we guide children and adults forward, into what is still an unknown new academic year.

From everyone here at Dersingham Primary and Nursery School, we wish you good health and happiness, as well as long, lazy summer days. □

## Dersingham Bog News Natural England

NATURAL  
ENGLAND

During the recent lockdown, while the reserve has remained open for use by the public as usual, our ability to manage the reserve and its habitats has been affected. Fortunately our hardest (and most attractive!) workers have been soldiering on regardless of the current affairs. These workers are of course our small herd of Black Galloway cows! These are a hardy cow and are bred for their ability to live off poor land, making them excellent for the conditions the reserve offers, keeping the unwanted vegetation down, while asking for very little from us in return. These cattle have free roam over the whole of the reserve, so expect to see them anywhere from the birch woodland around the perimeter to shoulder deep in moss in the middle of the bog. When visiting it's important to keep vigilant for the cows while on the tracks and to keep dogs on a short lead at all times.



**Sundew**

By the time this article is published one of the features of the reserve, the round-leaved sundew, will be in flower and visible across the bog. This small plant is a specialist on areas with poor nutrient quality and as such thrives on the boggy areas of the reserve, but is most easily seen around the edge of the boardwalk. However, the unassuming sundew harbours a dark secret, one that you might expect from a plant from a tropical rainforest rather than a bog in England. Its reddish leaves are tipped with sticky 'dew' which is used to attract and trap insects. Once trapped, the leaves curl inwards and eventually

the insect is digested. It's this feature which enables the sundew to thrive in nutrient poor areas, as it can gather additional nutrients the habitat may be lacking from its insectivorous diet.



**Nightjar**



**Stonechat**

As stated in the previous Village Voice, breeding is certainly in full swing. Stonechats will be moving on to their second or even third broods now, and nightjars will be incubating eggs or rearing young currently. So competition for food will be at an all-time high! For a chance to see these fantastic birds, you should be able to spy a stonechat or even its young perching on a lone twig or clump of heather anywhere from the tracks during the day, while the nightjar is more easily heard than seen on an evening visit, when its signature churring is unmistakable.



**Heather**

Soon the reserve will arguably be at its most picturesque state. The heather plants that dominate the slopes and plateaux will be flowering, painting the heaths an attractive pink to purple. While obviously a treat to the eye for any visitors and offering excellent photo opportunities, the sudden presence of all the flowers will also provide an important food source for many invertebrate species, from butterflies to beetles, as well as important pollinator species like bees. These in turn will no doubt provide a bountiful food source for the previously mentioned birds that use the reserve to breed.

As a final note, we have recently observed an increase in visitors to the reserve which has led to more people parking on the verges adjacent to our car parks. We appreciate there are limited spaces available and it can be frustrating to arrive, only to find no place to park. However, we would like to ask visitors to please park responsibly and if possible avoid parking on the verges. It makes accessing the village of Wolferton dangerous for its residents and sometimes impossible for farm and emergency vehicles, as well as damaging the verges themselves. □

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## Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron

June 1st saw our bowls green open at last, albeit in a very limited way. For the last month, members have been able to book a rink and practise, or in some cases have a friendly match. We realise that not all our members feel confident yet in venturing down to



the bowls green, and we respect that. But just the other day, two of our members, Mike and Rita Picton, 85 and 81 years old respectively, had a game, and on returning home sent me an email as follows: *"Mike and I have just had a lovely game of bowls this morning and we just want to say how well everything is looking. We encourage all to go and have a game or two. The rules are clearly displayed and plenty of sanitiser for you to use. Thanks again everyone. Rita & Mike Picton."*

So for those of you who are still unsure, please come and give it a try. Safety measures are in place, but we do rely on the individual to be sensible and abide by the rules. In this way, we can all enjoy our bowls and stay safe.

As the rules regarding social distancing change, the committee considers what relaxing of the rules we can implement, whilst not compromising the safety of our members. Some are calling for a return to more competitive bowling in the near future, and we will have to give this a great deal of thought.

Just practising, as we are doing now, is unfortunately not everyone's cup of tea, but it works, and at least you can play, get some exercise in the fresh air, and catch up with a few others.

Hopefully, by the time the next issue is out, we will be back to a more 'normal' way of life. So, continue with those new hobbies and skills, the trying of new recipes and all the other things which we have been doing, and stay safe. □

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## **Dersingham Methodist Church**

### **Elizabeth Batstones**

This new way of life is continuing longer than first thought and every time we think about getting back to normality we are reminded that normality is far, far away!

In a recent conversation with a friend we talked about the list of jobs we decided to do at the beginning of lockdown. We cleaned cupboards with energy and vigour, sorted out correspondence, clothes and shoes and gardened with new enthusiasm. But all that enthusiasm seems to have slowed down or disappeared altogether!



But the one thing that has continued is our need to keep in touch with friends by telephone calls, fortnightly newsletters, and keeping up to date with those who are finding life difficult or who have been unwell. Our newsletters contain prayer requests and news as well as articles from our minister and others. We have had word searches on Norfolk villages, fruit and vegetables, an anagram on Olympic sports, quizzes on groceries, Norfolk and London, all to ensure our little grey cells have some attention.

We are also feeling a little sad as our minister Revd Steve Oliver and his wife Jill are retiring and moving from the area. There were plans for a farewell service for them and also the Revd Maurice Stafford and his wife Janet, minister and deacon in Downham Market, and in usual Methodist tradition lots of singing and of course a sumptuous tea! But, of course, that cannot happen, we won't be able to pay our tributes and hand over gifts. The plans are for a virtual service via Zoom, where we will thank God for these special people, sing their favourite hymns and ask for God's blessing on their next chapter of life.

Steve has been with us for six years. We have enjoyed seeing his colourful waistcoats made by Jill, put up with his sense of humour and jokes, got used to repeating the last verse of the hymns until he thought we were singing loud enough, and tried to keep him organised!

We will miss his pastoral visiting and many are grateful for his comfort in times of sadness and illness. Steve's deep faith, sincerity and witness have been key to his ministry. We will miss his stillness and quietness at communion services and we will miss his challenge for us to show the love of Jesus to those around.

We will face the future with renewed vigour as we debate re-opening our church and as we welcome the Revd Richman Ncube and family from Harare, Zimbabwe.

The one constant in all of this is that God is greater than any virus and His love for us never wavers. Now that is normality!

## The pond with no water

Brian Anderson

Bernie Twite is quite correct (*Ed: see July issue of Village Voice*). The original pond was the relict remains of the Gelham Manor moat. It was the intention of the Parish Council to re-excavate this area to provide some open water habitat. However, when we sought the advice and consent of the County Archaeological Service their requirements were rigorous and costly. They required that auger borings were taken along both sides at sufficient intervals to determine the moat profile and that excavation be conducted under the supervision of an archaeological consultant. It was almost immediately apparent that the cost would use most of the ring-fenced budget provided for the maintenance of the Warren - it was the policy of the Council that the maintenance of the Warren would not place any burden on the precept.

I share with Bernie Twite the puzzlement that the County permitted the moat to be used as a rubble dumping ground - but all that was before my time.

Having received information that the water table was high (this proved incorrect), we investigated the possibility of a pond elsewhere. Again, there was County involvement. This time they specified that an archaeological consultant be present during the dig. This we arranged - and it was much cheaper. I can report that (disappointingly) there was no archaeology at all. The geological record showed that the Warren area had been flooded twice from the sea and once from the land - but we don't have a timescale on that.

The pond liner is a geotextile that is supposed to expand after several immersions - that, I have to say, doesn't seem to have worked well either, although close examination of the ground flora does show that the area has retained more moisture than that surrounding it.

If anybody has to be blamed for how it's all turned out, it's probably me.□

## Dersingham Day Centre

Jan Holt

We don't know yet when Dersingham Day Centre will be meeting at the Village Centre again but we are all still keeping in contact by phone – or shouting to each other across the street while out walking! During the last few weeks some of our members have been able to spend time with their families again which has made such a difference to their lives.

Members and volunteers are still keeping busy with various hobbies. One of our volunteers came in from weeding her garden one evening to find six tiny ducklings sat in her living room. There was no Mum to be found and relevant charities had closed for the day, so the ducklings spent the night on towels in Maggie's kitchen, being fed on hardboiled egg (as advised by a local vet). In the morning a local wildlife charity took them to give them the care they needed. Maggie said she quite missed them when they went. I think we all have seen more birds in our gardens this year – and our gardens have certainly benefitted from extra attention.



Hopefully it won't be too long before we can all meet up again .□

# GARY KITE

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## RSPB Snettisham News

Hello from RSPB Snettisham,

This is hopefully the first of many regular contributions to Village Voice from the team. Throughout lockdown many of you reading this were (re)discovering the footpath from Dersingham out to our Snettisham Nature reserve, and we hope you agree that is a lovely walk. Or you cycled out to the edge of The Wash. But it is more than just a lovely walk.

As I write this at the end of June, it is an exciting time on our Norfolk beaches. Two very special species of birds rely on this habitat to nest and raise their young; they now need our help.



***Ringed Plover***



***Oystercatcher***

The shingle beach that runs from the reserve all the way to Snettisham Coastal Park is one of the most important sites in Norfolk for beach nesting birds: the ringed plover and the oystercatcher. These birds make shallow scrapes on the beach to lay their eggs in. After about 28 days the eggs will hatch. And within 24 hours of hatching the chicks will leave their nests and be running along the beach foraging for themselves. As they nest out in the open and the chicks are very mobile, they have evolved to camouflage into the environment they live in. This makes them vulnerable to being trampled. Ringed plovers and oystercatchers view humans and dogs as predators and will therefore react by leaving their nests and chicks. If this behaviour happens regularly the adults can abandon their nests or increase the risk of predation to their eggs and chicks.

With your help we can all play our part in ensuring Norfolk's beach nesting birds can rear their next generation. These birds need space to breed undisturbed so a few changes to our behaviour could make all the difference.

- \*\* These birds will be breeding from late March until into August
- \*\* Respect all signage located along the coast
- \*\* Watch where you walk – we ask you to keep off the beach as this reduces the chance of trampling
- \*\* Please keep dogs on leads

In the next edition we will let you know how successful they were and what to look out for in the autumn. Keep up to date at [www.facebook.com/RSPBTitchwell](https://www.facebook.com/RSPBTitchwell)

Thank you for your support. □

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## The Choir Elizabeth Fiddick

*Since we have been having reminiscences about the St Nicholas Church choir in the last two editions of Village Voice, Elizabeth Fiddick thought we might enjoy the following. This article was written by the late Peter Reynolds and appeared in the January 2003 edition of the St Nicholas Church magazine.*

### St Nicholas Choir

Since I was a choirboy at St Nicholas, snatches of the music of Stainer's Crucifixion have stayed with me. Last year I bought a CD of that work; playing it awakened memories.

In the early 1930s the choir at St Nicholas was about fifty voices. The choirmaster was the organist, Mr 'Teddy' Rye. He drilled and rehearsed us till we were not at all a bad outfit. Annually we sang at the Choral Festival at St Margaret's, King's Lynn, and every third year at the Norwich Cathedral triennial Choral Festival. They were fine occasions, but our 'big thing' was to sing in St Nicholas, every Easter, Stainer's Crucifixion.

'Teddy' ran the private electricity generating plant at Sandringham House. He was about five feet six inches tall, portly, with a round florid face under a mane of corn blond hair, brilliantined and combed straight back. His wife, and two sons, were in the choir.

I had good views of him on the occasions when I was detailed to pump the organ. In the clergy vestry, a long spar-like handle protruded from the back of the organ, and when pumped up and down it worked the bellows which fed the air chamber of the organ. When the bass pipes were in full play it was hard work to prevent a dying wail from the organ, but in moments of gentle music, one could take a little rest.

Then, one saw 'Teddy' on the organ bench, short surplice like a little igloo over his rotund body, arms protruding, pudgy pink fingers on the keys, black patent leather pumps dancing on the pedal bars, which his short legs could barely reach. His coordination of hand and feet fascinated me. What a way to make music!

The basses and baritones sat in the choir stall which backed onto the organ. Amongst them was Peter Houchen, who ran Cobbold's Stores in Chapel Road - six feet, beefy, black hair pomaded slickly close to his skull. Also little Mr Jarvis of the Hunstanton Road bakery - balding head with a wispy halo of white. In the easternmost seat sat the Crozier, the tall spare figure of Mr Wheeler, headmaster of the village school.

The tenors and altos had the stall along the south wall of the chancel. 'Roly' Linford, grocer at the junction of Station and Hunstanton Roads, was lead tenor; he always sat at the west end of that stall, and ever complained of the draught which came from the squint and the window behind his head. The squint is now glazed at each end, but there is still a needle draught from somewhere on the window, which catches the back of the neck of anyone sitting in that seat.

Boys sat in the two stalls in front of the two stalls of men singers, often somewhat squashed together, there were so many trebles.

Ladies and girls sat on two rows of chairs on the south side of the chancel, ladies nearest the wall between the southern male stalls and the priest door, with Mrs Rye in the rear row, keeping order in the female ranks.

The Vicar, Revd Oliver, allowed he had no singing voice. He sat at the Vicar's desk, with his back to the organist, silently reciting to himself the words of what was being sung.

Occasionally he would break silence, and there would be a sharp glance from the organ bench.

During the sermon 'Teddy' would slide along the organ bench so he could see round the edge of the organ into the boys' stall. From there he would hiss reprimands if the rustle of toffee papers got too loud, or cigarette card swapping got too animated. He had a system of hand signals with 'Roly' who would give verbal, and occasionally physical, prods to the row of boys in front of him.

At the opening and closing of services the choir processed from and to the vestry under the tower. Then, most boys wore boots, and the ring of their hobnails and 'Blakeys' on the then uncarpeted tiles of the centre aisle could well evoke ideas of the 'Church Militant'.

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## Twenty years on .....!

Here are a couple of photos sent to Village Voice, taken by May Davey when she was on the Parish Council and took responsibility for organising activities for youngsters during the summer. These date from 2000 - the Millennium Year. So this is what you all looked like twenty years ago!!

If others have old photos reminding us of past events in the village do send them in to [villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk). Please send them as files of at least 1Mb so that they are suitable for printing.



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## Gardening and Lockdown

Jane Jestic

Although I was born in King's Lynn and both my parents' families are from Norfolk, when we moved to Dersingham five years ago it was my first time living in this area. I grew up in Essex and then lived in Hampshire and Surrey. Twenty years ago I moved to California where I lived for fifteen years on the edge of Monterey Bay. Since then we have moved to the west coast of Southern Florida.

So I have had a wide range of climates and gardens to work with!

I shall be writing regularly for Village Voice about gardening here in Dersingham and throwing in little snippets of my experiences in the USA.

As my husband says, "We are very good at taking a perfectly good house and turning it into a fixer-upper". We seem to be able to have the same effect on our gardens. We are always having "ideas and plans". Some fall into place easily, some head quickly to the bin, but most start off well but seem to slow down in the doing. We have a lot of trouble ignoring the distractions of a cup of coffee, a chat, a glass of wine...in fact most things!

The lockdown has been a very strange experience in so many ways. We have found out how easy it is to get through the day being "busy" but achieving very little. By the time we have got up, had breakfast and cleared up it is time for coffee. The coffee is accompanied by a chat along the lines of "what are your plans for the day?" Now it is almost lunchtime, so no point in starting anything major just yet. Lunch and a cup of tea

follow. We DO have a couple of hours before we stop for an afternoon cuppa and time to chat about how we have got on so far. Another hour or so and time to clear up ready for a glass of wine and supper. I know of people who have achieved amazing things but we are not them. In fact I would go so far as to say our garden has gone a bit into free fall in the last months.



But I do realise how lucky we are that we have a garden to get out into and the weather has been so amazing that we have been able to be outside most of the time. One thing I have done is spend a lot of time looking at my garden and really "seeing" it: enjoying the odd occasion when, through pure chance, I have got the combination of plants looking good, when my veg has actually grown or I have plants that I have grown from seed flourishing in the beds.

We have had one major change which is affecting our garden this year. Her name is Maisy and she is a golden retriever. She is

growing like a weed and is beautiful, so she fits into every area of my garden! We got her on the Friday before lockdown and she has kept us busy! We have a courtyard which is mainly gravel. Maisy decided when she first arrived that gravel was her favourite food. So we have had to cover all the gravel with a weed membrane weighted down with

bricks. It is a unique look which I wouldn't recommend to anyone. We were warned that retrievers like to "help" with any job at hand. I deadhead, Maisy liveheads. I weed, Maisy digs holes. I water the pots, Maisy digs the water out. I am expecting that by next summer she will be like Nigel (now sadly died) and Nelly with Monty Don on Gardener's World and just calmly follow me and lie at my feet as I garden. Well, one can live in hope!

One of the biggest puzzles is what our new normality will be like. I have loved the stands that have popped up round the village selling plants, flowers, fruit and veg. I hope they continue and others join in. I have had the best produce from our local gardens, it couldn't be fresher and tastes delicious.

Finally, here's a photo of an Allium I assume I bought and planted! It was spectacular - looking like a firework in the front of the flowerbed.

Enjoy your gardens and our lovely village. ☐



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## Norfolk Rivers Trust

How can you keep your river healthy and clean?

In a series of articles Norfolk Rivers Trust will provide advice to help maintain the health of our globally rare chalk streams and lowland rivers in Norfolk. In times of drought and hot weather it is especially important because of the wildlife our rivers support.

Endangered white clawed crayfish, brown trout, eels, and water voles are just a few of the iconic species at risk in Norfolk and you can do your bit to help protect them.

Vegetation: while it is tempting to “tidy” the river by pulling out the plants, you are doing more harm than good. The vegetation in the river helps in so many ways! Firstly, plants shade the channel reducing the temperature of the water and keeping the water oxygenated. Secondly, plants hold back water in exceptionally low flows allowing the invertebrates and fish to survive in the damp conditions. Thirdly, plants take up the excess nutrients and pollutants resulting in cleaner water downstream; plants act as natural filters. And lastly, by taking out the vegetation you are removing the essential food that most of the aquatic food chain relies on! If you feel the river is “choked” you can call the Environment Agency for advice, but generally the vegetation dies down over winter.

If you are a landowner with riparian land and would like to talk to us about restoration and rewilding please do get in touch with us at Norfolk Rivers Trust. We offer a wide range of services including surveys, restoration and management advice.

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## Gardening with Disabilities May R Davey, Chairman



Although there has been some lifting of restrictions during the COVID -19 crisis, it is still too soon to predict when we can meet again at Dersingham Village Centre. We have shielding and self-isolating members, many of whom are over seventy and have pre-existing conditions.

We hope to follow the programme outlined from October, but our members and guests must telephone the Chairman, May Davey (01485-544953) or the Secretary, Gloria Pantling (01553-671912) to confirm that our meetings will be taking place. Sue Neil, our Programme Secretary, will be re-booking speakers and outings we have missed for 2021.

### 2020 Programme

**October 16: Geoff Hodge on Pests and Diseases**

**November 15: Tom Bolderstone from Natural England**

**December 18: Christmas Lunch at Knights Hill.**



We always welcome new members and guests. Our new permanent venue is Dersingham Village Centre. Coffee or tea and a raffle ticket will be £3.00 at the door. The annual subscription remains at £12.00. Come and see how you like us. We meet at 2.00pm and end by 4.00 pm.



I hope you enjoyed the excellent summer magazine that Gloria put together and the lovely photographs of some of our members' lockdown gardens.

We miss you all and look forward to seeing you again as soon as it is safe to do so.□



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## Lizzies's Revenge by Phyl Jones

Surprised at hearing a bell jangle, Lizzie saw it was a summons from the drawing room. Apparently the Master was home earlier than anticipated. Automatically straightening her cap and tucking in the few stray tendrils of her fair curly hair that had managed to escape, she reached for her starched white apron which always hung ready on the back of the kitchen door. At Cook's peremptory 'Hurry up girl, you know it's your turn when it's Dora's night off,' Lizzie hurriedly tied the apron strings into a neat bow before heading up the back stairs, dreaming of finding a way of wiping the smirk off piggy eyed Dora's fat face.

She let herself through the green baize door which led into the main part of the house, her feet making no sound as she sped along the thickly carpeted passage. Smoothing down her dress and apron and checking her cap was still on straight, Lizzie tapped on the drawing room door. Hearing the Master call 'come in' she entered, carefully closing the door behind her.

'You sent for me Sir?'

'The fire's almost out, see to it will you.'

Lizzie gave a deferential nod before walking across to the big oak mantled fireplace and picking up the bellows. As she worked, head bent, trying to breath some life into the almost non-existent fire, she sensed the Master's eyes raking over her from head to toe. She glanced up at him before quickly turning her head away. Cor, that was some fancy jacket he was wearing! Lizzie grinned as she tried to imagine her Pa dressed in a grey silk jacket patterned with pink roses, lolling in his armchair, with his hobnailed boots resting on the fender, thumbs tucked into his braces.

'I see you are smiling Lizzie. Tell me, do you find me attractive to look at?' The drawling voice of the Master brought Lizzie to with a start.

'Yes Sir - um - I mean, no Sir, I was just admiring your jacket Sir.'

'Oh. Well / find *you* attractive young Lizzie. Very attractive in fact.'

Out of the corner of her eye Lizzie saw the Master get up from the chaise-longue and start walking across the room towards her. She recognised the lascivious leer on his face. It was the sort of look the under-footman gave her when he thought no-one else could see him. Recalling the whispers that went on below stairs about the Master and her predecessor, Lizzie's mind whirled.

Saying 'Excuse me Sir, I think I'll need a few more sticks to get this fire going,' she darted from the room and flew along the passage, not pausing till she was on the other side of the baize door. Running down the stairs she stumbled, and clattering down the last few steps, landed in a heap at the bottom. Cook and Dora ran out to see what was causing all the commotion.

'Ow, ow, I've twisted my ankle.' Standing up Lizzie carefully put her foot to the ground. 'Ow, I can hardly bear to walk on it, I must have sprained it. I only came down to get some more sticks. The drawing room fire was nearly out. Ow, my ankle don't half hurt!'

Dora glowered at Lizzie when Cook told her she would have to forego her evening off and go and see to the drawing room fire. Taking care to lean heavily on Cook's arm Lizzie limped across the kitchen and sank down into a chair. While Cook set about making them a pot of tea 'to help them get over the shock,' Lizzie smiled to herself. There, that would wipe the smile off Dora's face, and she reckoned the Master's expression would change too when he realised it was Dora waddling in to stoke his fire! □



## A Yukon Romance - Part 1 Elizabeth Fiddick

A churchyard is a place full of stories. A gravestone is like one page in someone's life, often posing questions it may now never be possible to answer. It can give us a brief glimpse of a person's life, their family and sometimes hint at the tragedies and heartache they may have suffered. For instance, Sarah Ann Mitchell, who died aged 78, lies alongside her two young sons, George Frederick who died just 9 years old, and George Walter only 3 when he was laid next to his brother. What is the story I wonder about John Brown, shipmaster from Aberdeenshire and his wife Janet from Jedburgh, that they now lie together in our cemetery so far from the land of their birth?

In that part of the churchyard behind the old barn can be found a headstone commemorating Sergeant Claude Tidd, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, born May 21<sup>st</sup> 1885, died June 12<sup>th</sup> 1949. "*He lived courageously everyday of his life*" is the epitaph. Surely there must be a story here. Well, there certainly is.

Claude Britiff Tidd was born in Mileham a few miles south of Fakenham. He had three younger sisters and both parents were teachers. At first Claude followed in their footsteps, receiving his teaching certificate on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1908. He taught in Lowestoft, Yarmouth, Stalham and Reedham. But as a young boy, with relatives farming out in Canada, Claude had read all the books, periodicals and articles he could find on that country. His imagination was fired by the vivid accounts and he longed to see Canada for himself. So it was perhaps not surprising that in 1910 he set sail for Manitoba to join his aunt and uncle and realise his dream. Once there Claude tried many jobs. He worked as a farmhand, a storekeeper and even played the piano in a movie house. He was also a talented player of both saxophone and trombone. He was employed by the Northern Railroad as a locomotive repair man and later by the



**Claude in Vancouver**

Hudson Bay Company as a surveyor. It was all valuable experience but in 1914 he joined The Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In 1915 he was sent on his first detachment to Rampart House, a Hudson Bay Company post, with its origins in the fur trade, situated on the Porcupine River on the border of the Yukon and Alaska. Here he had to endure the cruel winters where between December and January the recorded temperature frequently reached 40 degrees below zero. As the only representative of government in the area his duties included that of mining recorder, collecting custom duties, keeping the peace, patrolling the area, and delivering mail to remote and scattered settlements.



**Rampart House**



It was a huge learning curve for a boy from Norfolk to face these freezing, wild, northern winters where any mistake could easily prove fatal. He had to learn quickly from his fellow officers and the guides from the First Nation peoples. These were the Gwich'in people and the more distant Inuit. Talking about it later he said that he had to master how to drive dog teams, repair sled runners, build and maintain log



**Cabin built by Claude**

cabins, clean wild game, catch fish, prevent frostbite and fell trees. He learned quickly so he was often sent to isolated postings where he might serve on his own, although on patrols he would be accompanied by a First Nation Guide. He loved the life in spite of the isolation. He recalled it in an interview he gave years later.



*"I had to do entirely for myself," he commented, "cooking, house-cleaning, my own washing, cut my own wood out in the bush, haul it with dogs, saw it, split it and the thousand and one things that go to make up the life of a policeman out on the real frontier, the edge of things as it were. I have been stationed all over this vast Yukon territory and travelled from the Arctic coast to the northern border of British Columbia and all behind a dog team."*

He recalled one particular dog-team journey from Ross River to White Horse, and back, some 5-600 miles, at an average speed of 25 miles a day, when on his return he discovered his skin had been burned black by the reflection of the sun off the snow. He was serving in this remote area in 1918 when other units of police were sent to serve in WW1. *"I was out of touch," he said, "so missed it through no fault of my own."*

Claude was then posted to serve in Dawson City, where the Klondike River empties into the Yukon. Here his life would be changed forever.

In August 1924 the SS Casca arrived in Dawson City on its way to Fort Yukon. On board was Mary Ester Ryder from Pennsylvania, who had been sent by the Episcopal Church as a missionary nurse to Fort Yukon in Alaska where there was a serious flu epidemic among the Indian tribes. On her long journey north Mary had been completely

overawed by the beauty of the mountains, glaciers and islands she had passed. It was as the ship docked in Dawson City she caught her first glimpse of the man who would change her life. In her letters to friends she wrote, *“There I met a wonderful specimen of manhood - one of the Royal Northwest Police who wore a gorgeous uniform coat of scarlet.”*

She described how she attended the ball held in the City on Pioneer Day where Claude had danced with her so often that her friends commented that it was a shame she had been inoculated against everything but then succumbed to *“scarlet fever”*. Over the next few days Mary and Claude were inseparable until she had to leave to continue her journey to Fort Yukon.

Mary also had to adjust quickly to the harsh conditions of frontier life. She wrote home of the freezing conditions for the winter of 1924/5 which was one of the roughest on record. She too learnt how to operate a dog team, bake bread and sew moccasins. She even had to assist with the amputation of a mailman’s feet which had been frozen on the trail.

While Mary was adjusting to her new life, back in Dawson City Claude could not forget her. They wrote constantly to each other and planned a canoe trip down the Porcupine River. In letters home Mary wrote of the holiday but did not mention the friend who would take it with her. So it must have been quite a surprise to Mary’s mother when she received a letter from Claude pouring out his heart to her, confessing his love for Mary. Shortly after Claude proposed and a date for the wedding was fixed. They were married in St. Stephen’s Church at Fort Yukon in 1925. Claude wore his scarlet uniform and over her wedding dress, which had been sent out to her by her parents, Mary wore a fox piece Claude had bought her. A half dozen dogs also took part in the festivities, all decorated, rather comically, with bells and ribbons. There was an elaborate party aboard the SS Yukon afterwards and the doctor in charge at Mary’s hospital remarked that, *“never anywhere did I see a prettier wedding than in our little church within the Arctic Circle.”*

Claude and Mary were kindred spirits and throughout their married life preferred postings to remote, small communities like Forty Mile, Ross River and Old Crow where they lived close to the land, chopping wood, hauling water, travelling by dog team and snowshoes or by canoe. They learned the skills that the Yukon First Nation people had always used to survive in this challenging environment. Their lives were thoroughly connected with their neighbours, the trappers, traders, missionaries, and labourers. Claude was a keen

photographer and they recorded all aspects of their lives. They completely embraced the lifestyle in *“the quiet limit of the world”* and faced all that the northern wilderness could throw at them. Nevertheless the harsh conditions eventually took their toll and Claude was very ill in 1931 which eventually caused his retirement from the Police in 1935. He continued to work in places like Mayo and Forty Mile. Between 1945 and 1946 he was a storekeeper with the Northern Commercial Company in Old Crow. In 1947 Claude and Mary took the decision to leave the harsh climate of the Northern Territories for the sake of Claude’s health. Norfolk, the county of Claude’s birth, was the obvious choice and they moved to Dersingham, occupying a small cottage called *“Allswell”* on Lynn Road.



**Allswell is the one nearest the camera**

After all the difficulties they had endured in the Yukon, in England they were faced with post-war deprivation. Mary wrote home of the unbelievable shortages and phenomenal prices. She commented on how butter, sugar and milk were so precious. It was a very difficult time for Mary as Claude was seriously ill. He made light of it in letters telling everyone that he could ride a bike for a mile or two on doctor's orders. But he could not walk very far.



*In the garden at Allswell*

It was a Sunday morning in June 1949, on one of his trips on his auto bike, that Claude reached Burnham Overy and was about to dismount when he suddenly collapsed and died. His heart had finally failed him. He was laid to rest in our churchyard thousands of miles from the land of ice and snow he loved so much. Rest in peace Claude. □



*Gravestone 1949*



*Gravestone 2020*

*Part 2 of this story will cover more of Claude's life from his own writings*



**Rev Mark Capron**  
**Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and**  
**Sherborne**



**Light at the end of the Tunnel**

Have you been on a train that plunges into a tunnel and leaves you in the darkness? It can be quite disorientating. That is how some people have felt in the last few months. Yet as a train moves forwards the light at the end of the tunnel grows stronger and gets closer; with that the realised hope of coming through the darkness to the light comes true. One of the familiar references to 'light' in the Bible is when Jesus declared His identity: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12).



Lockdown has brought challenges, sadness, loneliness and heartache for so many locally and globally.

Many people in the communities here have been grateful for the St Nicholas Outreach Team for the medical deliveries and food collections that have been offered to help people in need at home. The 'Lighthouse', the bumper weekly newsletter, has helped people stay connected with so much to read and enjoy; this is still available electronically or on paper by request.

The online worship ([dersinghamonlineworship.com](http://dersinghamonlineworship.com)) continues to connect people in worship. One of the remarkable points is the number of people who are accessing an online church worship in this country - two pieces of research point to between 19% and 24% of the UK population. If you haven't had an opportunity to join in from the comfort of your armchair, garden bench, or even your bed, check it out. There's more on the Dersingham Online Worship site or direct with the same name on YouTube. There is also a Bite-sized Bible series on Psalm 23, a short five minute reflection offering further spiritual nourishment.

There has been an increased interest from people who, during the pandemic, have been considering the big questions of life. With this in mind, we will offer an opportunity to explore the Christian faith with an 'Alpha' course starting in September. This is the fifth year in a row and each time the discussions have been much appreciated, with the bonus of meeting new people. Alpha enables exploration of the real meaning of what the Christian faith is and how important Jesus is as the Light of the World. Due to the pandemic it will be led via zoom so people can join together from the comfort of their homes, but please register beforehand by contacting Pauline, the church secretary (01485 544561). Even in the darkness that has and continues to be experienced there is a light that shines. Jesus brings light to life and purpose to our lives and even comfort in challenging times.

**Future Services**

The Bishop of Norwich has said: "My clear advice for the Diocese of Norwich remains, as

it has at each stage of the unlocking, that we move forward, slowly, steadily and safely.” Now, steadily, cautiously but in love, we move forward following the light of Jesus as his disciples.

The first public worship will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 10am in St Nicholas Church, Dersingham; there will be **limited spaces available**. If you would like to come, **please book in advance** by letting us know how many of you there will be and leave a contact telephone number.

Please contact Pauline Martin on [secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk) or telephone 01485 544561. We will be continuing the online worship into the future, which is great news.

[dersinghamonlineworship.com](http://dersinghamonlineworship.com)  
[www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk](http://www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk)

### A family search

In the December 2013 edition of Village Voice there was a photograph of a group of people taken in June 1952 outside the Church Hall. The gentleman seated in the centre is Mark Dyble, then aged 89 years. The occasion commemorated his having been Chairman of the Dersingham Branch of the National Union of Agricultural Workers for 40 years, having been a founder member for 72 years. Mark lived in Centre Vale for 60 years having had nine children with his wife Annie-Maria.

The photograph and article were sent in to Village Voice by Joy Kelly, his great granddaughter.

Village Voice has been contacted by Mike Smith (not our local artist!) who is one of Mark Dyble's grandsons, who is trying to get in touch with Joy Kelly, and ideally get a copy of the photograph. If anyone can help in this matter could you please contact Mike Smith on 01625 618020 or email him at [glenmik@msn.com](mailto:glenmik@msn.com).

### Dersingham Library

King's Lynn Library has now reopened as part of a phased scheme to get all Norfolk libraries up and running again. Dersingham Library will reopen over the next two to three months. Whilst you cannot go inside the library at present, you can put any books you still have from before the lockdown through the letter box. They will then go into quarantine before being put back on the shelves.

A notice will be placed on the door of the library giving notice of its reopening. You can also get up to date information from the Norfolk Library Service website, although it is not the easiest to navigate your way through. You can also email [libraries@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@norfolk.gov.uk)



## Sandringham Parish News

### Ben Colson

#### Parish Council

The Parish Council last met in proper session in March, just before the Coronavirus lockdown took place. Two meetings have been cancelled since then, the May AGM and the July ordinary meeting. At the time of writing we are considering whether to hold the September meeting or not.

If it does go ahead it will be on 9<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm. Normally that meeting would be at West Newton but because of social distancing regulations, if we do hold it, we'll need to find another venue. Details will be available on notice boards and on our website nearer the time.

In the meantime, Parish Councillors have been maintaining contact with each other and dealing with issues, as best they can, including:

- \*\* Raising concerns about the ongoing parking and litter issues in Wolferton.
- \*\* Liaising with the County Council Highways Rangers Service to do small roadside repairs.
- \*\* Disseminating information received from the County and Borough Councils concerning the coronavirus pandemic and information for residents.
- \*\* Dealing with other issues raised by residents, the most recent being the number and speed of lorries coming through West Newton.

One issue on which we are making no progress at the moment is the arbitrary manner in which the Post Office cut the weekly hours of attendance of its mobile office at West Newton just before the pandemic hit. Inevitably this has made ongoing correspondence with them difficult. We have now raised it with the Norfolk Association of Local Councils to see whether they can make progress on our behalf.

#### Restoring public services

Most public services will be back to normal by the time this Village Voice is published, and the government has announced a plan for the re-opening of all schools at the beginning of the new year in September. One public service not fully restored at the time of writing is the No 35 bus between King's Lynn and Hunstanton via West Newton and Sandringham. It is currently running at about 50% of the normal service. Our understanding is that this will be fully restored at a future date, possibly at the same time as schools reopen, if not sooner.

#### Restoring social facilities

All social facilities have been closed since the lockdown started in March. There is a welcome, but cautious reopening under way.

**Babingley Social Club:** will be open every evening, with fewer seats and tables to observe 2m social distancing. Outside tables will be available. There will be no social events until further notice, and please note that this is a cash only facility.

**Wolferton Social Club:** will be open on Friday and Saturday evenings, opening at 8pm and Sunday lunchtimes 12noon to 2.30pm only. It will observe 2m social distancing. Outside tables will be available. There will be no social events until further notice.

#### Sandringham Group of Churches

Church services will have resumed on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July. There will be just one service each Sunday, rotating around the various churches in the group and this will apply to at least the end of August. Full details can be found on the Church's website [sandringhamchurches.org.uk](http://sandringhamchurches.org.uk). □

## Dreams can come true! David Collingham

For many years now, since qualifying as a pilot in 2001, I have had a recurring dream. It starts with my hiring my usual Cessna aircraft at the flying club where I qualified (Sibson, Peterborough). The instructor tells me that at a nearby airfield – a short flight hop away – there is a Spitfire available for me and I should have a go at flying it solo and unaided. The dream becomes rather fuzzy then, and I seem to remember flying to the Spitfire field, but never receiving the required permission to take her up. Ever since I was a boy, I have had a fascination for Spitfires (and Hurricanes) having built models from kits and painted decals on the side of fuselages. In recent years, I would trek to Flying Displays, including the 70<sup>th</sup> Battle of Britain anniversary at Duxford, principally to see and hear those magical Merlin engines.

Well, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020, at around 1000 hours, I finally realized, or should I say finished, my dream.

At Duxford, Cambridgeshire, I climbed into the rear seat of the dual seater Mk9 Spitfire, G-CCCA (PV202 in war time), owned by the Aircraft Restoration Company at Duxford, built in 1944 and seeing war service in France and Belgium. They own two Spits there and the other was buzzing us, piloted by the Chief Pilot, at the time of my arrival. Following safety briefings from ground crew and my pilot, the silver-haired BA captain, Paul Bonhomme, I was strapped into first the parachute, then the cockpit. With minimal fuss we started up and began to taxi. Captain Paul and I had a conversation beforehand when he established my flying credentials and asked what I would like to do! Crikey, just being in the thing would be enough!



We took off so elegantly, soaring like a hawk on a thermal. You would think that amazing 1720 hp Merlin roar would translate into vibration and roaring in the cockpit – but none of it. It was so peaceful. Preflight, Paul gave me some advice on the main control, the stick, and in particular the sensitivity of the pitch control – forward and backward. A few minutes into the flight he handed over the controls: “You have control”, and asked me to experiment with rolling and climbing - no problems, she handled so well. Later he demonstrated a stall. I was flabbergasted that a machine capable of flying at 400 mph would stall at exactly 70 mph - not much different from the Cessna!

We soared over Newmarket, climbing over fluffy clouds on a beautiful flying day, cruising at 220 mph (it felt like 100). Then Captain Paul asked if I would like to do an ‘aileron 360 degree roll’. Not wishing to be a wimp, I said OK and he did a demonstration. Then to my

horror he asked me to do the same. I couldn't refuse! Anyway, this might be the only time in my life. So – preparation dive to 240 mph, climb into the sun, aileron hard over left and it sort of happened! Not perfect, but we survived. I did another, better this time. Then we did a 'Cuban loop'. Wow – enough for one day; we tootled back to Duxford, did the obligatory pass and break at 300ft over the engineers and hangar, then landed.

Well, what more can I say – who said dreams don't come true? Thank you to Captain Paul and Aerial Collective for a once in a lifetime amazing experience.

**Postscript:** It later transpired that Captain Paul had yet another side to his aviation personality. I saw YouTube footage of Paul and another daredevil literally barnstorming – flying two stunt planes **through** a hanger in tandem. Glad he didn't do that with the Spit! □



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## Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

Hello there, here we are with some more facts, fiction, and squit for the Dersingham Village Voice.

### The Howell brothers

A few months back a gentleman had a letter about two young men from Dersingham who lost their lives in the First World War. Their surname was Howell and they were brothers, I have since found out a bit about them, so I hope the gentleman who was looking for the information still reads the Dersingham Village Voice.

Howell, Ernest, private 3031, 5th Battalion Norfolk Regiment, died at Gallipoli on 12th August 1915, aged 23, son of George and Elizabeth Howell of No 5 Manor Road, Dersingham. No known grave, but commemorated on the Helles memorial, Turkey panel 42 to 44.

Howell, J, private 241092, 5th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment, died of wounds inflicted at Gallipoli on 19th April 1917, aged 20, son of George and Elizabeth Howell No 5 Manor Road, Dersingham, buried in Gaza war cemetery, Palestine, ref XX11g10.

No 5 Manor Road, Dersingham, is the first house in a row of very old cottages. They were called Albert Victor cottages or Wash House Yard, and are the row just past the Albert Victor. The last ones were a workhouse.

### Sandringham Estate

I was talking to a chap who said, 'Just tell me about this Dick, when the Prince of Wales bought Sandringham in 1862 it only covered 7,000 acres, but now it covers over 20,000 acres.'

When Sandringham was first bought in 1862 it also included the villages of Wolferton, Appleton, Babingley, West Newton and one farm in Dersingham, Manor Farm. In 1896 it included Shernborne and Anmer, another 3,000 acres. Then, in 1910, Flitcham was added and that covered 3,200 acres. Much more was added after this. After 1910 George V added a lot more land to the south of the estate; then, from 1942 until 1947, George VI bought some more land, mainly in the Bircham area. Our present Queen Elizabeth has bought or reclaimed some more land. I think the last area to be reclaimed was 300 to 400 acres of marsh at Wolferton in 1964.

When I was a boy the estate did not farm much land themselves. Most of it was let out to tenant farmers like Mr Stanton, Manor Farm, Dersingham. The Hancock family from Shernborne Hall rented three farms: Hall Farm, Shernborne; Hill Farm, Dersingham; and Red Barn Farm, Snettisham. Mr Lewis had one farm at Shernborne and one at Ling House. There were many more rented out farms at Flitcham, Bircham, Babingley, West Newton and Wolferton. Nowadays the estate farms a lot more of the land itself, and only lets out about ten farms to tenants. At one time there were more smallholders on the estate, or little higglers as they were called. Mr Emmerson had one at the Emblems, the Webb brothers had a smallholding up the Anmer Road at Flitcham, and, of course, Ken Martins was the biggest little higgler of them all and at one time he rented over 100 acres off the estate. He also collected the swill from Sandringham House whenever the royalty stayed there. His pigs were the best fed in Norfolk.

Since 1952, 2 million new trees have been planted on the estate, 45 new woodlands have been created, 20 wetlands, 25 miles of new hedges and 125 miles of field

margins for wildlife. The Sandringham Estate now farms 6,500 acres in hand, that is about one third of the whole estate. At one time all the cottages on the estate were lived in by the workers, but now the workforce is a lot smaller, so a lot of the cottages are let out. When my uncle worked on the estate in the 1930s there were over 100 gardeners and 80 farm workers working on a very much smaller acreage. Now there are ten men working on about 7,000 acres.

### **Locked up**

A dear old friend of mine, Ken Martins, worked on the Sandringham Estate at Laycocks for Captain Fellows, the estate agent, as a houseboy. This was before the Second World War and estate motors did not have to have number plates. Ken went into King's Lynn one day to pick up some things for Captain Fellows and he was stopped by the police for not having a number plate. Ken was seventeen and he had a driving licence, but he looked a lot younger. He told them that he worked for Sandringham Estate but they would not believe him and they locked him up. They rang Captain Fellows and he was furious. After that, all the estate motors were registered, except for the cars that the King used to ride about in.

### **This is a little bit of squit (written by Willy Ever)**

Oi hent never rit tew the pearper afor but thass the woif who hev got me tew dew this here. She say, 'Heh, yew si the squit theyer bin a roitng in this here Willsge Voice.' Oi say, 'No.' She say, 'Oi reckon yew orter roit suffen.' Oi say, 'Rught yer be.'

So here yew are tergether, about a month ago oi wuz out in the back garden, when him fun nex door shouted. 'Hoi,' he say. I say, 'Wot?' 'Wot wot,' he say, 'oi mgornta trickerlate up moi frunt rum.' Oi say, 'Ohar.' 'Well,' he say, 'yar frunt rum is the same soize as moin, so how many rolls ov pearper did yew git wen you done yars?' Oi say, 'Twelve.' He say, 'Roit,' un went back in. Tew weeks learter he wuz out there agin. 'Hoi,' he say. Oi say, 'Wot?' He say, 'Oi thowt yew say yew got twelve rolls ov pearper when yew did yar frunt rum.' Oi say, 'Yis.' He say, 'Well, oi hed four rolls left over.' Oi say, 'Yis, so did I.' He say, 'Blast,' un went in.

Sorft old fule. Well thass it tergether, oi moit hev a mardel with yo agin, thass if she let me, so fer now dew yew kip a troshin moi ol bewty, fare yew well tergether.

### **Dersingham Bog or Fen**

Now then, as you all know that read the Dersingham Village Voice regularly, I have been on a lot over the years about what some people call Dersingham Bog. Well, at last I have got to the bottom of it. I have many maps old and new. I looked in a Bryant's map of 1826. In this map Dersingham Fen is marked down as Dersingham Common, as it is in a David and Charles map dated 1867. The Wolferton area is marked down as Sandringham Warren. There is no mention of Dersingham Bog until after 1990 when the by-pass was built. Between 1826 and 1990 it was called Dersingham Fen and Wolferton Fen.

It was not until after 1990, when English Nature took over the running of it, that it was called Dersingham



Bog. On a lot of modern maps like Round and About Snettisham and Dersingham, Norfolk Coast West, Landranger and Philips. the acreage either side of the by-pass is called Dersingham Fen. Dersingham Bog is on these maps but it is the Wolferton end of the fen. So I got out my Dersingham boundary map and, what do you know, Dersingham Bog is in the parish of Wolferton, which covers 2,947 acres of land.

If I had been active enough I would have gone over the fen to show English Nature where the boundary posts are. So now, after all these years, I know for certain that it is Dersingham Fen and Wolferton Bog, and I do not care what other people call it. Just one more thing that some people will be pleased about - I am not going to write about Dersingham Fen or Wolferton Bog in the Village Voice ever again.

### Keeping an eye on Dersingham

I do not get out a lot these days, but one day, in fact it was June 20<sup>th</sup>, my son said, 'I have got to go to Dersingham, so would you like to come with me.' So I said, 'Yes.' The first thing he pointed out to me was all the poppies growing amongst the wheat in about five fields at Heacham Bottom. I have seen poppies growing in cornfields before but not like this. So many people had been going into the fields to take photographs that Ken Hill farms have had to put up barriers to stop people going into the fields. Then we went down as far as the George Pratt roundabout, then up Heath Road past the Open Common and the Shut-up Common and back up Manor Road. So you see I do come to Dersingham sometimes, just to keep an eye on the dear old place that I still call home.

Well that's your lot for now. Just keep a troshin, from the boy Dick, Sunny Hunny.□



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## Dersingham Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



We are working hard to devise ways of regenerating King's Lynn as Covid-19 restrictions become eased – Hunstanton, of course, has already seen large visitor numbers, but so far no obvious social distancing problems. Increased hand-washing facilities have been installed and even during the very hot weather people behaved sensibly. Encouragingly, there were no major issues with rubbish.

Other initiatives will include applying for grant funding to inject fresh projects and ways of managing post lockdown. King's Lynn is well placed with plenty of open space for outdoor dining and activities.

In terms of Dersingham, we are happy to see that the verge at the beginning of Station Road has been trimmed and that there seems to be a recognition via United Charities that this should be done as a matter of course.

There was an incident with a gypsy encampment off Heath Road on United Charities' land; the police were alerted and the incident passed peacefully enough.

We intend to do a cut-down Dersingham Open Gardens at the beginning of September with appropriate measures to ensure safe gatherings of visitors. This has been our intention ever since the May event had to be cancelled. Let's hope we can safely welcome a few visitors to our village.

Meanwhile, keep well and keep positive.□



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## What's your favourite thing about Dersingham?

Collected by Jordan Stokes

*Jordan is the administrator of the Dersingham Village Facebook Group and he recently asked people what's their favourite thing about Dersingham. Below are some of the answers he received. Do go to the village Facebook site (just Google Dersingham Village Facebook Group) and sign up to become a member. It's full of interesting snippets of information, requests to buy and sell various bits and pieces, and lets you know what is going on around the village.*

### Facebook comments

'We moved here 5 years ago, love it. Such a friendly village with everything we need, a brilliant bus service. There are so many really lovely walks, especially down to the sea when we're feeling energetic!'

'Moved here just before lockdown. The trees are nice!!!'



'The deer and all the other wildlife.'

'Thank you Tim, our great postie - always happy to see him, and kind and helpful to our lovely 90-year-old Mum and our late Dad for the 34 years they have been living here.'

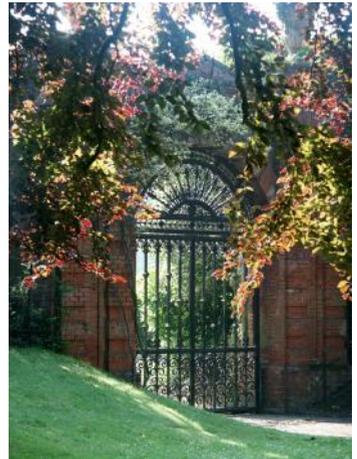
'Moved here in 2008 from the north and I'll never go back! The first thing that struck me was that I'd walk down the street and total strangers would say 'good morning'. I thought I was going to get mugged! But people in the village and beyond (I now live in West Newton) are just so friendly. True community spirit.'

'Norfolk itself is a wonderful place. So easy, friendly and a better pace of life. Moved here 22 years ago from London and I ain't going back. This is perfect for me just as it is.'

'Can't wait to get back into the Coach & Horses!'

'EVERYTHING! Favourite place in the world. The people, shops, Coach & Horses, I just love it. So glad my kids get to grow up here like I did.'

'Lived here for 56 years. Don't want to live anywhere else. It's perfect.'





'Dersingham Social Club.'

'The 'Elephant Tree'. (When you drive past the Tithe Barn and look ahead up the hill ahead of you there's a tree that looks a bit like an elephant, though perhaps not quite as much as it used to!!).

The fact we have everything here and it's such a friendly village.

Close to Sandringham as well. Nowhere I'd rather be, plus we have an amazing postman.'

'We only moved here in 2007 having visited many times. It has everything you need, enough shops for food should we get snowed in or in lockdown! Nature and walks on our doorstep. Usually lots going on in the village if you like to join groups. Churches if that is your thing. A couple of coffee shops to meet friends in. A surgery and dentist. Beauty parlours and hairdressers. A garden centre. Can't imagine living anywhere else now.'

'Wherever I've travelled in the world I haven't found anywhere I would rather live than here. I love the outdoors and we have woods, open fields and the beach all within walking distance (or a short drive). Love it.'



'We moved here in 2014 from Leicester. Got used to being away from family and friends but now they can't visit us and we can't visit them, but we are in a better place, that's for sure.'

'We have been living here for six and a half years now but have visited for over 30 years. What's not to like? Friendly people, lovely countryside and coastal areas. All good.'□

### Dersingham Questions Tony Bubb

Towards the top of Sandringham Road are a pair of houses built in 1883 with the initials WHM on a wall plaque. What do these letters stand for?

If readers have any other queries about features around the village, do send them in to [villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk).



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## **It was a Long Day** **John O. Lambert (Dersingham resident)**

To start with we were the only ones who qualified to join the Parachute Regiment. Out of 375 who started the course only 72 got through. We were all proud of our new uniforms, especially our Red Berets and our Wings. This is something that nobody can take away as it is a decoration.

In the early 1950s we were all billeted at a place called Goodge Street in London, which was an old Underground railway station, just off the Tottenham Court Road. We had to stay there for three days and nights waiting for a plane. These old planes were propeller ones which are much slower than the modern jet.

It was while we were waiting for a plane that one of the boys suggest we go to the Derby which was being run that day, little realising what a horrendous journey we were taking on. Just for starters, we had to change trains three times between Aldershot and Epsom.

The outcome of all that travelling was that when we arrived at Epsom, Gordon Richards was just going past the post. Never mind, there was always something to fall back on. Every year, as the races are being run, they hold an enormous fair to keep people amused. Amongst the stalls we found a coconut shy. We all thought we must have a go. We lined up and paid our dues. By this time quite a crowd had gathered to watch these men in uniform make a fool of themselves. My two friends went, but didn't get anything. Now it was my turn. Something came over me. It was either my nerves or the adrenalin, but I walked off the fairground with three coconuts. I overheard one little boy saying, "Cor, Mister, look at all those." So I gave him and his friends one each.

But our troubles were just about to start again. The last train, so we thought, would take us to Woking. We'd had a long, tiring day, but this train would take us to Woking. But this is where fatigue took a hand. As soon as we snuggled in the train, we all fell asleep and the next thing we knew one of the railway staff was walking towards us shouting, "Tickets."

By this time I had woken up and said, "Is this Woking?" The ticket collector laughed and said, "You'll be lucky, this is a siding at Waterloo, London. The only thing I can suggest you do is to catch the early morning milk train that leaves here about 3am".

We arrived back to where we started between 7am and 8am at Goodge Street. This is where they billeted all troops that were flying out from Blackbush Airport to anywhere in the world. Incidentally, Blackbush Airport has been closed for years. If you went down there at that time I could bet you any money there would be anything up to 10,000 troops.□

# **T.M.** *electrical*

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## Snettisham Salvation Army

Alison Kirby



It seems as if life has been on hold for the last three months but now there are signs that things are beginning to change. We won't be back to normal for a very long time, but the strict lockdown rules are being relaxed slowly but surely and we can begin to do some of the things we used to do and take for granted, like meeting up with friends and family and going to a restaurant or café.

It has been a very strange time for us in The Salvation Army. Our charity shop in Hunstanton had to close, as did our worship hall in Snettisham. All our usual activities had to stop and it seemed very strange not to gather for worship on a Sunday. However, we have still been available to anyone needing practical assistance or even just a chat if they were feeling at a bit of a loss.

Many churches, including many Salvation Army corps, have moved their worship online so that not only their own congregation could still worship but others who would not normally join with them could worship with them as well. This has not been possible at Snettisham and our worship is printed out each week and delivered to each member of our congregation. If you would like a copy just let me know and we can make sure you are added to our list of recipients.

The good news is that as from Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August we plan to reopen our charity shop in Hunstanton. We will be open Wednesday to Saturday 9.30am to 4.30pm. We will again be able to receive donations of clothes, bric-a-brac, books, toys, small electrical items and small items of furniture and you will be able to come and browse for bargains. It may be some time before we can recommence worship but we are reminded in Romans 8:28 that 'In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.' We may not understand why this has happened or see how we will ever return to normal but we know we can trust in God who can use all adversity for good.

Email: [alison.kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:alison.kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk) Mobile: 07436425118□

### Facebook by Antje Franke

For people of a certain age it is difficult to see why Facebook exists. So, I am trying to make friends applying the same principles.

Now I tell people who I see on the road and in supermarkets:

- what I have eaten
- how I feel
- what I have done the night before

I give them pictures of

- my dog
- me gardening
- selfies of me in front of landmarks

I also listen to other people's conversations, give advice to strangers, give people the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them.

I already have four people following me - two policemen, one private Investigator and one psychiatrist.

## Dersingham Then and Now

Tony Bubb

Following on from the pictures of the Old Hall in Village Voice No.124 I came across this picture of the south and east sides taken in what I guess is around 1920. Sadly there was no convenient double decker No.35 to use as a platform for picture taking, so a lot of the building is obscured by the fine high wall. However, we can still see enough to show that a bay window has been built or re-instated on the south side and more windows have been put in the roof.

Fortunately the building was saved for us to admire today and is once again in residential use having been a club, auction venue and hostelry.□



## Ingoldisthorpe Village WI Lesley Geer, President

Roughly four months into lockdown and we are beginning to adjust to a very different way of living.

Some of our members have managed to have the occasional 'socially distanced' meet up - either a local walk or social chit chat or both. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June I was able to join them for a lovely afternoon, shaded by the trees, sitting chatting in the Memorial Gardens. We even ventured to talk about a socially distanced Afternoon Tea in August, here's hoping....

One of our members took it on board to organise a 'keeping in touch' newsletter which members are invited to contribute to. I know I appreciate this and I'm certain it assures our members that they are not forgotten. And I know others are doing their utmost to make sure those who are not going out are looked after. WI doing what WI does best.

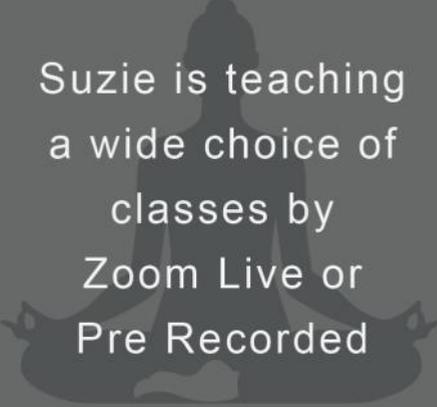
So, stay safe and maybe it will not be too long before we can extend our friendship to our local community again.

Take care everyone..... I am still missing our WI cakes!



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## The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle, 2020

Coeee - I'M ALIVE! I have the all-clear that the cancer has gone - though that's not to say that it won't sneak back again in the future, so I will still be haunting the hospital, being stuffed into tight tunnels for scans and so on indefinitely. At one stage I didn't think I would make it and that the chemotherapy was actually killing me. Five months of poison being pumped into the body certainly kills off the cancer, but it felt like it was finishing me off too.

In my last post, I told you how I was determined to laugh away the disease but soon after that, around three-quarters through the treatment, I lost my sense of humour completely and didn't find anything funny. The first time in 80 years that I couldn't joke about my bad luck! I just lay in my bed, day after day, staring into space, not caring if the sky fell in or flying ants crawled out of my mattress by the million.

Going into the Coronavirus lockdown made no difference to me, though it was nice that Remote Control Man was able to work from home. Not that he was bringing me in four course gourmet dishes (I did get baked beans on toast twice) but it was just nice for me to know that he was there and I wasn't going through all this totally alone. It couldn't have been at all nice for him - I could tell how worried he was - especially having to look at me with no hair, no eyebrows or eyelashes (very reptilian) and I had given up wearing wigs and turbans to enhance because, quite frankly, everything about me looked hideous. I think it was the not being able to walk that was the worst thing, though the complete and utter weakness came a close second. My legs just crumpled under me all the time, and if I did manage to get mobile, I seemed to head off into another direction - just like a drunk.

In a way, I was quite pleased the lockdown meant we couldn't see anyone, because I didn't want to anyway - the thought of trying to speak to anyone and be sociable was not a good one and it was lovely to know that it didn't matter that the house had become a tip, as nobody was going to call! I didn't have one ounce of strength in me to clear up or clean. Remote Control Man did his best, but he unfortunately comes under the category of Men Who Are Useless Around The House...I didn't have the strength or inclination to cook either, which worried me, as my body was getting no nutrition, making me more vulnerable. I lived on bread and jam.

The garden had gone to pot. I hadn't been able to work on it for months, but I did manage to get a few runner beans and broccoli in. I wondered why the beans were not climbing up the pole, until I noticed they were French beans - it definitely said runner beans on the packet! So, I only have four climbers and feel disgruntled about that! A friend told me that she had the same problem, so it did make me wonder if someone at the seed factory thought it would be funny to put the wrong seeds in the right packet? Have you had this problem? However, the garden fairies turned up, in the guise of my Goddaughter and her mum, and they have been weeding my garden every evening now, for about a month. How wonderful they have been for my morale. It enabled me to start on the house (I hadn't known where to start before, because EVERYTHING was a horrible mess.)

I don't apologise for writing about cancer, because I wanted to bring it out into the open. People don't like to talk about it - it's too frightening - but I feel it **IS** a good idea to write about my experience because it takes the scary mystery out of it. I wish I had had some guidelines of what the chemotherapy was going to be like - the kind of symptoms that can happen - if you know what is to be expected, then you can deal better with it. For instance, as the treatment continues, you feel worse and worse. Nobody told me that, and I thought I was actually dying at one stage - but it's just the way it goes. I have to

make it clear - it's not the cancer that makes one feel terrible - it's the treatment (poison) given to kill off any cancer cells that might be floating around after the operation. The chemo does kill off the cancer, but also your good stem-cells too, that's why one feels so dreadful, but your stem-cells, bless them, don't entirely succumb and battle away to regenerate and face the next onslaught. However, I must point out that I had 'heavy duty' treatment for a cancer that had spread. There are different treatments, not nearly as harsh, some only lasting an hour - as opposed to all day in my case. Some people don't even need chemo. Nor does everybody have hair loss - I just got the short straw!

It's two months now (end of June, as I write) since I had the last treatment, and of course I continued to feel like the walking dead for a month or so afterwards, still unable to walk properly, and with total lack of energy - then WHAM! One day, I just felt like me again! I had back all my enthusiasms, I could walk, and I wanted to Spring Clean... Not only did I Spring Clean, but I moved all the furniture around - heaving and pulling, hip and bum pushing heavy items into new positions revealing all the dust and dog hair lurking in dark corners!!!! I repainted some bookcases, and ordered emulsion for the walls (not quite up to that yet, but it is on the list) and decided to get rid of more books (Oh for a room designated purely for a huge library of one's own), so it all looks less cluttered. Having dived with death for the past year I am very aware that I have a lot of 'stuff' and best get rid of it NOW so that my family don't have to do it 'when the time comes'. I realised I am unlikely to re-read those books, and much as I like looking at them on the shelf - well, they have already gone. A friend - lovely lady - has taken them and is going to try and sell them for me for the MacMillan charity.

Needless to say, I did far too much, too soon, and felt exhausted after these exertions, but it was a wonderful exhaustion, having accomplished so much after a long haul in a dark place...I've spent the past two days resting and sleeping, but with a smile on my face.

The beautiful wallpaper I put up in my bedroom has been slowly and steadily unfurling and coming off the wall for the whole five months I malingered in my bed. I listened to the 'crack, crack' as it slowly popped off the wall. I was too poorly to be upset about it, but having regained my old persona, I do find it amusing (though annoying). I am leaving that until last on the list and shall PVA the walls in the hope it cures the problem.



So you see, it's not such a dreadful thing to go through this cancer business, once it's over. Obviously, it is not pleasant. You are aware all the time that it might be curtains for you but that it **might not be** either, and when you are in remission as I am, you know it might come back. But hey, as the saying goes, 'nobody said life is going to be easy' and I reason to myself that I have to die of **something**. I am regarding it as another 'lesson' in life and hope I still have a few more years to enjoy - and see my bedroom with the peacock wallpaper finally stuck to the wall instead of curling down like fly-papers! Anyway, I might surprise myself, and the Grim Reaper, by having a heart attack fell me instead - you see, life is full of surprises and you just do not know what is coming next, or what is in store for you. It could be something WONDERFUL - so be optimistic, enjoy every day and eat up that cabbage. If you do find yourself in a similar situation to me - don't panic - be positive, find humour where you can, go with the flow and be determined to come out smiling!□

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## **Twenty.20 Vision**

### **A short story by Phyl Jones**

Glancing at her watch, Linda was surprised to see it was nearly twenty past seven and realised there would be no chance of catching her usual train. As the meeting dragged on and a few ideas came into her head, she typed them into her iPad, hoping they would be suitable for the new magazine the company was hoping to launch. The plan was to publish a magazine which appealed to women of all ages, and to include those living in both towns and rural areas, although Linda, knowing there were already plenty of women's magazines available, thought it would be almost impossible to achieve something which would make it any more appealing than those already out there.

Linda had only recently moved to a rural area from the city, and as a lot of her time was spent travelling to and from her job, she hadn't had much chance to get to know her immediate neighbours, let alone get involved in the local community, so until she did, she was going to find it hard to come up with ideas that might interest them.

As the meeting finally came to an end, Linda hastily gathered up her belongings. Another look at her watch and she knew that however much she hurried, by the time she reached the station the next available train would be the 20.20, but she consoled herself by thinking that at least the later train wouldn't be so crowded, and she would be able to get a seat which would give her a chance to look through her notes, and hopefully get some inspiration. Linda had long held a vision of presenting the company with a brilliant idea which would make an impression; she'd at least get instant promotion, if not actually to head of department!

Arriving at the station, Linda found the 20.20 train already waiting, but instead of the empty seats she'd been anticipating it appeared most of them were already taken. Hearing the call the train was about to depart, Linda opened the nearest door and jumped aboard, planning to walk along the carriages in the hopes of finding an empty seat, but no sooner had the door closed behind her than she heard several voices calling out, saying 'there's a spare seat over here'. Looking round she saw several ladies waving to her and indicating the empty seat. Linda thanked them and sinking down looked around at her travelling companions. In all her travelling she had never seen the train so full of women. As she listened to them all chatting and laughing, Linda abandoned the idea of studying her notes, finding herself intrigued by the variety of subjects they were discussing. They covered about everything under the sun, climate change, health issues, even, to her amusement, the best way to get a sponge cake to rise. The list was endless.

They were a friendly crowd and Linda found herself being included in their conversations and discovered they were all on their way home from the Annual Meeting of Women's Institutes. She confessed she'd heard of the W.I. but had never been interested in joining, thinking it more suited to older women, but a look around the carriage showed what a wide range of ages was represented. She also learned there was a flourishing W.I. in the village a couple of miles from where she lived. In fact, a member from that W.I. was sitting just along the gangway from her and after a bit of seat swapping they were introduced to each other.

An hour and a half later, as they reached the end of their journey, Linda found that not only had she been persuaded to go along to the next W.I. meeting but was brimming over with ideas which she felt sure, and hoped, would impress her boss enough to make her vision become a reality.□



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## Greenfinch

### Eco news from our local planet by LM Williams

#### **New home for King's Lynn Winter Night Shelter – an upcycling first!**

The old vicarage of St John's Church, located on Blackfriars Road in the Walks, will become the new home of the Winter Night Shelter. An initiative of King's Lynn Churches Together, the night shelter is a local mission to the homeless and has been operating at St Ann's Fort for several years. It draws volunteers from many of our local churches. The shelter remained open during the pandemic to give rough sleepers a safe place to stay.

The new, much larger premises will be called St John's House and will be able to provide temporary overnight accommodation to more people in our area who find themselves homeless. Speaking to the local press, Lucy McKitterick, Co-ordinator of the night shelter, said: 'It's the first vicarage in Norfolk to be used for this purpose and a great witness to faith in action in our community: we're here for people who have lost everything...' The Revd Becca Rogers, Vicar at St John's, said that her congregation is delighted about the project: 'Some members of our congregation are homeless or previously homeless, and a number volunteer at the night shelter. As a church, we have a desire to be more involved, so this move feels very positive and right.' To find out more, link to the Diocesan website at <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/news/>

#### **Tiny Forests**

Tiny Forests (also known as *Miyawaki forests* after the Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, who pioneered their planting in the Seventies), are springing up on the outskirts of towns and cities in Europe and elsewhere. Tiny forests are designed to grow quickly and to recreate the varieties of habitat that develop in larger natural forests. They offer greater biodiversity than do single-species plantings and they can help mitigate the climate crisis. Another benefit is that they can be popped into small locations that are part of everyday life – roadsides, business parks and school grounds, for example. The UK's first tiny forest was planted at Witney, Oxfordshire, back in March, prior to the lockdown. Covering just 200 m<sup>2</sup> (about the size of a single tennis court), the forest contains six hundred native trees, including oaks, birches, crab apple and blackthorn. It is hoped that



the forest will become home to birds, insects and understory plants. You can read more about the Witney project at <https://earthwatch.org.uk/component/k2/tiny-forest>

#### **Windowbox beetroot and spring onions**

My family is trying to grow as much of our green veg as we can this year. Instead of geraniums, we've got beetroots. We like that the thinnings can go in salads and sautés for extra flavour. If you're gardening in a small space or are looking for a gardening activity that children will enjoy taking charge of, I'd recommend both of

these crops – they've grown quickly, they seem bug-resistant and they taste good. Thanks to Thaxters for delivering the seeds in a pandemic.□

*Good wishes everyone. Keep staying safe and well.*

## The Game Birds

Back in what feels like the mists of time - nearly forty years ago - a group of young mums formed a band called "The Game Birds" and performed in various places such as village halls, pubs and residential homes for the elderly. Members of the group changed over time, but at the point that this photograph was taken the band was composed of the following people:

*Standing, left to right:* Liz Bowers, Sue Norman, Mandy Dixon.

*Seated, left to right:* Jo Jones, Gillian Bartlam, Liz Stockley

At other times the band also included Judi Morgan and Diane Crisp



The band's repertoire was quite varied, but a perennial favourite was the Game Birds' theme song, with music and lyrics by Liz Stockley.

### The Game Birds' Song

Need a button on your shirt?  
Need a kiss when you've been hurt?  
Do you need someone to help unblock the loo?  
When your budgie's looking peaky  
Or the cooker's gone all squeaky,  
Then a Game Bird is the only one for you.  
She'll do battle with a spider,  
She'll investigate inside a

Cupboard where there's something nasty on the shelf.  
She can always dress up pretty,  
Even laugh when you are witty,  
'Cos a Game Bird's game for anything herself.

When you fancy a paella,  
When you've got an extra fella,  
When the baby's dribbled goo all down the wall,  
When the kids have got the measles,  
When your hen's been got by weasels,  
Then a Game Bird is the one you need to call.  
When your aunty needs a chauffeur,  
When the springs come through the sofa,  
When the kettle's got a marble up the spout,  
When there's blackfly on the beans,  
When you can't do up your jeans,  
Then a Game Bird is the one to sort it out.

She can paint over all the stains  
Where there's trouble with the drains,  
She'll eliminate the insects on your cat,  
When the milkman wants his money  
She'll be soothing, sweet or funny,  
When the dog has got the postman on the mat.  
She is rarely even snappy  
As she'll change another nappy,  
And extract a lump of tea leaves from the plug.  
'Cos there's not a chance of rest  
When you've failed the window test  
And there's beetles excavating in your rug.

No, there's not much time for lusting  
When you're busy with the dusting,  
And your Granny's lost her dentures in the stew.  
But there's several manoeuvres  
We accomplish with our hoovers,  
And a Game Bird's very handy with a screw.  
So don't sink beneath the growing  
Heap of washing, ironing, sewing,  
Call a Game Bird round to help you with the mess.  
And we'll even sing a song  
To make the day seem not so long,  
'Cos a Game Bird's game if you are - more or less!

Liz Stockley and Mandy Dixon also created a memorable musical for the Game Birds of *Saint George and the Dragon*, performed at St George's School, commemorating its namesake.

At one point St George, played by Diane Crisp, chased the dragon down Dodds Hill and the song reports "*and the lolly lady stopped him at the bottom of the hill*", much to the delight of the very long-serving lollipop lady.□

## Sandringham Estate News

Garry Marsden, Visitor Enterprise Manager

Like many businesses we continue to monitor government advice and to see how we can gradually open to visitors in a way that is as safe as possible for both our visitors and staff. At the time of writing, we have both car parks open and functioning, as are the Country Park walks, trails and toilet facilities, and there is now an electric car charging point in the north carpark. The kiosk takeaway catering and gift shop are open daily 10am till 5pm, and we have many picnic tables outside where you can enjoy a bacon roll in the morning or an ice cream in the sun!

Currently the gardens are open to visitors at weekends. To make this as safe as possible we are limiting numbers and offering booked in advance time slots. I hope by the time of the Village Voice being distributed that we may have increased the days when the gardens are open and been able to announce the opening of other parts of Sandringham to visitors.



Finally, I know that lots of people have purchased an annual membership and are now enjoying free parking, free access to the gardens and 10% off most purchases in our lovely new shop. Thank you to everyone for your support, which will enable us in the coming months to make further improvements to offer visitors at Sandringham. □



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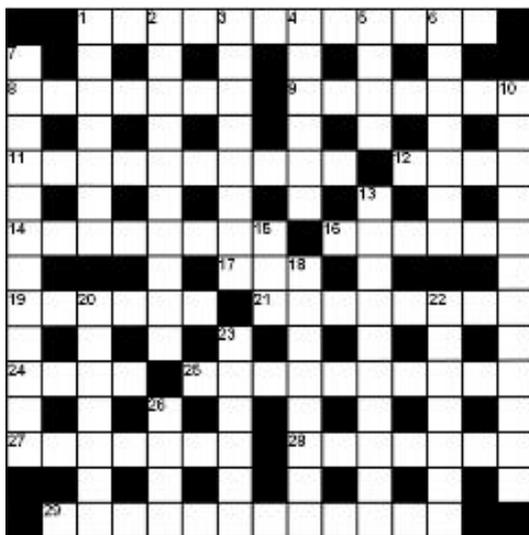
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# PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword by  
Philip Neal

## Across

- 1 Picking up pianists for embarkation? (4,8)  
 8 Square-rigger and bandit (7)  
 9 Pop group lost book by Dr. Noel Ormer (7)  
 11 Ground lilac short of making voice booth (5,5)  
 12 Company when in court (4)  
 14 Cervine retreated and came round to find bulrush (4,4)  
 16 Story begins in secure disc (6)  
 17 Fish located IOK. upstream (3)  
 19 Rain threatening as small car almost backs into coach (6)  
 21 Sounds simple in contempt of hay fever sufferers (8)  
 24 Not much room in church (4)  
 25 I live in Paris and Rome working as a promoter (10)  
 27 Boat lid flew open to expose red-top (7)  
 28 Decorated a party for naval news boss (7)  
 29 Open sesame to reveal strain on dressmakers (12)



## Down

- 1 Idealist butchers quiet ox (7)  
 2 As scarce as some petrol? (2,1,7)  
 3 Join dots up in stream to see music festival (8)  
 4 Uncovered by scarab left in fertile land (6)  
 5 Shakespeare returned looking rather gloomy (4)  
 6 Warning when misbehaving three serve suspect ricotta (4,3)  
 7 Ante reformist unravels complex subtractions (12)  
 10 Sword swallowed by son causes humiliation (3,4,5)  
 13 Force behind policeman is somehow on small capacity (10)  
 15 Mythological love lost romance initially for dawn in Athens (3)  
 18 Where batsmen step up (8)  
 20 Gruesome Scotsman wears funny birthday suit (7)  
 22 Jobs for busy darners (7)  
 23 Criminal admits concealment in pyramid structure (6)  
 26 Document for Miss primarily in school (4)

## Sudoku

### Answers on page 61

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



**As from Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>, both of our churches will be open and celebrating public Mass on Sundays only for the time being.** They will, of course, be following government and Bishops' guidelines regarding the Covid virus. You can read the guidelines and any updated information about easing of restrictions, etc. on our website. The Sunday obligation remains suspended for the foreseeable future and people are advised not to go to Mass if they have any symptoms, however mild, and anyone who is shielding or vulnerable. The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Dersingham and 11am at Hunstanton and there is a limit on the number of people allowed in. There are quite a few changes to the way Mass will be celebrated and people should be guided by the stewards.

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**Word Wall by Philip Neal**

**Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 61**

|            |          |          |          |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| MOUNTAIN   | HURON    | EAT      | SUPERIOR |
| LOOK       | PATIENCE | CHOPPER  | MIKADO   |
| GONDOLIERS | WORK     | IOLANTHE | EXERCISE |
| ERIE       | TANDEM   | MICHIGAN | INSIDE   |

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**Crossword Answers**

**Across**

- 1 Quay boarders. 8 Brigand. 9 Abalone. 11 Choir stall. 12 Cast. 14 Reed mace.
- 16 Piston. 17 Koi. 19 Nimbus.
- 21 Sneezers. 24 Inch. 25 Impresario.
- 27 Tabloid. 28 Adorned. 29 Seamstresses.

**Down**

- 1 Quixote. 2 At a premium. 3 Bedstock.
- 4 Arable. 5 Drab. 6 Riot Act.
- 7 Obscurantist. 10 Eat ones words.
- 13 Dimensions. 15 Eos. 18 Increase.
- 20 Macabre. 22 Errands. 23 Amidst.
- 26 Form.

**Sudoku Answers**

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

**Word Wall Answers**

- G&S operettas:** Gondoliers, Iolanthe, Mikado, Patience
- ... **out:** look..., work..., eat ..., inside ...
- Great Lakes:** Huron, Erie, Michigan, Superior
- Bicycles:** mountain, tandem, chopper, exercise

## 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 126 (Oct/Nov 20)   | Monday 7th September 2020 | Monday 28th Sept 2020 |
| No 127 (Dec20/Jan 21) | Monday 9th November 2020  | Monday 30th Nov 2020  |
| No 128 (Feb/Mar 21)   | Monday 11th January 2021  | Monday 1st Feb 2021   |

## Advertising in Village Voice

More than 2,500 residential and business properties in Dersingham, West Newton, Wolferton and Sandringham receive a copy of Village Voice with another 600 available to subscribers, businesses and shop counters. It is also available online from our website at [dersingham.org.uk](http://dersingham.org.uk) Do please support the services advertisers provide and mention where you saw their advert. Our advert prices are £22.20 for an eighth page, £34.20 for a quarter, £66 for a half and £132 for a full page. Discounts available for block bookings paid up-front. These prices include VAT. Full details and booking forms can be obtained from the Parish Office or email: [villagevoice@dersingham.org](mailto:villagevoice@dersingham.org) and returned together with payment by mid-day of the copy deadlines given above.

## Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice

These should be emailed directly to the Editor:

**[villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk](mailto: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 both the physical limitations of the publication as well as the revenue required 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 per inch, at least one Mb and preferably JPEG. **Please send photographs and logos as separate files, and not embedded in an email. For text files Word documents are preferred.**

*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 any opinions expressed, or the accuracy of statements made, by contributors. □*

## Dersingham Parish Council Office

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The Production Team for this edition of Village Voice consists of

Editor: Jo Halpin Jones Assistant Editor: Rob Smyth

Layout & Administration: Geraldine Scanlon. Finances: Sarah Bristow (Parish Clerk)

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## Scam Warning

Just to let you know, these phone calls are going round:

**Caller:** "Good morning, I'm calling from the NHS track and trace service. According to our system, you are likely to have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This means that you now need to self-isolate for 7 days and take a COVID-19 test."

**X:** "OK. Can you tell me who that person was?"

**Caller:** "I'm not able to tell you that. That is confidential information."

**X:** "Right. Um... so..."

**Caller:** But you do need to be tested within the next 72 hours. So can I just get the best mailing address so that we can send a kit to you?"

**X:** "OK (gives address)."

**Caller:** "Thank you - and I just need to take a payment card so that we can finalise this and send the kit to you."

**X:** "Sorry - a payment card? I though this was all free?"

**Caller:** "No - I'm afraid not. There is a one-off fee of £50 for the kit, and test results. Could you read off the long card number for me, please, when you're ready."

**X:** "No - that's not right. This is part of the NHS so there's no charge."

**Caller:** "I'm afraid there is. Can you give me the card number please - this is very important, and there are penalties for not complying."

**X:** Puts the phone down

### Testing through the NHS is free.

If you receive this or a similar phone call it is a **scam**. Trading Standards' advice is **do not** give or confirm any information and **hang up**.

Stay scam aware and report any suspicious approaches to Trading Standards via their partners the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **freephone 0808 223 1133**.

There is a link on the Parish Council website to Norfolk Trading Standards giving details of a whole range of scams currently being operated in Norfolk.

# Dersingham

## OPEN

## GARDENS



**Sat/Sunday**  
**September 5/6**  
**11am - 5pm**



Painting by Jill Tietz

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and are valid for both days

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