

Number 126

October/ November 2020

# Village Voice

## The Dersingham Magazine



*An autumn celebration of  
Open Gardens*



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## **Editor's Notes**

**Jo Halpin Jones**



***This was originally written just before the new government coronavirus guidelines were introduced. See below the last minute piece from the Village Centre Association. Some information in this edition of Village Voice may now be out of date. You will need to check that events are still taking place and facilities are open.***

Dersingham is well and truly open again, albeit with sensible restrictions in place. The cover celebrates our being able to hold Dersingham Open Gardens again, postponed from earlier in the year. I am writing this on the weekend of the Open Gardens and yard sales and the village was absolutely humming. Saturday was particularly hectic, as a burst water main on the A149 meant that all the bypass traffic was diverted through the village. This may have caused some frustration for drivers, but some of them stopped to participate in the events going on. I thoroughly enjoyed going round the gardens, which were full of colour, and it was clear to see the immense amount of work that must have gone into them.

I do wonder whether we have rather thrown caution to the wind and become complacent about Covid-19. I was somewhat alarmed at how few people wore masks this weekend at the times when they were not socially distanced. Our article *A Distant Comparison* offers a sober reminder of what happens when this wretched virus gets out of control. People are desperate for a "normal" life again, but I fear that normality is still a way off and we need to follow guidelines if we are all to stay safe - even though some of those guidelines do seem to defy logic. Covid cases are rapidly increasing again, and we may have to face the return to tighter restrictions.

However, as you will see inside the magazine, activities are resuming, such as the walking group, and facilities are opening up - the Library has reopened and the Village Centre is now open for certain dance and exercise classes, lunch and coffee clubs, and the Village Cinema. The village churches are all finding ways to hold services, but keep their congregations safe. Other groups and organisations, particularly those who cannot easily socially distance or who have vulnerable members, are still not meeting, but they are often staying in touch by various means.

The current situation seems to have triggered several nostalgic contributions from readers, letting us enjoy looking back at bits of Dersingham history. When going round the village I find it fascinating to imagine how it was throughout the centuries and to see all the changes that have taken place.

I hope you enjoy this bumper edition of our magazine, which celebrates the reawakening of village activities. However, do take care .....

### **STOP PRESS - DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE UPDATE**

**Following the recent government announcements, the Trustees are revising the Covid-19 Response Plan for the Centre and are in contact with group leaders.**

**Members of regular groups/classes should contact the leaders to confirm arrangements. Other activities are being reviewed to ensure they comply with the updated guidance.**

**One-off hire requests will be assessed on an individual basis against the Government guidance; people with existing bookings will be contacted by the Trustees. Future bookings will be assessed against Government guidance and some activities, sadly, will not be permitted.**

**Information will be published on the Village Centre's website, Facebook page, Dersingham Village Facebook Group, and at the Centre.**

**For enquiries, call 01485 543195 or 07707 832295.□**

## Glebe Road Robbie Bloy, Pansey Drive

This photograph was taken from Glebe Road before it became adopted. On the top right of the picture you can just make out the carriages of a train. On the left hand side you can see Nos 20 & 22 Pansey Drive. I believe in the right hand foreground the bungalow is No 15 Glebe Road and behind that are two semi-detached houses in the unmade road leading off Glebe Road. Does anybody know when this picture was taken?□



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



**Oak trees, anyone?** Last month I mentioned Tiny Forests (patches of woodland planted to grow quickly in urban and suburban spaces to recreate the varieties of habitat that develop in natural forests.) This time I'm offering a few tiny trees that might work if you're planning to plant trees this year. I have four healthy oak saplings, free to good homes. Not exactly quick-growing but certainly a native species and a beautiful one at that. They can't stay in our own garden as they'll interfere with foundations and drains, but they'd be perfect for a larger, open space (perhaps at a school or in a large garden or community setting). Three are 30 cm (12") tall and one is about a metre. If you'd like to save one, or more than one, from the mulcher, please get in touch and we can work out a socially distanced way for you to collect it. Tree planting season is fast approaching. The oaks will need some aftercare – weeding, watering, protecting from gnawing animals – but beyond that, they just need space, sunlight and years in which to flourish. Contact: [writeflute@gmail.com](mailto:writeflute@gmail.com).

**Second Hand September - keep it going.** Charity shop clothier Oxfam invites everyone to try buying second hand in September (and beyond). <https://www.oxfamapps.org.uk/secondhandseptember/> With Oxfam's cautionary comparisons that 'It would take thirteen years to drink the water needed to make one cotton T-shirt and one pair of jeans' and 'The clothes sent to UK landfill each year weigh as much as the Empire State Building', it's definitely worth a go. The goal is to encourage a sustainable approach to clothing: conserving resources and helping to break the cycle of fast fashion, with its often sweatshop labour practices. Choosing to shop second hand this month, and beyond, can help – we have some great charity shops just up the road.□

## **Parish Council Chairman's Report**

### **Coral Shepherd**



The Parish Council, like everyone else, is now returning to normal, well almost normal, as our meetings are now virtual. They are still open to the public and if you wish to attend please contact our clerk, Sarah Bristow: [clerk@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:clerk@dersingham.org.uk).

I will run through a few of our recent decisions. One of the important ones was in July when we finally agreed to re-open the children's play area at the Recreation Ground. Throughout lockdown the decision to close the playground was respected and I thank everyone for that, and it has been well used since we reopened. To reassure parents we do have it regularly cleaned and would ask you to heed the safety notices.

We agreed to appoint a contractor to tidy up the War Memorial Gardens. The paving was treated to remove weeds and the flower beds tidied so that it looked smart for VJ Day. We had a short, simple service, attended by about fifteen residents. It was a moving ceremony and I would like to thank Councillor Brian Anderson who laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

We have also agreed to repainting several lamp columns where paint was beginning to peel. We do have to replace one in Woodside Close that is rusted. We are also in the process of seeking renewal of the sponsorship of the dog waste bins around the village: the money raised helps to defray the cost of the charges made by the Borough Council to empty them.

We requested the making of a tree preservation order for a small, tree-covered piece of land between the A149 and the former railway embankment beside The Warren and Mountbatten Estate. The land had been declared surplus to requirements by the County Council. The TPO was made and the land has now been sold. Hopefully we have secured the future of the trees, which are an attractive backdrop and valuable in helping to reduce the noise from the bypass.

We continue to look after our finances - the accounts have been internally audited and have been sent to the national external auditors. Residents have the right to inspect them and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year up to the end of March 2020. If you wish to inspect these records please contact our clerk, Sarah Bristow, before October 13th 2020.

We have also been progressing work on the provision of a new skatepark at the Recreation Ground. This was promised several years ago when the old wooden ramp was demolished. For various reasons the project was not progressed until last year. A number of children in the village helped to put together a design and this was incorporated in the designs submitted to the Parish Council as part of the process of obtaining quotes. We have now appointed a contractor and have consulted with residents living around the Recreation Ground and are addressing residents' concerns. We have also submitted an application to the Borough Council to ensure that we do not need planning permission and I am pleased that we have received a lot of support from residents. We expect a decision from the Borough Council in October. We are now seeking grant aid to construct the skatepark, and if we are successful work should start in early summer next year.

Finally, a brief 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.□



## Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

The Centre re-opened for business on July 25th when we welcomed back some groups, with more resuming this and next month. It has been lovely to see familiar faces again, enjoying keep-fit and dance sessions, and coming to the Tuesday Coffee Shop, with everyone adhering to Covid-19 regulations. A lot of work went into our Covid-19 Action Plan & Risk Assessment. It was submitted to Visit Britain, and we have received Quality Assurance recognition. Huge thanks, and well done to Tom Wheeler who led on this.



Dersingham Open Gardens and Yard Sale are in full swing as I write this article; as well as promoting our village, it provides vital funds for St Nicholas Church and the Centre. Village Cinema will have resumed by the time you are reading this with a special Saturday night showing of Dolittle during Open Gardens weekend. The monthly showings restart on Tuesday September 29<sup>th</sup> with *Finding Your Feet*. Numbers will be limited, so please book by calling 01485 540644.

We plan to resume Friendship Lunches on Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup>. Places will be limited for the time being and must be booked. Call 01485 540644 for more information. Meanwhile, Tuesday Coffee Shop will be continuing indefinitely and Thursday Coffee Shops will have started on September 10<sup>th</sup> when the Tapping House volunteers will have been in charge. (All monies raised that day go to the charity.) The team will be running the Coffee Shop on the second Thursday each month, as before. DVCA volunteers will run the other Thursdays. Pop in for a cuppa, a piece of cake, and a warm welcome. Regrettably, October's Ceilidh has been cancelled but will be re-scheduled in 2021. We will take decisions on other events in the near future.

Village Centre Lottery winners for August were numbers 1, 42, 72; September's winners are 21, 22, 25. The Lottery costs just £5 per month, is open to anyone aged 16 or over, and the proceeds help us to fund new or replacement items and deliver services.

At the Annual General Meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup> the current committee members were re-elected en bloc and we welcomed Freda Ablewhite as a new trustee.

David Collingham stepped down from the Chairman's role after five years leading the Association; we are all grateful for the hard work he put in to get us where we are today.

There are now two vacancies on the management committee. If you are interested in helping to manage and develop the Centre, please get in touch by telephone: 01485 543195 (answerphone in use), 07707 832295, or email: [enquiries@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk)

The Management Committee for the coming year:

Chairman: Sue Payne. Vice Chairman: David Collingham.

Secretary: Tom Wheeler. Treasurer: Gemma Ward.

Trustees: Freda Ablewhite, Shirley Brooks, Margaret Mann, Stephen Martyn, Coral Shepherd (Dersingham Parish Council rep), St Nicholas PCC rep (TBC).

**UPDATE:** We are hoping there will be a Jazz Supper Concert on Saturday November 7th at 7.00pm. Social distancing will be observed. Book a Bubble on 01485 540644 for a two course supper and great music for £12.50 pp. □

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## **Have your say about ReSPECT**

### **Norfolk & Waveney CCG**

#### **Local people asked for help to design a campaign around future care preferences**

The national Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment (ReSPECT) initiative was launched in Norfolk in March 2020, just before the UK went into lockdown due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Although take up of ReSPECT has started there is still the need to raise awareness among the public about the initiative, and encourage everyone to start thinking about having ‘the conversation’.

#### **What is ReSPECT?**

ReSPECT is a personalised process to plan a person’s clinical care in the event of a future emergency. It results in a document that contains the person’s wishes and care preferences along with appropriate clinical recommendations. It will also record when a ‘Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation’ (DNACPR) decision has been made, but it is important to note that a person can have a completed ReSPECT form and still be ‘for’ CPR. For further information, including frequently asked questions, please see <https://www.resus.org.uk/respect/>

#### **Who is it for?**

ReSPECT can be for anyone, of any age. It is most likely to benefit people:

- \*\* with complex health needs or
- \*\* at risk of sudden collapse or cardiac arrest or
- \*\* nearing the end of their lives or
- \*\* who want to record their preferences for any reason.

#### **Why is this being introduced?**

At present, conversations with those living with serious illness tend to focus solely on decisions relating to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) which can result in misunderstandings about treatment plans. There is variation across Norfolk and Waveney in how these decisions are documented.

Few people go on to discuss what other types of care they would or would not want in an emergency situation. The ReSPECT process has been developed by the Resuscitation Council (UK) collaboratively with many organisations including patients, the public, and the Royal Colleges with the intention of designing a process that is more acceptable to patients and that standardises processes and documentation across organisational boundaries.

#### **How can I help promote ReSPECT in Norfolk and Waveney?**

The Norfolk and Waveney team really want to hear how they can encourage people to have ‘the conversation’. Please take the time to complete the survey and share this on your networks, with your patients and clients, and with your friends and family. Maybe you could also think about starting the conversation with your own friends and family?

<https://www.norfolkandwaveneypartnership.org.uk/get-involved/opportunities.html>

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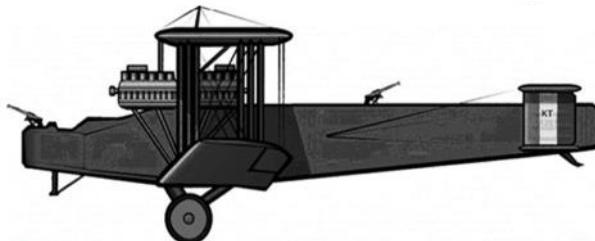
For further information and a copy of the job description, email [sedgeford.parish@outlook.com](mailto:sedgeford.parish@outlook.com) or [sedgeford@suecrump.co.uk](mailto:sedgeford@suecrump.co.uk).

Previous local government experience preferred but training will be available. Salary will depend on relevant experience, in line with NALC pay-scales.

Application by CV and covering letter to [sedgeford.parish@outlook.com](mailto:sedgeford.parish@outlook.com).

Initial interviews for this post will be held in September, as this edition goes to press: please check before applying to see if it is still vacant.

## **RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre**



**Open again on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> of September, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of October  
and Remembrance Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> of November.**

**satnav: PE31 6RH**

**website: [www.rafbnmp.org.uk](http://www.rafbnmp.org.uk)**

**facebook : RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre**

## Dersingham Gardening Tips

### Jane Jestice

What a summer we have had! I am sure we will all remember the summer of 2020 for many reasons. The weather has been glorious, which has helped to make lockdown and all the restrictions somewhat bearable. However, my garden has certainly struggled with the heat and lack of rain. I planted a shrub only a couple of days ago and was amazed to see that, even after the heavy rain we eventually had, the ground was still dry below about two inches.

In the spring I decided to experiment in our front garden. It is called chaos gardening, as opposed to chaotic gardening. I can't remember where I first heard of it, but it perfectly fitted as the solution to the problem I was having. Our front garden is mainly gravel with a straight path leading to the front door. I was struggling to keep the gravel free of weeds, and so I have embraced the chaos approach, which means plants grow where they want to. I pull out the weeds and scatter any spare seeds I have to see what decides to grow. I also have to remember to leave the seeds on the plants - for example, instead of pulling up the end of season wallflower, I left it, hoping it will seed itself. The stars of this first year have been the rudbeckia and hollyhocks.

This is a great time to be planning on planting bulbs for the spring. I don't have much success with tulips re-flowering, although I love them, and this year the muntjac took the flowers off most of them anyway. I do love daffodils and usually buy a bag of random bulbs each year. A tip for planting them is to take a handful and toss them onto the flowerbed so that they grow randomly and look very natural when they flower. Another tip - if you don't know which is "up", then plant bulbs sideways. Also, when planting container plants, give them a good water first and tease out the roots before planting. This stimulates re-growth and stops the roots from continuing to grow in a circle.

I would recommend taking a look at your houseplants. One of mine was covered in black fly. I put my indoor plants outside in the rain, so whether they arrived on the plants while they were outside or came in with flowers I have picked from the garden, I don't know, but it was quite an impressive infestation. Solved by a wash in diluted washing-up liquid!

My tomatoes have been great this year - all planted straight into the soil. When they stop ripening and you are fed up with making green tomato chutney, how about trying Fried

Green Tomato - a dish from Southern America. Don't forget to make your sloe gin now so it has time to mature for Christmas.



This is also the time to save money by collecting seeds from the flowers and vegetables. Runner beans, peas and tomato seeds are good to keep, and many garden flowers set seeds that are easy to collect. Just make sure they are dry and pop them into paper bags or envelopes, and don't forget to label the envelope! I usually scatter my flower seeds and hope for the best but I am going to try planting some in pots next year to see how that works out.

Finally, if you want a small tree in your garden, try a crab apple. I planted one four years ago and it is lovely to look at all year, and every autumn it has been laden with crab apples that make the most beautiful pale pink jelly.

Happy gardening.□

## Mothing in and around Dersingham

### Dick Jones

Several people around the village and on the common have come across a chap with a net, head in a bush maybe or staring at a tree trunk from about a foot away. Don't panic, it's probably me. For forty years I have been studying moths.

Dersingham is a great place for moths - about 1090 species have been found within the parish, from the large and colourful hawk-moths (more than forty millimeters long), down to my favourites, the micro-moths. Often one has to look at their genitalia to distinguish the species. Not easy when the moth itself is only three millimeters long!

There are two, purely arbitrary, groups of moths: The macro-moths, which as the name suggests are big, though some of them are small, and the micro-moths which are small but some of them are big! Got that? Apparently it's all due to their classification.

When the bypass was first mooted, the "Dersingham moth" was used as a shot in the armoury of the opponents to the road. In actual fact there were **two** species of moth which were considered of importance. Both are micros and go by the easily remembered names, *Archips betulana* and *Choristoneura lafauryana*. I used to be the Natural History Curator in King's Lynn Museum and I still cannot remember them. Both were found by Atmore in the late 1800s and have not been seen since the 1960s. They are probably extinct but see below. Just because they have not been seen does not mean they have gone for good.

Whilst taking my daily exercise during the coronavirus I was on the common at 0500 hours with my net. I was trying to sort out the small, indistinct, brown moths that occur along the dyke, so I collected a few and took them home. It transpired that they were all common, except for one which was not. I worked out that it was *Elachista subalbidella*, a species that was discovered in 1874 at Tottenhill and not seen again until I went for that early morning walk. So, the two Dersingham bog moths may be still with us somewhere on the common.

Most nights I set my light trap to catch the moths that visit my garden. I am up early to see what I have caught and then I let them go. This year is not a good one and I rarely catch more than about sixty-five species in a night, whereas in past years I have frequently had over a hundred. Subtle changes in range and numbers lean towards this being the result of global warming. The little Least Carpet used to be rare and confined to the south of England; this year I have had up to three a night for a month or more. Tree-lichen Beauty has gradually colonised Norfolk in the last few years and I had one in early



**Tree-lichen Beauty**

August. I have had three Marbled Clover so far this year and this is a species normally centered on the Brecks.

All those studying moths have species that we want to see but can't find. With me it was Hornet Clearwing. Clearwings are a group that mimic wasps and bees and they have clear patches on their wings. One can buy pheromones which can attract different species, but this one kept eluding me. I have seen the holes that the larvae make in poplar trees but that was the nearest I had got. I decided again to try to see it. I drove to a row of poplars in the next parish, took out the lure and hung it on a branch. I turned and walked a few meters back to the car. Before I reached the car a yellow dot appeared and turned into a Hornet Clearwing. I netted it and it is so like the hornet that I found it hard to remember that it was a harmless moth that I could handle with impunity.



*Hornet Clearwing*



*Pine Processionary*

Back in August I caught a very battered moth which at first I could not identify. Later I looked at it carefully and realised that I had a very rare moth, a continental import, a moth that one should avoid - it was an Oak Processionary moth. This moth has the unenviable accolade of being on the Forestry Commission's most wanted list. Not many moths have that honour. In fact it is the caterpillars that are the problem. They make "nests" of silk and make forages into the trees - oaks of several species, which are so successful that they can munch through the leaves and defoliate them. In addition, they have hairs which can cause an allergic response in some people. The name of the moth comes from the fact that the caterpillars move around at night in procession, nose to tail. The photograph here is actually of the Pine Processionary moth's caterpillars, but their mode of movement is the same.

People who study moths are often called mothers, with emphasis on the "moth" part. As is obvious to state, it also means women who have children and in some cases the term can be applied to both at the same time.....!!

If you are interested in moths and mothing, the Norfolk Moth Survey is the place to look at [NorfolkMoths.co.uk](http://NorfolkMoths.co.uk). From this site you can learn all about moths all over the world.□

## Dersingham Questions

### WHM 1883

Tony Bubb has been sending in photographs of plaques from around the village. Our local historians Elizabeth Fiddick and Mike Strange have come up with some answers to the last one:

The plaque on the house on Sandringham Hill (See *Village Voice* No.125) refers to William Henry Mann, who is recorded as living here in the 1891 census. He was the postmaster at Sandringham House until just prior to 1896 when he became the proprietor of The Feathers Hotel, a post he held until his retirement in 1916. He was also recorded as a farmer and jobmaster. One day when out with his horse and trap he was involved in an accident. The trap overturned and as a consequence of his injuries one of William's legs was amputated and he was fitted with a false one. He died in 1932 and his false leg was buried with him in the grave which can be seen just inside the gate to the cemetery by the Village Centre.

### Pleasant Place

Tony has sent in another photo, this of a plaque on the wall of the first house on the right coming from Lynn. The split colours are not a photography problem - the house is painted that way. He wonders why it was so named, and by whom - was it a pleasant place before the houses were built, or did the houses make it pleasant!!□



### Ingoldisthorpe Village WI Lesley Geer, President

It seems stranger now than when Covid-19 first hit us; people are moving back to normality, but it's not normal. We as a WI are continuing to keep in touch with local walks, meet-ups in the garden, calls, emails, and our monthly newsletter. And thank goodness no one has become ill due to the virus.

Later this month (I am writing this in early September) we are trialling a meet-up in the church hall (our usual meeting place), socially distanced, wearing face coverings and bringing our own refreshments. It will be so good to be together again, and for those who do not attend we promise to give them an update. It is a case of 'testing the water' to see how it goes. Tell you how it goes next time!

In closing I would like to thank my team of WI ladies who have really shown their true spirit during these difficult times, with the care and concern shown for their fellow members and community.

Until next time, continue to be careful and keep positive.□

# GARY KITE

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# Coastal Stroke Support and Carers Group

**Stroke**  
Association

Hilary Jennings presents a cheque for £100 to the Stroke Association



Hilary Jennings (front right) & Martine Ley (front left), with other Coastal Stroke Group Volunteers

Hilary Jennings, a volunteer at the Hunstanton Stroke Group, spent time whilst shielding at home by making masks, the sale of which raised £100! Hilary was delighted to be able to present a cheque for this amount to the group.

In "normal times" The Hunstanton Group meets every Tuesday at 10.30am at Hunstanton Methodist Church. Stroke survivors and volunteers are welcomed with coffee and biscuits and enjoy sitting and chatting, and taking part in the activities on offer. The weekly programme offers an opportunity to join a variety of different groups, from art and crafts to keeping fit to music, and experiencing a calmer space for relaxation. During the year outings and other events are offered. Fundraising is an ongoing necessity if the group is to continue and to expand the activities and events we are able to offer to stroke survivors.

Stroke Association Groups are not open at the moment, and unfortunately we do not as yet have a definite re-opening date. During the lockdown and shielding months organisers and volunteers have been keeping in touch with members by phone and Zoom meetings on a regular basis to offer support to members. We are a caring community, always looking for extra help. If you have some spare time and maybe looking to become a volunteer and would like to do something really rewarding, please contact Gemma Smith, Stroke Association Support Coordinator - contact details below.

Gemma Smith: Tel 01366 377803  
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## Baby Basics, West Norfolk

### Visit by HRH The Duchess of Cambridge

St Nicholas Church, Dersingham was delighted when, during early May 2020, HRH The Duchess of Cambridge made a private visit to her local branch of the national Baby Basics charity. She had expressed a desire to see what happened "at the sharp end" of this organisation that supports expectant or new mothers.

Maggie Anderson, Centre Leader of Baby Basics West Norfolk, explains:

*"The Duchess volunteered with myself and a Health Professional and helped to sort the contents needed, and build a Moses basket, ready to be delivered to a mum in need. During the visit she asked lots of questions and was very interested in the purpose of the charity. Whilst it was an honour and exciting, because of social distancing requirements, it took a lot of organising to ensure this private visit could take place."*



Following this, in June the Duchess met with Maggie, the Health Professional and two mothers and their babies who had previously received a filled Baby Basics Moses basket. Over an informal afternoon tea, the Duchess heard their stories and how Baby Basics had helped them when they needed it most.

The Duchess has since launched a wonderful initiative that will see Baby Basics UK, along with two other charities - Little Village, and Aber Necessities - supported by nineteen British brands, providing essentials.

The Revd Mark Capron, Rector of St Nicholas Church, Dersingham, which is the base for Baby Basics in West Norfolk, said: *"It is wonderful that Her Royal Highness has chosen to support this local Christian charity. The*

*Duchess is aware that sadly there are many babies who arrive into the world where there is so little. The Duchess of Cambridge's involvement will raise the profile of the wonderful work done by Baby Basics, and in doing so will support all those who need it most."*

Baby Basics West Norfolk has been blessed by so many wonderful people donating new items of baby clothing and bedding, maternity sanitary wear, nappies, toiletries, knitting, and so much more. Working with Health Professionals, referrals are made for new mums and babies in need, where essentials for baby and mother are lovingly prepared in a Moses basket. During this current pandemic, kindness and generosity to the charity has enabled Baby Basics to continue providing to those mums and vulnerable families in need, unable to meet the financial burden of providing for a new baby.

<https://www.facebook.com/BabyBasicsWestNorfolk/>

<https://baby-basics.org.uk/> □

## Remembrance Sunday Service

### Rev Mark Capron

Due to Covid-19, this year's Remembrance Sunday Service will be different. It is planned two months in advance (as this is being written) to be held on the playing field (Hunstanton Road) next to the war memorial on Sunday 8th November, starting at 10:30am. The playing field venue will aid with social distancing, however, arrangements may need to change, subject to Government guidance. □



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You can read the guidelines and any updated information about easing of restrictions, etc. on our parish 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, or anyone who is shielding or vulnerable. The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Sandringham Road, Hunstanton and there is a limit on the number of people allowed in. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays. 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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## Charity Teas



Jenny Beake, a great local charity fundraiser, who has been seen running around in various hilarious costumes, has had a new venture. She has been raising funds for the Purfleet Trust (helping local homeless people) by arranging amazing teas. These have been delivered to the garden/home address and she has brought all the crockery and set up a table provided by them, either inside or out, weather permitting. There has been a charge per person to cover the costs and then a percentage has gone to the Purfleet Trust. So far she has raised £145. This particular project has now ended, but no doubt we have not heard the last of Jenny's activities.

Jenny is also involved in the local comedy scene and she offers her performance called "Laughter on the Lawn", where she brings her piano and a gazebo. This can be combined with afternoon tea! □



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## Dersingham Institute Bowls Club by Jan Rawstron

In my last report, we were hoping to have more bowling activities in the near future. Gladly, we began our organised Saturday Roll-ups on August 1st. Numbers were limited to eighteen, playing on alternate rinks as outlined by Bowls England. Places had to be pre-booked and safety measures were in place. I have to say this has been a great success, with a total of twenty-four individuals taking part since then. It is great to see old friends playing together again. It is heart-warming to hear the laughter and banter, and all have appreciated the chance to play. Our last week of this Roll-up was played on Saturday September 26th, when trophies were presented to the lady and man with the highest accumulated scores.

We have also held a small knockout competition for those who wished to be a bit more competitive. This was organised by Alan Coulson, and, as I write this, just the final has to be played.

We would normally be planning our Annual Presentation Lunch, but this year, with virtually no bowls taking place, we thought a luncheon get-together might be more appropriate. However, due to the social distancing rules, only thirty members would be allowed to come, and these would be restricted to their tables. So, after much deliberation, we have decided to forgo this event this year.

The same problem would apply to our AGM in November. As our clubhouse is small, it would be pointless holding it there, so we have hired the main hall in the Village Centre. The AGM will now take place at 1pm on Friday November 6th. The logistics of this have yet to be hammered out, but we are confident that this will be the best solution.

As the end of the season approaches, we live in hope that next year will bring a return to a more normal bowls season. □

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## Ninety Minutes

### A short story by Phyl Jones

Eleanor climbed aboard the bus. Settling herself comfortably in her seat she glanced at her watch, checking to see if it agreed with the bus station clock. It did, exactly.

At the thought of starting a new job her stomach knotted with apprehension as the bus rumbled away from the depot on its journey scheduled to take just ninety minutes. She wished it was already over.

She was familiar with the route, she'd driven along it many times in her car, but now, Eleanor realised, you got a totally different perspective from a bus, looking down on the cars, whilst the juggernauts appeared nowhere near as formidable.

Eleanor looked at her watch – in just under ten minutes they were turning into Sutton Street – she'd gauged that about right then. With really heavy traffic along the High Street it was a case of stop-start, stop-start all the way, but fifteen minutes later they regained any lost time as they sped along an almost deserted Broadway. Fifteen more minutes and she relaxed a little. Almost half way and still on time. Brilliant!

She watched the passengers, alighting and boarding, silently willing them not to dawdle. As they passed the Town Hall, its clock chimed the hour – almost there – and five minutes later she'd arrived.

Breathing a sigh of relief, Eleanor climbed down from the bus, the longest ninety minutes of her life over. Her first solo trip as a bus driver completed on time! □



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## A Yukon Romance - Part 2 Ross River

### Elizabeth Fiddick

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1925 in the small church of St. Stephen, Fort Yukon, well within the Arctic Circle, Claude Tidd, the boy from Norfolk who had joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, married Mary Ester Ryder, a nurse from Pennsylvania, USA. Their first home together was a small log house in Pingpong Alley, Dawson City. Mary made it as comfortable as possible while Claude carried out his duties, which included sled patrols driving their team of huskies, Nuts, Soup, Coffee, Spud and Queenie. But this was not where they really wanted to be. They disliked the too highly organised social life in the semi "ghost town" of Dawson, as they described it. So it was a great moment when Claude could tell Mary he was being sent to Ross River, a very isolated posting indeed. This was their dream, a chance for the adventurous life they craved.



*On police patrol*



*Police Paperwork*

Preparations had to begin at once, as everything had to be transported down river to Ross before the winter set in and rivers became impassable. It was an immense undertaking for it was not just the ordinary furnishings and clothes they had to think of, but one hundred and one other items that would be needed in such a remote settlement. A portable bath tub, ironing board, gas mantle lights, skis, skates, snowshoes, sleeping bags, tents, guns and all medical supplies must be packed. There was also the piano, saxophone, trombone, piles of books, the seven husky dogs and their harnesses, and of course Richard the canary. Everything had to be thought about as the supply boat could only visit once a year.

It was 2am on a June morning when they set off in broad daylight aboard the paddle-wheel Yukon River boat for the first part of the journey. They had decided to take the younger huskies, Malt, Hops, Yeast, Ross, Pelly, Queenie and Jack, who became very excited and promptly fell overboard. He was eventually rescued but never fell overboard again during the journey to Ross River. At Pelly Crossing everything was transferred to the supply boat *Thistle* for the final leg of the journey. Space was at a premium so every eight hours crew and passengers went ashore to chop trees for fuel in an undertaking that would take four hours each time. As it was hot, meat would not keep, so time had also to be taken to go hunting onshore. At one point the river level dropped due to lack of rain and they were stranded on a sand bar so that all hands were needed to refloat the boat. At other times they had rapids and swirling currents to deal with and always, always,

swarms of mosquitoes to endure. It was a momentous eleven day journey through a wide, open, silent country with glimpses of caribou, bear, coyote and bald eagles.



**RCMP post in Ross River, with white medicine tent in background**

Already Claude and Mary experienced a great sense of freedom and peace.

Finally they rounded a bend and Ross came into sight. They could see a few log cabins, a handful of trappers and a crowd of curious First Nation people. A Union Jack fluttered from a tall pole before a log cabin with the letters RCMP painted above the door. This then was their home.

For the First Nation people, who made up most of the population of one hundred, Mary was their first glimpse of a white woman. A very small number could speak a few words of broken English. There were around a half dozen trappers, nomads who came in just once a year to sell their furs and purchase supplies. But everyone helped to unload the boat, knowing that it would depart in two days' time and not return until the following June. The small cabin allocated to Claude and Mary had previously been the home of a bachelor officer who had decorated the walls with pictures of beautiful young ladies, but Mary could see its potential and set about making a comfortable home.



**First Nation beadwork**



**First Nation girls with fish**

In her letters to friends and family Mary wrote of the fact that there were no nurses, no schools, no doctors, no churches and a community who had never left the area, never lived in a house and had never seen a white community. She described with delight the way the women carried their babies on their backs in gorgeously beaded baby straps and she loved their beautiful decorated moleskin moccasins and coats. For their part the locals were fascinated by all the strange wonders Claude and Mary brought with them, particularly the piano. Claude wrote that when he played a jig on it he soon had them all tapping their moccasins and smiling broadly. They were at first very suspicious of the first aid and medicines but after a while would often visit to complain, "Me finger sick", or "Me need pink pills."

During those first few months after the trappers had left, Claude and Mary explored the whole area. The trails were a delight of wild flowers and birds of every description. They explored along the river with a poling boat but hunted only with a camera and field glasses. Yet all too soon the fine weather ended, slush began to form on the river and they realised they must prepare for the long winter.

Weak places in the log walls of the cabin had to be filled with moss. Trees needed to be felled for firewood and all dog harnesses checked and repaired as the days grew shorter and shorter. The mercury slowly dropped below zero until the river froze completely and the snow came to stay. Claude had to saw off joints of meat from their outdoor store to bring indoors to thaw out along with rock hard loaves, pies and cakes that Mary had baked previously. He had to make several trips to the river to chop out blocks of ice to replenish their water supply. Dressing for trips outside was a mammoth task with extra trousers, heavy pairs of woollen socks, thick sweaters, heavy parkas, thickly lined moccasins, fur trimmed hoods and mittens. Claude remarked that at 40° below zero you could hear the "cracking" of your own breath as the individual drops of moisture froze.

But the arrival of the long arctic winter, instead of locking them in, set them free to explore across frozen lakes, rivers and anywhere the dogs could take them. They learnt to read all the animal tracks, weasel, wolf, moose and rabbit. These often drove the dogs wild and sent them tearing off across country in a chase which usually ended with the upsetting of the whole sledge and a tangled mess of dogs and harness.

They were able to celebrate Christmas with a tree that Mary had brought with her. She trimmed it with beads, painted egg shells, tinsel and silver stars. The local native Indians were fascinated by it and visited one after the other to view this marvel. During the worst month, January, they both stayed indoors in the cosy warmth of the cabin. But they awoke one morning after a night at -60° to find that Richard, their canary, who had been such a cheerful companion, had perished. His cage had been hung, usually safely, above the wood burner which had suddenly risen over this cold night to a red hot temperature.

It was at this time that Claude had to go on a police patrol by dog sled to Whitehorse some 300 miles distant. It was decided that Mary would accompany him, so careful preparations had to be made for the journey. All the rations for every meal for them and the dogs had to be meticulously counted and weighed. Camping equipment, clothing, guns, snowshoes and repair kits were carefully gathered, but it proved too much to pack onto the sledge. The only solution was to leave the tent behind which meant "brush camps" in the snow and cooking by open fires in true Indian style.

The whole trip took them fifteen days. Fifteen days of glorious adventure. I can only imagine what it must have been like racing across that frozen landscape behind a dog team, with the sun often reflecting brilliantly off the white snow, cooking by an open fire

and sleeping under the northern sky. Claude wrote later that a trip over a well beaten trail with a good team in the glorious bright sunny days of March or April was a thrilling, enjoyable, never to be forgotten experience.



***Returning from Whitehorse***

They finally arrived in Whitehorse and Mary described the bliss of drinking tea indoors instead of by an open fire, tasting of spruce needles and campfire smoke. But the best part of all, she recalled, was the mail, the letters from home. The return journey was a lot quicker

because they could follow the trail they had already made. Mary recalled that when they approached their cabin Claude said, "Who lives in this nice little house?" Their cabin had really become a home as they embraced everything that the arctic wilderness had to offer.

*Part 3 will relate more of the amazing tales of the life Claude and Mary enjoyed together.*

*With grateful thanks to the Yukon Archives for permission to use photographs and material from their site. Thanks also to the late Bob Tipling, who first alerted me to this story, my regret being that I took so long to write it. □*

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## What is a species?

Brian Anderson

The widely accepted answer to this from the layperson's point of view is "the largest group of organisms where mating produces fertile offspring". The opening words are often omitted as it is implied that we are not talking about tribes or populations. The most often cited example is that of horses and donkeys, where offspring are produced but are infertile (mules or hinny). Thus horses and donkeys are different species. But a very little thought raises problems. We have a very complete family tree for the evolution of the horse, dating back to the Eocene some 56 million years ago. The emergence of the genus *Equus* (horses, donkeys and zebras) occurred about 4-5 million years ago. At this point horses and donkeys shared a common ancestor. Over succeeding millennia divergence occurred which led to our modern situation. But when did offspring become infertile? It didn't happen overnight - gradually fertile offspring would have become less and less common - but we cannot define a point when one species becomes two. The other problem with the breeding definition is that it is of no help in defining species that do not reproduce sexually.

So how did we end up in our unsatisfactory situation?

It really begins with the idea formulated by Aristotle, that species are immutable, a concept adopted by the Church and probably reinforced by Genesis 3: 19-20 where Adam is called upon by God to name every living creature. Our modern system of classification comes from Linnaeus who, in the middle of the 18th century, devised the binomial system where a species was given a generic name to group it with similar organisms and with a specific name to identify the species. Hence *Pieris brassicae* (the Large White), where *Pieris* defines a group of similar white butterflies and *brassicae* the one species. Over the years the Linnaean system was expanded so species were sometimes split into sub-species, genera grouped into families, families into orders, orders into classes and so on.

It was this system that first made me doubt the utility of the technique. I was doing a plant survey in a redundant cemetery near Bedford where there were large numbers of Primroses and Cowslips. Quite commonly scattered among them were hybrids with Cowslip flowering stalks but Primrose flowers. These hybrids were fertile and could cross with each other and their parent species. But Primroses *Primula vulgaris* and Cowslips *Primula veris* were separate species, so according to the opening definition in this article *shouldn't* produce fertile offspring. Another example is given by the White-headed and Ruddy Ducks. Again, classified as different species, but can happily interbreed and produce fertile offspring - in fact many duck species interbreed like this.

Taxonomists realised the problem quite early and began to devise other methods of defining species. At the same time other problems began to emerge. One of the most obvious was the classification of extinct species. There is clearly no way of assessing fertility of offspring and yet there was a need to classify those creatures and plants found in the fossil record. Palaeontologists chose to identify species by their structure and form (there really wasn't any other way). Other methods were developed: ecologists categorised on lifestyle, and geneticists on sequenced genomes to create family trees based on shared genetically coded characteristics.

It was all looking very messy.

On top of this, the natural world kept confusing the picture. Two examples: the first is

aggregate microspecies. There are two instances in British plants: the Dandelion and the Bramble (*Taraxacum officinale* and *Rubus fruticosus* respectively). In both cases these are aggregates of similar forms - over 200 in the case of Dandelion and 400 in the case of Bramble. It has not been possible to assign species status to any of these forms so they remain as aggregate clusters. Similar aggregates occur in the *Heleconius* butterflies of Central America and some tree frogs.

The second example is ring species. This is best shown by the Lesser Black-backed Gull and the Herring Gull, which in western Europe are regarded as different species but they blur as you go east until there is just one species.

At the present time there are thirty-four competing definitions of what constitutes a species! What should we make of that?

The problem is that evolution has change built in. The whole process works because all the elements of life are mutable. The problem is our desire to put things into nice tidy boxes. It's worth quoting what Darwin had to say on the subject: "I look at the term species as one arbitrarily given for the sake of convenience to a set of individuals closely resembling each other." □

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## RSPB Snettisham

In this edition we are going to reflect on the beach nesting, bird breeding season that has just occurred and look forward to the autumn wader spectacles.

### Share our shores

In the previous edition we (re)introduced you to some of the birds that nest on the beach at Snettisham and now it is time to share with you how they fared.

To recap, the beach at RSPB Snettisham, that runs towards Snettisham Coastal Park, is one of the most important sites in North Norfolk for breeding ringed plovers and oystercatchers. They make shallow scrapes on the shingle to lay their eggs and once the eggs hatch the chicks run across the beach until they can fly. This has resulted in them evolving to camouflage into the environment in which they live. This behaviour can therefore make them extremely vulnerable to trampling and disturbance by humans and dogs, which is why between March and August we ask that you consider where and how you walk on the beach, including keeping well away from any cordons that we have installed.

This year, because of coronavirus, we weren't sure what would happen. With lockdown measures in place we suspected that there would be fewer people and so the birds would suffer less disturbance. However, as lockdown measures eased in June, colliding with peak breeding season, it was evident that potentially this wasn't going to be the case and so we redeployed our volunteers and increased signage across the reserve. We are pleased to announce that following nest monitoring by the reserve team we had the highest number of ringed plovers in ten years at Snettisham. This reconfirms how important and special this beach is for Norfolk ringed plovers. For context, in North Norfolk the ringed plover breeding population has declined by 70% over the past thirty years, therefore it is even more important that we all play a part in safeguarding this fragile population.

However, they were less successful at raising their next generation. The eighteen pairs had thirty-nine nesting attempts, fledgling nineteen chicks from just nine nests. So why did so many nests fail? We know that three nests failed as a result of the high tides, and seven nests were certainly predated; but we are unsure why a further twenty failed. It was disappointing for us to discover that one nest inside the cordon near Snettisham Sailing Club was partially trodden on by a person, resulting in one egg being squashed



and this entire nest eventually failed to hatch. We also had two incidents where vehicles drove onto the beach and narrowly missed driving over two nests. This isn't acceptable.

How about everyone's favourite, the charismatic oystercatcher? This year thirty-five pairs nested along this section of beach, continuing their

apparent upward trend in breeding pairs. We couldn't measure nesting success in the same way, however we do know that some chicks did fledge.

The RSPB Snettisham team would like to thank everyone for their support this season in helping these vulnerable birds in raising their next generation.

### **Snettisham Spectacular**

And now for the incredible Snettisham Spectacular: autumn is an amazing time to visit Snettisham reserve, especially when there are spring high tides. These are the largest high tides covering the saltmarsh and as a result hundreds of thousands of wading birds, in particular Red Knot, are pushed off the mudflats, dancing overhead as they descend into Snettisham Pits to roost. This is a truly impressive spectacle that should be on everyone's bucket list. What's more, you don't even need to own a pair of binoculars. Find out more at [www.rspb.org.uk/snettisham](http://www.rspb.org.uk/snettisham) □

### **Dersingham Evening WI** Maggie Guest

What a different world we are now living in, but at least we are currently out of a serious lockdown that many widowed members have found so hard to deal with.

One of our members, Marguerite, is a retired seamstress and incredibly talented, judging from photos of wedding dresses she made during her career. Seeing the need for members to wear masks, she set to and made lots of them, selling them to members for a small charge. The result was £75 for Dersingham WI funds. Thank you so much, Marguerite, for fulfilling a need and donating the money to our funds.

Obviously, we have not been able to have our monthly meetings or many activities, but we have had small, monthly 'get togethers' in members' gardens. People have put their names down if they wish to attend and hostesses found. Each hostess has had five members allocated to her. The hostess provided refreshments and members arrived to have a sociable time catching up with other members and enjoying assorted refreshments, while obeying social distancing.



Now the weather is likely to turn cooler this will have to end, but we are hoping we might be able to meet with more members before too long at St Cecilia's. We would have to abide by the current guidelines and will let members know if this is possible.

We hope you all stay safe over the next few months and we will keep you posted.□



## Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

We are very excited here at Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School as we look forward to welcoming all our children back into the classrooms for the new autumn term. The school has been a hive of activity throughout the summer holidays with Stay and Play days and of course our Summer Club.

Every Wednesday throughout the summer break the school has welcomed children onto the playground and our spacious, open field, to participate in a variety of activities. The main aim has been to encourage children who did not attend school before the holidays, to come and acclimatise to the new way of working and of course to catch up with friends they haven't seen for several months.



Messy play was one of the favourite activity days, with children blowing and chasing huge bubbles, creating pictures in coloured sand and experiencing the tactile nature of cornflower gloop and spaghetti! Orienteering took place on the field in the searing heat, with a well-deserved ice lolly and medal on completing the activities. Art day saw children painting umbrellas, then creating beautiful patterns on large pieces of paper. They used water spray and watched the colours mix and drip to the floor. Some children spun their umbrellas to create

splatter pictures and quite often decorated their own clothes...! The S.T.E.M science and engineering challenges were scuppered by high winds and stormy weather, which brought the summer to a close.



Throughout lockdown and well into the summer the school has undergone a radical make over, with freshly painted, washable walls, new hygiene stations being installed and classrooms having themed make overs. The premises now provide a safe and vibrant environment to welcome back the children and staff for the new academic year. Each pod offers safe, social bubbles, where the emphasis is on providing a gentle return to education, focussing on personal, social and emotional sessions, ensuring children have a platform to voice their concerns and be reassured that school is a safe, enjoyable setting in which to learn and have fun.

With an exciting new curriculum and the anticipation of meeting friends and colleagues again, the school is ready to welcome back the whole school community with a flourish!

## St Nicholas Church

Rev. Dave Cossey

### 'Let the children come to me...'

Children have been a significant feature in our news headlines over the past few weeks. Many questions have been asked about how we can best move forward as the new academic year is upon us once again. How can we provide our children with the all-important education that they need, but yet also navigate through the challenges educational institutions continue to face during this Covid-19 pandemic?



As a church we have always embraced the opportunity regularly to visit our local schools to share stories from the Bible in a variety of fun and interactive ways. But how can we go about this now with the restrictions that don't allow for such face-to-face visits? Would it perhaps be better to just give up and re-prioritise to another group of people altogether?



In the Bible we see that Jesus frequently disrupted and challenged the standards of society when they didn't match up to the love of God. In one such story, we see how parents brought their children to be blessed by Jesus, only to find that his disciples then tried to shoo them away because the disciples made the mistake of deeming these little ones as somehow 'less important' than the others in the crowd that day. What was Jesus' response to seeing this? He firmly rebuked the adults and declared 'let the children come to me', and so they freely did.

As a church we have been aware that it would be all too easy for us similarly to side-line children in the complex environment we all find ourselves in. And so, we have now embarked upon a new and novel approach to engaging with children in schools.

Beginning on 4<sup>th</sup> September we will release the first in our online series named 'Bible bites'. These short messages will be pre-recorded by Reverend Mark and myself and will feature a selection of fun magic tricks that will serve to illustrate different lessons and themes found from within the Bible.

This new series will be shared across different schools, as it is played on the big screen during the schools' usual collective worship sessions. However, these recordings will also be available to any other families with children at home – or in fact anyone, anywhere with a device that has an internet connection.

Innovation has been plentiful in the past few months of this pandemic and we hope that our own new venture will be an encouragement to many of our children as we remember the words of Jesus who importantly said 'let the children come to me'.

Come and explore more with us by visiting our website at [www.dersinghamonlineworship.com](http://www.dersinghamonlineworship.com) and clicking 'children' from 4<sup>th</sup> September onwards.□



## The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle - Dyscalculia

I've suffered from dyscalculia all my life, but have only just discovered that my problem has a name, and that I haven't been an idiot all these years.

Dyscalculia is a mathematical problem - a huge one in my case - where a person of ordinary or high intelligence cannot comprehend any mathematical agenda.

I was able to learn numbers, but I could never learn my times tables, other than the five times and the ten times. But even then, I used my fingers to calculate. I can attempt an ordinary adding up calculation and get a different answer, however many times I do it. I seldom get the calculation correct. I seldom get them right with a calculator either! As for fractions and any other complicated equations - forget it. I don't even try. I once was given 2/100 for a maths exam. I giggled with embarrassment, and the teacher just said, "I had to give you SOME marks, so those are for getting your name and the date correct." School, therefore, was a terrible place for me, and I was constantly stood up and jeered at by teachers as an example of an idiot. I was told I would never get on in life if I couldn't do arithmetic. Yet, my writing skills were good from the start and I found nothing else difficult, though I suspect I have mild dyslexic problems, as I often 'blank out' mistakes when editing my work, not seeing them at all.

I have always been creative, and find nothing difficult when making something with my hands. I don't make calculations (that would be foolish) - I judge by eye what to do.

To bring some money into the house as a stay-at-home mother, I began making paper flowers and sold them on the streets of London in the 1960s - the Flower Power days - and earned, for the first time, money for something I enjoyed doing. After a while, I ran a stall once a week at the local market, selling the beautiful things I had created. To manage the awful problem of maths, I priced everything in tens or fives - decimalisation was a huge help to me - so much simpler than pounds, shillings and pence. I found giving change difficult, so when my brain went blank (which was often), I would confess to my customer that I couldn't add up, so how much change did she want? Only one woman (a rich one) cheated me.

One day I decided I would like to make bead necklaces, so I sent off for a small amount of beads and laces. I had difficulty assessing the figures, but managed okay. Or so I thought. Instead of a box of beads, a large crate on a pallet turned up! My husband took one look and said, "I'm not paying for them!" and went off to work. I was horrified, but on opening the box became very excited. I sat in the kitchen and threaded beads for weeks, into all sorts of wonderful combinations, and sold the lot on the market stall over time. Phew!

At the moment I am having my back garden completely made over. I have reached a stage in my life where I am a totterer - due to diabetes and the cancer treatment and nerve endings dying - and because the dogs had churned up the garden in their playful endeavours to imitate uncontrolled tractors, my back garden was a horrible mess with moats, ruts and weeds. I could no longer step out there without falling over. It was so depressing. It had been beautiful, but had become a ragged mess. Flowers and plants that had gone berserk and seemed no longer beautiful and serene, were marching towards the house with menace, almost in at the doors, intending to take over. I would be smothered to death in my bed by roses, aquilegias and lupins if something were not done.

I was lucky enough to receive a small inheritance from an uncle. Just enough to pave over two thirds of the garden, with some large and long L-shaped planters made of block and render and painted white. It has just been completed, and I LOVE it. I can go and walk on what is rather like a posh municipal garden, in bare feet, without a stumble. All that I need now is some composty-mix to fill the planters. So, I got in touch with a Norwich firm that sell soils, and she said, "You have to calculate how much you need." I can't do that," I replied. She clearly thought I was an idiot and was quite sharp with me. "It's easy. You just have to measure the width, the length and the depth." Yes, I knew that, but I was not capable. But I said I would have a go. And a go I had. I put my calculations into their website calculating thingy and it came up with an answer. I phoned the girl back and told her what it was. "No", she said, "That can't be right". I felt like saying, "I told you so", but was polite and didn't. "Give me your measurements," she said, and I did. "Wow," she said, "they must be big planters". "Yes, they are," I replied. The price came to £653. "That seems a lot," I said. "Perhaps my measurements weren't correct." ("I'm thinking, I am SURE they were not.) "I'll wait until my partner returns from work, and get him to check." So, I waited, and he took the measurements, and I phoned the girl back, and the amount of soil I needed came to £91.... Quite a difference, eh? When I looked at my pencilled original measurements, I noted I had written down the width as 5ft 5inches. I knew that wasn't correct, it was only a couple of feet.... but at the time, I hadn't noticed what I was writing down. You see, with dyscalculia, I can *think* I am writing down 35, say, and in actual fact, I have written down 210. And I see it as 35. Dyscalculia is the mathematical version of dyslexia (problems with words), which is more commonly known.

So, there we are, that is your lesson for today, and be thankful if you can add up two and two and get four. I seldom do - and it's ghastly!

In the meantime, once the diminished load of soil turns up, I shall be happily engrossed with flower planting, painting fences, and digging the remaining third of the garden and re-designing that. Should keep me busy for a while. □

## Operation No Cold Shoulder Creative Arts East

We are working in partnership with Community Action Norfolk to deliver Operation No Cold Shoulder: a campaign to strengthen communities and bring people together. As part of this, during the current COVID crisis, Creative Arts East are offering a series of **FREE postal packages** containing creative arts activities to try at home, including music making, crafts, movement activities and more.

No prior experience is needed. These packs are suitable for ages 18+ and are aimed at people living in/around the following areas: **North Lynn, Dersingham, Fakenham, Thetford, Swaffham, Mile Cross, and Thorpe Hamlet.**

If you are interested in receiving a pack, please get in touch by calling Lea or Sydney on 01953 713390 or emailing [info@creativeartseast.co.uk](mailto:info@creativeartseast.co.uk)

Other services are available as part of the project, including free Telephone Befriending, free Befriending Support in West Norfolk, free Help to set up Good Neighbour Schemes and Online Training Opportunities. □

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## Snettisham Salvation Army

Alison Kirby



### Questions

I don't know if you're a fan of quiz shows or not. I quite like them. Sometimes if I'm feeling like a cerebral workout, I'll watch University Challenge and congratulate myself if I answer three questions in the whole half hour! My favourite at the moment is Pointless, but there are so many on TV nowadays that you're sure to find one that suits you.

Jesus was asked many questions on all sorts of subjects. He was asked about fasting, the Sabbath, taxes, death, his authority and who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Question after question after question and Jesus had an answer for all of them.

But more important than the questions asked of Jesus are the questions asked by Jesus. In Matthew 16:13-16 Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" His disciples tell him that some say Elijah, some say John the Baptist and some say Jeremiah or another prophet."

Then Jesus asks a more important question of Peter. He asks, "Who do you say I am?" Peter replies, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus asks the same question of us today. It does not matter who everyone else thinks Jesus is; what matters is who Jesus is to you. Is he just a man who lived hundreds of years ago, is he a man who preached repentance, is he a teacher who taught people about God or is he your Saviour? Do you know Jesus or do you just know about him?

So, who do you say Jesus is? Who is he to you? What does he mean to you? To many people today the name of Jesus Christ is just a swear word, but does it have a deeper meaning for you? I hope you are able to declare, as Peter did, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

A common question at the moment is, "When are things going to get back to normal?" Restrictions have been eased quite a bit from what they were, but we certainly aren't anywhere near how things were before lockdown. The Salvation Army Community Shop at 60 Westgate, Hunstanton is now back open as normal. We are open six days a week, Monday to Saturday 9.30am-4.00pm and you can now buy the War Cry again. Michael is selling the War Cry every Friday morning in Hunstanton High Street, but we are still not able to meet for worship due to the restrictions on numbers and what we are able to do if we do meet. Let's hope that soon changes.

In the meantime, if you need practical assistance or just a chat, feel free to get in touch.

[Alison.Kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:Alison.Kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk) 01485 579079. 07775 717852.□



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## Dersingham Open Gardens & Yard Sales

Jane Jestic

What a fabulous weekend!

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the people who made the weekend work, before and during the weekend. Secondly, a huge thank you to everyone who took part over the weekend, opening their gardens, having yard sales, and manning the Village Centre with its refreshments and ticket sales. Thirdly, thank you weather for being pretty much perfect on both days (the wind on Saturday forgotten already!).

It was so great to see Dersingham come alive again and, especially on Saturday, see so many people we hadn't really had a chance to chat to since before lockdown. Everyone had a smile on their face. The gardens were looking amazing and visitors commented on how lovely it was to see them at a different time of year. They were surprised by the amount of colour and impressed by the work the gardeners had put into preparing their gardens. Judging by the bulging bags and people walking around the village with various odd items, the yard sales were very successful too.

Although the figures have not been finalised as I write, it seems that the number of visitors was not that far off the number we usually expect, and financially it was really successful. So, well done Dersingham, we did ourselves proud. **STOP PRESS:** Over £1500 was raised for both St Nicholas Church and Dersingham Village Centre.





## More Dersingham Nostalgia From Doris Waymark

We recently had a letter from Doris Waymark (née Goff) who grew up in the village. She had been sent a copy of Village Voice by her sister, Doreen Asker. She saw the photographs of the men's and ladies' choirs and realised she had copies of the original photographs from the Lynn News & Advertiser. It brought back happy memories for her as she was in the ladies' choir and was able to fill in some missing names:

*Back row, left to right:* Daphne Riches, Pam Bond, Doris Goff, D. Higgs, J Lines, Nora Nurse, Edna Walden, Gladys Twite, G. Yaxley.

*Front row:* Maisie Linford, M. Smith, B. Riches, M. Southgate, Rosie Bird, Betty Riches, B. Back, R. Riches, Rosie Lines, C. Barnard

And she reported that the organist in the men's choir photograph was Ted Rye



Mrs Waymark also enclosed cuttings of the Dersingham bellringers:

*Left to right:* R. Thaxter, G. Batterbee, C.V. Ebberson, F. Rix (captain), J. Bunn and A. Nurse.



Mrs Waymark also sent a Lynn News photograph of the Dersingham First Aid Point personnel, which she thinks was taken towards the end of the war when she was about 16 years old (she is now 91!)

*Back row, left to right:* Miss Athow, Mr F. Houchen, Miss Goss, Mrs Glyde, Mr P. Houchen, Mrs Bunting, Mrs Wilson, Mr J. Welham, Miss Reynolds.



*Middle row:* Mr Drayton, Miss M. Stanton, Colonel Morphew, Mrs A.C.M. Coxon (Senior Casualty Worker), Dr A.C.M. Coxon, Mrs Burton, Mr Fisher.

*Front row:* Miss M Rolfe, Mr G. Emmerson, Miss D. Goff, Miss Standaloft, Mr J. Playford, Mrs Stoveld, Miss Rout.

Many thanks Mrs Waymark for sending us this information and photographs. □

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# Dersingham Walking Group

## Tony Bubb

With the easing of restrictions we are able to start our walks again. We will need to commit to "track and trace" and remind you to practise "social distancing", but that should not reduce the enjoyment too much. To start with we are covering the walks that were cancelled at the beginning of spring, but we will then move on to fresh ideas, wherever they may be.



Our upcoming walks are:-

### **Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 2 pm**

The footpaths and back streets of Old Hunstanton make up this coast and countryside walk of about 4 miles. Start point is the Hunstanton Lighthouse, map reference TF 676420. Leader - Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

### **Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm**

A tour of Sandringham Woods, with autumn colour and scents. Start at the Dersingham village sign, TF 685297. Leader - Brian Eldridge 01485 540862

### **Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm**

The delights of Courtyard Farm are to be visited on this 4.5 mile walk. Start from the car park on the left of the Ringstead to Burnham road, about 0.7 miles east of Ringstead, TF 722405. Leader - Tony Bubb 01485 542638

### **Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm**

Woods, Warren, Fen and Common - a circuit around the varied terrain of Dersingham and Sandringham. Start at the old Dersingham railway station at the bottom of Station Road, TF680308. Leader - Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

All our planned walks will appear here in Village Voice and can also be found on our page on the Parish Council website and in the Calendar on that website. Our page is at [www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup](http://www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup).

Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers and to explore the local area. You'll probably discover footpaths that you never knew existed and maybe views that will give you a fresh appreciation of the local landscape. So if you haven't walked with the group before, why not join us for an amble through our wonderful countryside. Most of our walks are between four and five miles long and take around two hours, with a rest stop at some point. There is no cost involved, just turn up with your boots on. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do his or her best to look after you, of course, but it is a condition of coming on a walk that you take responsibility for your own safety. As that great hiker Alfred Wainwright said, "Watch where you put your feet!"

***PLEASE NOTE THAT the leaders are happy to organize and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. If you want more information about any particular walk then please contact the leader.***

Group coordinator: **Tony Bubb** Tel: 01485 542638 Email: [frostytrees@btinternet.com](mailto:frostytrees@btinternet.com) □

## How can you keep your river healthy and clean?

Norfolk Rivers Trust

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.

**Bankside management:** we all love to sit by a river bank and watch the water go by, and even dip our toes, but did you know that by strimming or mowing the river bank you are reducing the habitat availability for a number of species, including dragonflies, water voles and breeding birds. All river wildlife relies on vegetation for survival. Tall reeds, sedges and flowering plants are particularly good for most animals. Water voles ideally require a 3-meter margin of undisturbed river bank, while breeding birds need dense vegetation to nest in. Pollinators need flowers such as hemp agrimony and meadowsweet, and aquatic invertebrates such as dragonflies and damselflies need vegetation to emerge from. By leaving a wild margin on your riverbank you will provide a wealth of habitat for the wildlife we are so lucky to have in Norfolk.



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. Email [info@norfolkriverstrust.org](mailto:info@norfolkriverstrust.org)

## Sandringham Estate News

### Garry Marsden, Visitor Enterprise Manager

Hello from Sandringham. We are looking forward to two new events this autumn and winter as we try to beat the COVID blues and get back to some good old-fashioned fun!

**Drive in Movies Experience:** Yes, pop along to the Visitor Centre and enjoy several drive in movies over the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September. The programme includes epic films such as 1917 and real classics like Grease and The Greatest Showman. For the full programme pop over to our website [www.sandringhamestate.co.uk](http://www.sandringhamestate.co.uk) to view and book. Prices are per car, so grab your friends and your popcorn and settle down to some great entertainment.



#### Luminate Sandringham: 20<sup>th</sup> November to 20<sup>th</sup> December

There is no denying it that Christmas is coming, and we have a special event to get you in the mood this winter: Luminate Sandringham. A spectacular outdoor, after dark light trail will be weaving its way through the Country Park at Sandringham this winter. Enjoy a mile-long captivating outdoor trail, with interaction and light play all set to ambient music. There will be marshmallow toasting and plenty of festive cheer along the way. To book your tickets go along to [www.luminatesandringham.com](http://www.luminatesandringham.com)

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## Dersingham Methodist Church

### Elizabeth Batstone

We at Dersingham Methodist Church debated whether to open for private prayer as allowed under Government guidelines. We read the government and Church guidelines, carried out a risk assessment, met to discuss whether we understood what to do and prepared an action plan to take what seemed big steps prior to opening for Sunday worship.



**Step one** was in August, when the Church was open for one hour on Wednesday mornings for private prayer, and we were pleased to see a few people come each morning. The stewards stood outside on the steps watching people go by, many stopped to chat and ask what we were doing. We had comments like 'Good to see you open again', 'When do the coffee mornings start?' 'Are you going to have services?'

**Step two** was to reopen the Church on Sundays for worship. Our first service was on Sunday 13th September at 10.30 am, then on each Sunday morning. We are not planning to hold evening services... Of course we are very limited by social distancing as to how many we can seat. The church worship area looks very different; we will not have flowers in the church, and coffee will not be served after the service. The service will be shorter - 30-45 minutes long, and we will not be singing hymns, but music will be played to enhance our services.

Apart from all this, we will be there, smiling under our masks, trying to remember not to shake hands and hug, be ready to sit quietly, to listen, to pray, to thank God for freedom to worship, for bringing us through lockdown, and with the joy we find in seeing the rainbow of hope on windows and doors.

Our good news is the arrival of our new minister, the Revd Richman Ncube from Harare, Zimbabwe. Unfortunately, the visas for his wife and children have not come through and we do pray the family will soon be united.

Sadly, we will not be restarting any of our other activities at the moment.

**Step three** is to be part of a 'new normal', as life has been described as, at the moment.□

Mary and Machiel Spaans of Gelham Manor, Dersingham celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Here they are on the happy day sixty years ago. Happy anniversary to you both from all the family xxx.





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## Sandringham Parish News

### Ben Colson

Parish Councillors had voted to hold the September meeting in person and it would have taken place on 9<sup>th</sup> September. However, in view of the Government announcement that day, introducing tighter restrictions on gatherings, a vote was taken by email and the meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> November, and this may be a meeting in person, or possibly more likely by some other means, given the growth in Coronavirus cases. Had the meeting gone ahead on the 9<sup>th</sup>, the main points which would have been reported are:

**Parking and litter on Station Road hill in Wolferton:** the situation improved as the school holiday season drew to a close and as government encouraged travel further from home for staycations. However, it remains a problem, mainly because of litter, and loosened earth and debris being washed down and blocking drains in the event of rainfall. A few motorists still ignore the requests not to park, and on 24<sup>th</sup> August that included an HGV which carefully parked on the verge between consecutive signs. Whilst the work done by Natural England is recognised and appreciated, it needs a more permanent solution and it may be that this will have to include making a case for yellow line markings.

**A149 road safety improvements:** traffic levels on the A149 have grown significantly since just before the significant easing of lockdown and so the safety improvement measures are all the more essential. The number of people walking and cycling for recreational purposes has also risen and this gives rise to considerable conflict as they seek to cross the road. If not the entire scheme, then certain safety measures are absolutely essential and the Parish Council will continue to make the case to County Council for it to go ahead.

**Planning decisions:** the Daily Telegraph carried stories in late August that the Appleton Cowshed planning application had been approved by the Borough's planners. They produce and send to Parish Councils a weekly list of their decisions, either in favour or against developments, and this has not appeared on the list, so either the newspaper has 'jumped the gun' or an administrative omission has been made.

#### **Standards of driving.....**

A letter of concern has been sent to the Nursery in Wolferton concerning the standards of driving of parents delivering and collecting their young children. This has been sent direct from a parishioner, but the Parish Council has been made aware. This follows the parishioner almost being knocked off the road by a parent driving a large car at speed away from the village on the afternoon of 8<sup>th</sup> September, and being in the middle of the road in the path of an oncoming tractor and trailer. The driver pulled so far and fast to the nearside that had the parishioner not jumped into the bushes alongside the road he or she would have been hit. The car then veered towards the centre of the road again, and back into the verge further along, where it dislodged areas of verge and debris. I am sure that we can count on the help and assistance of the Nursery School staff to do all that they can to bring such reckless drivers to heel.

#### **Sandringham War Memorial**

Here's some more refreshing historical news. The War Memorial at Sandringham was formally unveiled by King George V on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1920, so is now a century old. The inscription on it reads "This cross was erected by King George V and Queen Mary to honour the memory of the Officers and Men of the Sandringham Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Norfolk Regiment and those on the Estate who fell in the Great War." It bears the names of all 77 men from the King's Estate who fell during that war. Similar memorials were unveiled by HRH Princess Mary in King's Lynn on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1921 and by HRH

Prince Henry in East Dereham on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1922. Fittingly, Sandringham was first.

### **St Peter's Church, Wolferton**

Refurbishment of the south roof continues and should be completed soon. Fundraising is more difficult, with public events largely cancelled, but will continue as Phase 3 works are contemplated. However, with the five-yearly architectural review of the building due in 2021 no phase 3 work will be commissioned until the outcome is known. The important thing is that the roof will shortly fulfil its purpose.

### **Traffic levels on A149**

I happened across some traffic count figures on Norfolk County Council's website recently. This concerns the A149 at Heacham and was based across a period in the summer. It compares three years, 2000, 2007 and 2017:

Pedal cycles	8	15	32
Motor cycles	103	156	121
Cars and taxis	9654	10860	13951
Buses	79	98	233
Vans	1186	1388	2119
Trucks and lorries	283	253	271
Total	11305	12755	16696

What does it tell us? Between Heacham and Sandringham some traffic will leave the A149 and some will join, so it is a pretty good proxy for traffic levels through our parish. It shows that from 2007 to 2017 traffic has grown by 31%, and car traffic has grown by slightly less. It shows that vans have increased by a massive 52%. That is the impact of more home deliveries and will have continued on that trend.

What it doesn't tell us, however, is that cars are getting bigger by just short of 1% per annum, so that in the decade to 2017 by 8%. That is the measure of how much more space is needed on the road, just for the existing levels of congestion to be maintained. In all, then, slightly under 40% more road space is needed to carry the traffic in 2017 compared with ten years before.

Between 2017 and now, levels have grown further, especially cars and vans. When the 1350 new houses are built at South Wootton, that will make these figures even worse, although the County Council confidently predicts that no extra space will be needed. Will this nightmare ever end?□

## **Updates**

### **Dersingham Day Centre**

Dersingham Day Centre members and volunteers are still keeping in touch with each other either by phone or shouting across the road. Unfortunately it still isn't safe for us to meet up at the Village Centre. We all miss our meetings and hope it won't be too much longer before we can all meet up again.

### **Snettisham Gardening Club**

We are sorry to have to advise that we will not be holding any further meetings in 2020 due to the restrictions on numbers allowed to gather in the Memorial Hall. We very much hope to be able to hold a programme during 2021 and all members who have paid for 2020 will have their membership continued for 2021. We will post any updated information in our local publications and hope to have good news early in 2021. In the meantime, thank you for your support and we look forward to more meetings. Further information can be obtained from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.



## Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

### Snettisham

As soon as I get the Village Voice I skip through it, then, when I get time, I will read it from beginning to end. There was an article in the August edition entitled 'RSPB Snettisham News' (not signed) about the ringed plover and the oystercatcher that lay their eggs in shallow scrapes in the shingle. What about all the other birds that do the same thing, like the sandwich, arctic, little and common terns? Sixty years ago there were many of these nesting on the islands, in the pits and along the shingle foreshore. Have they all gone to Scolt Head Island?

Another thing I remember is that we would go eel fishing in the River Ingol near the Wolferton pumping station. There was a kingfisher's nest in the bank, and we would just stand there and watch the adult birds with all their bright plumage flying in and out of the hole in the bank to feed their young. Happy days.

I was asked who is the owner of Snettisham beach and foreshore. All the beaches and foreshores around the British Isles belong to the reigning monarch, and at the present time the reigning monarch is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It is all managed by the Crown Estates. Her Majesty gets no money; it goes to the Treasury. The parish of Snettisham covers 5,592 acres, stretching from the beach eastwards as far as Red Barn. There are 1,342 acres of foreshore and 37 acres of tidal water. Snettisham is not the largest village in Norfolk; the largest is Terrington St Clement that covers 10,652 acres of land, 227 acres of salt marsh but only 132 acres of foreshore.

The shingle pits, or, to be posh, lagoons, as some people call them, go as far as Boathouse Creek. Some people used to call them Snettisham and Wolferton pits before the boardwalk got washed away in 1953, but all the pits have always been in the parish of Snettisham. These pits and the foreshore are managed by the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds); they do not own the pits or the foreshore. A few hundred years ago there was a Lord High Admiral of The Wash who looked after it all. The title remains with a member of the Le Strange family but he has no responsibilities or privileges; the Environment Agency looks after the sea banks, groynes, and flood defences around The Wash. The people who have a lot of say on what goes on at Snettisham beach and foreshore are the people of Snettisham themselves, who have a lot of common rights and by-laws. As to what goes on there, as we saw when some beach hut owners tried to block a pathway, the people of Snettisham won the day.

### Floods

There was a very good article by Brian Anderson called *The pond with no water*. He says that Balding's Moat was covered twice by the sea. It was in fact covered four times: the first was in 1607; the second was in 1650; another flood was on February 16th, 1735, and in 1737 there was a greater flood as the water went inland as far as the church. The vicar's wife, Mrs Kerrich, wrote, 'Terribly wet time. I am all washed out below stairs, the springs have risen very much in ye garden this week, ye water rise under my chair before I saw it, and was nearly a quarter of a yard deep in some places.' The Kerrichs lived in what was known as Pell's "Enchanted House" in the pasture behind the bowling green. When the tide went out this time it went out as far as it is today and it stayed there.

The greatest flood of all was on January 31st, 1953 when many people were drowned: 15 in King's Lynn; 25 in Snettisham; 9 in Heacham; and 31 in Hunstanton, 16 of them Americans. The tide came up as far as Dersingham Station. It did not reach Balding's Moat, it just came up as far as the little wood in that area. The only place it came over the railway line was half way between Heacham and Hunstanton.



**A photo of travellers' caravans taken in July 1949 from the common at the junction of Heath Road. The travellers visited this area fairly regularly as they worked on local farms. Does anyone know who the man in the foreground is?**

### **Travellers**

Two or three months back there were some travellers with their horses, caravans and motors parked up for about six days on the grass at Eight Mile Stone Corner, where there was some grass for the horses. Someone told them that they were on private land and they had to move at once. This is not private land, it belongs to the villagers of Dersingham and they have common rights. The common is looked after by the Dersingham United Charities, run by a group of about ten people who live in the village. When the travellers moved off, they left the area clean and tidy.

Well, that's the lot for this month, you keep a troshin. All the best from the boy Dick.□



### **Poppy Appeal 2020**

The Royal British Legion have taken the decision not to do face to face collecting this year in light of the Covid-19 situation. This means there will be no door to door collections or people collecting outside the shops on the middle Saturday. There will, however, be boxes in the shops that are still willing to take them.

If you cannot get to a box and require anything, I am willing to be contacted and arrange to deliver to you.

Please give me a call on 01485 540236 or email me at [karen.bushell39@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.bushell39@btinternet.com).

Many thanks and hopefully see you all next year.□

## Dersingham School photo

Tony Bubb has sent in another old photo, which he had to iron to get out some of the creases! It is a cutting out of the Lynn News from 1923 and is captioned "Pupils of Dersingham County Primary School". I wonder whether any reader's parents or grandparents can be recognised.□



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## **Looking back**

### **Bernie Twite**

At the end of March I received a letter telling me not to go out for twelve weeks. As I was then finishing projects which had kept me busy during the dark winter days, I needed something to do in the cold, wet summer days. One of the things I decided to do was to read through all the editions of Village Voice. All the old photos and articles brought back a lot of memories of people and events I had forgotten about. I have picked out some items which, for various reasons, interested me or were topical.

**No. 1, December 1999:** The magazine started as a bi-monthly newsletter by the Parish Council to keep everyone informed of matters that concerned and affected them.

**No. 3, April 2000:** Memories of an errand boy - supermarket home delivery is nothing new, the only difference is the bike has been swapped for a van.

**No. 8, February 2001:** A public meeting to discuss burial space in the churchyard, as the churchyard is nearly full. It was decided to investigate. A letter from John Lindsey with concerns over the future of the Post Office.

**No. 10, June 2001:** Annual Parish meeting - it was decided to investigate possible sites for a new village hall.

**No. 13, December 2001:** The churchyard is full; it was queried whether reburial in old plots be considered; no new burial ground has been found. (Nearly twenty years later the churchyard is still being used and its future is still being considered.)

**No. 18, October 2002:** The footpath from Station Road past Semba's yard to Sandringham View - there was an agreement in principle with the developer to extend the path to The Drift alignment, to be agreed when the development finished. (*Was this ever done?* The trouble with agreeing in principle is that nothing is in writing and no decision is ever reached. As the Council now has control of the Warren, could they not define the path and get it registered?)

**No. 40, June 2006:** A school photo of speech day in 1950 at St George's; sadly a lot of people on there are no longer with us.

**No. 46, June 2007:** The Parish Council reports that the Church Hall is the best site for a new village hall, and that it would be better to build a new hall on the site, with a decision to be left until after Council elections.

**No. 49, December 2007:** A presentation was made on the new hall - a meeting was held with the surveyor, designer, agent and planning agent and the process would take four to five years.

**No. 50, February 2008:** A picture of a postcard to Miss Proudfoot (my mother) showing a stamp on the card showing a 1d (one old penny) charge for postage due. (In 1921, so charging for excess on post is nothing new.)

**No. 51, April 2008:** The Parish Council made a commitment to spend £10,000 on design work to produce drawings and information for a Parish poll relating to the Village Hall. The Council expect the cost of the Hall to be over £500,000.

**No. 56, February 2009:** The Council is getting involved with the Hall project, with four councillors to join a working party as the Council feel the project is dragging.

**No. 62, February 2010:** The Council votes to start the first stage planning for the new Hall. Two sites are identified; a professional negotiator is to try to acquire a site, subject to planning. A new committee is to produce a business plan for running the Hall.

**No. 65, August 2010:** The Community Centre is handed back to the Sandringham Estate, which is drawing up preliminary plans. The agent says it is an important site and needs careful thought. (Ten years on and nothing has been done. One of the first things anyone sees coming into the village from Sandringham is a derelict site. Those of us left who went to school there must feel sad at the state of our old school.) Article by Elizabeth Fiddick on the moat/decoy, with a photo of how it was. The caption reads that it would be a nice feature to restore.

**No. 86, February 2014:** The Church Council offers the Church Hall to the Parish Council, and the Council is to apply to the National Lottery for a grant.

**No. 90, October 2014:** The village survey about the Hall is complete, the concept design is available to view, an application to the Lottery is made for £500,000, the cost will be £750,000, research is being made into loans.

**No. 96, October 2015:** The Hall working group says that the Hall could be built before 2016. Plans are circulated.

**No. 103, December 2016:** The Hall plans are approved, with increased cost due to changes in design - a building cost of £964,800, a public works loan of £15,000, a shortfall in funds of £400,000.

**No. 109, December 2017:** Work finally begins on building the new Hall.

**No. 115, December 2018:** The Hall was opened on October 20th.

**No. 119, August 2019:** Fraser Lindsey writes that it appears the future of the Post Office is safe. (Good news - faced with a choice of a counter in the back of a big store or the Post Office, I know which I'd prefer.)

So, after over one hundred editions and twenty years, the magazine is still going strong. Over that time it has had very good editors who have all worked hard. A lot has been made of the new Hall, but that has been the biggest thing in the village for as long as anyone can remember. Over the years in the village a few things have got done, some things done eventually, and quite a few things go on for ever. Another important thing Village Voice has done is bring back into contact people who left the village many years ago. Many have happy memories of growing up in the village.

To finish, the first edition's aim was to keep the village informed of matters that concern and affect its residents. I think it has done that very well.□



### Learn, Laugh, Love U3A (University of the Third Age)

Along with so many groups, we have not been able to hold our monthly meetings in the Community Hall, Hunstanton, since Covid Lockdown was introduced in March, and unfortunately it does not look as though we will be able to do so for some time yet. However, we have kept in touch with members through a monthly newsletter with contributions from members, including light-hearted quizzes to use the grey cells and raise a smile and articles from our various groups. These are available on our website [U3asites.org.uk/hunstanton](http://U3asites.org.uk/hunstanton), as are details of our many and varied groups, some of which are currently operating online, while others are taking place in a restricted form, observing the current Covid safety requirements. Details can be found in the "Groups" section.

We are open to welcome new members and for enquiries, especially from anyone with an interest that could form a new group, on email address [publicity.u3ah@gmail.com](mailto:publicity.u3ah@gmail.com) and a member of our committee will contact you to discuss your interest.□

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### Dersingham Ward Councillors

Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb

After a spell of lovely, if slightly mixed summer weather, September has brought the feel of autumn with it.



Your Ward Councillors have been meeting in online forums over the summer to keep the representative aspect of local democracy alive and well. You may even have checked out some of the meetings on YouTube.

Every effort is being made to make use of Government funding to enhance and give new life to our towns in the future. It was good to see so many visitors over the summer, but now we have to rely on our own resources to keep the local economy moving.

Referring to another issue in our Ward, once again it has been brought to our attention that the Sports Ground is being used to walk and toilet dogs. This is not acceptable and does not comply with local by laws. We would plead with dog owners to cease this practice; if you do happen to walk across the Sports Ground with your dog, please pick up any resulting excrement. It is hard to find another Sports Ground within or outside our area that does allow dog exercising on the playing fields. It would be unthinkable for youngsters playing sport to come up with dog mess on their hands or feet.

Lecture over: it remains only for us to wish everyone a safe and healthy autumn. By the time you read this, our Open Gardens and yard sale event will have taken place and let us hope that other events can happen in the next few months while complying with Covid regulations.□



## Making Gardening Easier

### Gloria Pantling

I have been a member of the 'Making Gardening Easier' group for several years now and thoroughly enjoy our activities. In normal times we have monthly meetings in Dersingham Village Centre where a programme of speakers gives illustrated talks on matters such as composting, improving your lawn, pests and diseases, and particular plant groups. It is as much a social group as one providing information and we have ended each meeting with refreshments and chatting, plus the programme usually includes at least two outings and a Christmas dinner each year.

I enjoy all aspects of gardening, but over the last few years I have made some drastic changes to my kitchen garden to 'make gardening easier'. The majority of the soil is now covered over with old carpet or tarpaulin to minimise weeding. The orchard area is top dressed with wood chips which I get from a local tree surgeon. I use old dustbins and large pots for growing a variety of vegetables. I grow French and runner beans, asparagus, spinach, pak choi, carrots, potatoes, mangetout peas and Chinese cabbage. The initial setting up, particularly of the dustbins, was hard work, but now I just refresh the top few inches of the soil each year and then weeding, feeding, watering and harvesting is very straightforward. This year I have moved the strawberries into troughs in the greenhouse for ease of picking and so that I don't need to cover them to keep the birds off. The tomatoes and cucamelons have been joined by the cos lettuce inside, but I ought to have moved the latter outside when we had that really hot spell. Two old tables outside the greenhouse are very useful for tending to cuttings, seedlings and other plants which need particular care once they have been moved out of the greenhouse. I try to keep most of them in trays so that they get water from below. Going out each morning, either to work on the flower borders or to tend the fruit and vegetables, has made the days during lockdown fly past and given me a sense of purpose and fulfilment. I feel so fortunate to have a garden. □



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Dersingham and Gayton SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM



 **Insp Ben Jarvis**  
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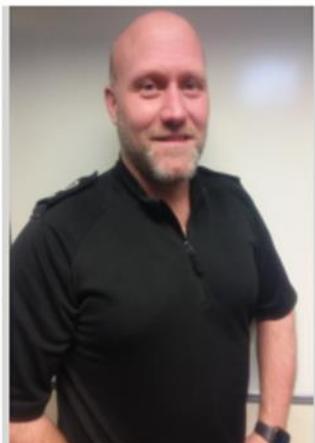
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## Capital Gains Tax - make hay while the sun shines?

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

The Covid 19 crisis itself may still have a long way to go, but as the dust settles and the impact on the Treasury becomes more clear, it would appear that attention is starting to pass towards changes in capital taxation as a long-term means of at least stabilising the position, if not repairing the damage. This may involve some changes to Inheritance Tax (IHT), but some feel a fundamental review of Capital Gains Tax (CGT) is perhaps more likely.

CGT has changed many times since it was introduced in 1965. Asset values have been rebased twice (with the most recent rebasing going up to 1982 – so almost forty years of inflation are now subject to tax). Indexation allowances have been given, and then removed, and after various permutations in the past, the rate of tax payable is now partially linked to Income Tax rates, so the number of effective rates is practically infinite.

From April 5th 2020 there is an obligation for UK residents (enforced by penalties) to calculate and submit CGT returns within thirty days of the disposal of residential properties (other than those covered entirely by principal private residence relief and those which do not result in a tax liability), putting a degree of pressure on the need to undertake what can be extremely complicated calculations. Where a property has been held long term, it is worth having the base cost calculations done well before a sale takes place, since historic information may need to be retrieved from archives, or professional valuations obtained, all of which can be problematic when many of the professionals involved are still working from home. If, therefore, you are planning to undertake such a transaction shortly and have not yet attended to this detail, please do contact us to assist you with the necessary computations and the 30-Day Return thereafter. Remember also that a gift of property can also give rise to a CGT liability, even where no money changes hands.

Most would agree that there are aspects of CGT which require reform, and the Office of Tax Simplification (OTS) is currently reviewing the principles and practical operation of the tax. Without prejudging the outcome of the review, we know that it will look at rates of tax, annual allowances and whether CGT rather than Income Tax should really apply to short term gains. Some commentators have also queried whether it is appropriate for the current CGT uplift to be given where an asset is inherited, but, for one reason or another, no IHT is paid. Conversely, one feels the review should address the absence of either a more recent rebasing date to simplify calculations – the pool of valuers who would have first-hand experience of market conditions in 1982 is rapidly dwindling. There is, however, no evidence that this latter point will be considered. Whatever the findings of the OTS review, it seems probable that any reforms to CGT will increase rather than reduce the relatively modest monies raised by the tax.

The CGT regime is still relatively benign and those wishing to transfer or sell assets under existing rules may be best advised to do so sooner rather than later. Currently, the transfer of business assets can normally be made in a way that enables any gain to be held over until subsequently realised by the donee – which could be a generation later, and in many respects a tax deferred for thirty years or more is a tax saved.

Everything is pointing towards an announcement in the Budget this autumn, so those who have transactions planned should give serious thought to progressing matters without delay. As always, professional advice is vital before any action is taken.

If, having read through the information provided above, you require advice, **please contact either myself or my assistant Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email [kate@kathryngigg.co.uk](mailto:kate@kathryngigg.co.uk) if we can assist in any way.**

**Caution:** The information listed above is for general guidance only. You should neither act, nor refrain from action, on the basis of any such information. You should take appropriate professional advice on your particular circumstances because the application of laws and regulations will vary depending on particular circumstances and because laws and regulations undergo frequent change. Whilst I endeavour to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, neither I nor my firm shall be liable in damages (including, without limitation, damages for loss of business or loss of profits) arising in contract, tort or otherwise from any information contained in it, or from any action or decision taken as a result of using any such information.

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## A Distant Comparison

### Allan Coleby

During the last six months daily life has changed. Where I live, people have been going out less and staying in more, especially at the start, appreciating their neighbours more and being sad that many activities have stopped. In fact, we have lived more quietly in our peaceful village.

I have an old school friend, Brian Swann, who, fifty years ago, went to live in New York, married Roberta, and has lived there ever since. Recently, he and his wife sent me a description of what life has been like for them during lockdown in a big, busy city. Comparison with Dersingham is interesting. Here is a shorter version of what they wrote.

"At first, the simpler life had a cosy rhythm: reading, writing, going for walks in the wooded grounds of the place where we live, making lovely dinners, and each day watching Governor Cuomo update the frightening figures and climbing graphs he showed on TV. But then there was an increase in the constant whine of ambulances, the flashing lights of police cars, and a low-flying helicopter. Each evening at seven, first responders were celebrated with blowing horns and banged pans. Somebody played a trumpet beautifully among the trees on the great lawn below our window.

When we walked to the bank, we found that this usually fast-moving, noisy, crowded city was quiet, almost deserted, except for ambulances rushing up 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue - 'Bedpan Alley' - nick-named for its number of hospitals. What people there were around wore masks and kept apart from each other. As we walked further, I saw the homeless and mentally disturbed, who before had been unseen, now fully visible, slouching on corners, sitting by cardboard covered with hand-written pleas for help, standing vacant in shopfronts or pushing grocery carts filled with whatever they had.

We walked a few blocks further to buy groceries. A notice on the door said 'Due to Covid 19, the store will remain closed indefinitely.' That sign was on doors everywhere. The streets, usually swarming with people, were empty. The silence was striking. It felt like 9/11. We walked home empty-handed.

At first, only essential workers rode the subway and buses. New York became a city without New Yorkers. We complied with all the rules. Schools and offices shut. Everyone stayed home. Encouraged to shop for groceries every two weeks, we waited in long lines, six feet apart, wearing masks. Ambulances raced through neighbourhoods. On television, we saw refrigerated trucks, waiting for dead bodies, lined up behind hospitals. Daily life was cancelled and we watched Governor Cuomo on TV like clockwork. He was our leader and truth-teller and felt like family. The numbers were grim. NYC was hit hardest. I knew people who died and many others who lost jobs. Some shops and restaurants would never return.

Five months later, some stores are opening, but few shoppers come. I start to move round more, ride the free, nightly, sanitized buses, watch restaurants move outdoors, decked in fairy lights. You can have your hair cut on a park bench, sit out on a rooftop, see guarded installations under Brooklyn Bridge. The city is opening back up, but there is no guarantee it will bounce back. New Yorkers are resilient and creative, but so is the virus. We're waiting for a second wave to a backdrop of rising crime, hurricanes and wildfires. Everything is not all right. We proceed with caution."

What our two different places had in common was the initial strange quietness and the fear and the horror. Both communities applauded the emergency services. Then we adapted, learnt to live again, albeit simply, and appreciated each other more.

But of the two places, I prefer Dersingham.□



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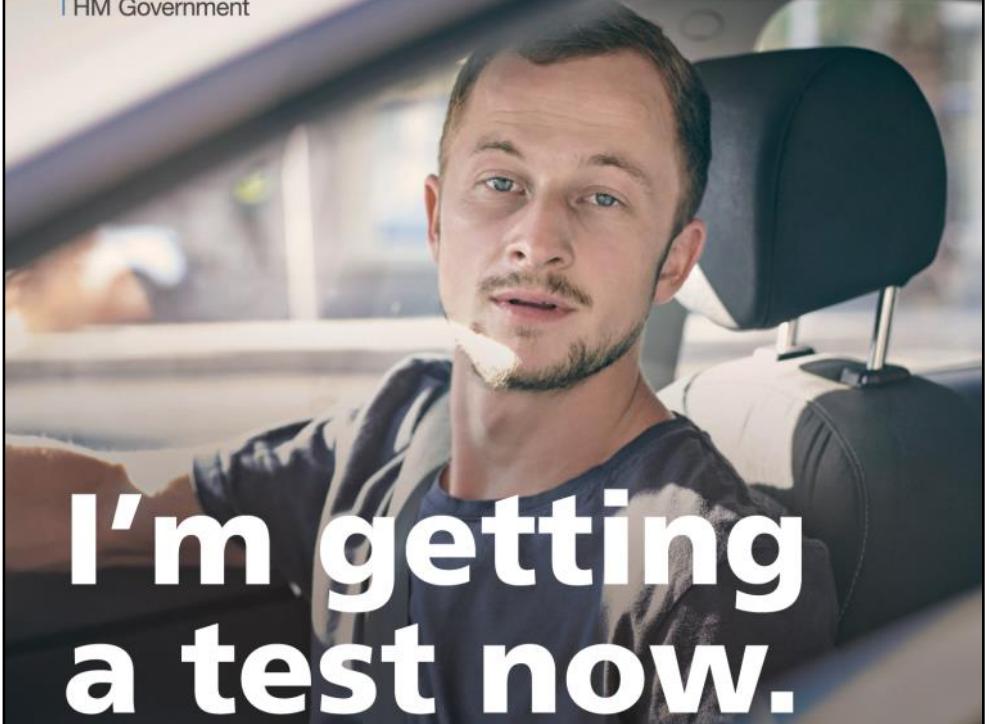
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## Dersingham United Charities and The Village Inheritance

In Issue 123 (April 2020) of the Village Voice, Dersingham United Charities wrote an article based on the ecological and conservation aspects of the Commons and Fen. However, that article didn't cover the more social concerns of the Charity itself, which we hope to rectify here.

### Origins

The earliest donations to help the poor were given and distributed via the Church; later it was often via professions' Guilds. By the early 1700s the parish administrators were tasked with supporting the poor, sometimes in workhouses, but more often within the community. In Dersingham, records show frequent gifts of money and land were being donated by the 1600s for the benefit of the poorest parishioners. In 1607 John Kydd left 6s 8d to the twenty poorest in the village; in his will of 1689 Jeffrey Bummer left three acres of land - the rents from which were to be used for the poorest in Dersingham. Elizabeth Pell left £100 in her will of August 1732 (worth £22,750 today), which was used to purchase land, generating £5 pa rent in 1836. Nicholas Grounds bequeathed half an acre, Mr Godfrey eight acres, yeoman John Chamberlain's will dated 1737 gifted 20s, and Margaret Hodgson's will c1743 gifted £5pa (which lapsed in 1789). There are numerous examples of generous gifts to Dersingham's poor.

With the Enclosures of the late 1770s the villagers lost traditionally used land but were legally given other plots in lieu, including the two Commons, the Fen, the allotments on Station Road and Sandringham Road (today used for grazing), the recreation ground etc. The rents and charges on these plots were used to benefit the poorest locals, often purchasing bread and clothing for them. As late as 1900 one hundred and fifty cottagers received 3 cwt of coal each.

The most recent gifts to the village were a small sum of money donated specifically for the Orchard Close residents in a will of 2002, and a small section of land, given by Norfolk County Council, extending the Fen beyond Sandpit Cottage to the newly built A149 bypass.

For ease of administration these individual gifts to benefit the villagers, spanning over 400 years, were amalgamated into one charitable trust.

### Today

Dersingham United Charities, a registered charity (no. 208523), owns approximately 100 acres of land across ten plots around Dersingham, which are variously used for agriculture, horticulture, grazing and free-to-use recreation. It is run by nine volunteer trustees who use the income earned from rents, shooting rights and other sources to fund projects in Dersingham that will benefit the sick, disabled, elderly, isolated, those suffering hardship or students on practical apprenticeships, as well as to manage and maintain the land itself. In recent years the Charity has made various donations to the Dersingham Day Centre for the elderly, Tapping House Hospice, the Scouts and Guides, Phobbies Club and the Orchard Close residents.

The Fen, and the two Commons spanning Heath Road, comprise the largest area managed by the Charity. These are registered commons allowing commoners' rights (more correctly Rights of Common) where the residents of the village may collect fire wood, pea sticks and bedding for animals. Obviously this is no longer carried out to any great extent and the areas are largely used by dog walkers and children playing. We all have the right to access common land, and this is now legislated for in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, but that access is legally limited and comes with a very

long list of prohibitions - including lighting fires, camping, grazing, vehicle access, bringing an animal other than a dog (on a 2m lead), trading, removing/damaging plants/trees, disturbing wildlife, littering .... it even specifically prohibits metal detecting, hang-gliding and paragliding! Mostly we need good common sense, excuse the pun!

## For the Future

One thing that recent events have shown is that these public areas, and the rights and privileges that attach to them, are still highly valued by the people of Dersingham. They are there to be used equally by all, but also have to be managed and looked after in order to honour the generous bequeathments we have inherited. This is not just the responsibility of the trustees alone, but of us all. If you would like to be more involved you can help in two ways, administratively or actively:-

The Charity currently has a trustee vacancy to fill. This position will be for a five year term and will be appointed by the Trustees. You must be a competent person over 18 years old, be resident in Dersingham parish, and you must not hold any interest in property belonging to the Charity. A background in land management would be a bonus but is certainly not necessary – just some time, commitment and interest.

Alternatively, without lasting commitment, you can join us and the Gaywood Conservation Group of volunteers to cut and burn the rhododendron on the Closed Common. The dates for this are the 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October, at 10.00am. It will not be suitable for dogs and young children, and is obviously dependent on the weather and Covid restrictions. You can do as much, or as little, as you like but is undertaken at your own risk. We expect to arrange some further dates for this work later in the year.

If you are interested in either of the above then please contact Alex Coombs, the charity's clerk, at [ducclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ducclerk@gmail.com). □

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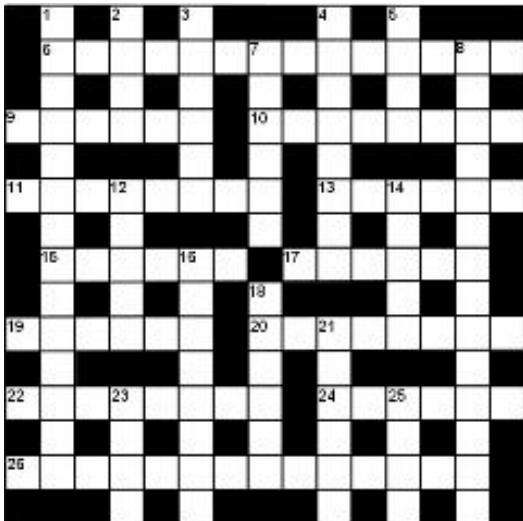
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# PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword by  
Philip Neal

## Across

- 6 Try plane and train travel on earth or space voyage (14)
- 9 Time ebbing away (3,3)
- 10 Check out underground lab. equipment (4,4)
- 11 He has taste at these English dances (8)
- 13 Initially substitute silver for bronze and turn nine into starters (6)
- 15 Student gave up Latin to become a collector (6)
- 17 Happened to attend Morning Service In church (6)
- 19 Ground suites structure (6)
- 20 Simulated rumblings heard on stage – talking or stalking? (8)
- 22 Drunk dries out in bed catering for flyers (8)
- 24 British Rail initially overcome by small retreating wave bands (6)
- 26 Does he often say somehow between Monday and Sunday? (3,2,5,4)



## Sudoku

Answers on page 73

- 1 Crude timid deletion I included in restricted notification (7,7)
- 2 Prod bats hanging upside down (4)
- 3 Tremble at the sound of church bell within (6)
- 4 Useless North American feeling uncomfortably blue (8)
- 5 Son left hat as it was (4)
- 7 Landlord who lodged in chalet terrace got the message (6)
- 8 Busy birders are not born inside singer (5,9)
- 12 Navy takes on volunteers in mountain pools (5)
- 14 In the middle of August Gardner produces tropical fruit (5)
- 16 Heel somehow caught around duct in this hole (8)
- 18 Newly married entertains good game (6)
- 21 Doctor Rustle's overcoat (6)
- 23 Vessel dead heated on the water at the beginning (4)
- 25 Youngster found hiding in cobra tank (4)

	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>					<b>4</b>		
				<b>5</b>			<b>8</b>	
		<b>4</b>			<b>3</b>			
<b>9</b>							<b>2</b>	
<b>7</b>				<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>			
				<b>4</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>			<b>5</b>					
<b>2</b>				<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	

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### Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 73

JACK	GOODMAN	BREEZE	STANDARD
TYPHOON	BEDSIDE	ZEPHYR	BALL
ELLINGTON	CATHERINE Z	CONNIEF	HURRICANE
INIGO	SAFETY	QUINCY	GALE

Autumn is upon us and like so many others, it's my favourite season of the year. Leaves on the trees in the woodland area of our reserve will soon change colour and begin to fall, the cooler weather will descend and we will probably be tempted to stay indoors a lot more. However, if you visit Dersingham Bog NNR over the coming weeks, you'll be sure to see an array of colourful fungi. The main mushroom season in the UK is autumn, from September to November, and over 14,000 species can be found, some of which can be seen on our reserve. A striking, commonly found fungus, often remembered from our childhood fairy tale illustrations, is the Fly Agaric. This bright, scarlet coloured fungi is covered in what are actually white warts, which make it very distinctive. Associated with birch trees at the end of summer to late autumn, you'll be sure to see this one on the reserve at this time of year - just don't forget to take your cameras!



Lockdown measures have been eased, which has enabled staff at the reserve to carry out essential health and safety tasks, 'social distancing' of course. This has included checking our infrastructure across the site in order to keep our paths, walkways, gates and barriers in a good state of repair. In addition to this, the team has been working hard completing tree safety checks after recent gales had caused some windblown trees and branches to cause obstructions. It's been a difficult few months and although we are certainly not back to what we know as 'normal', I'm delighted to be welcoming back our team of dedicated volunteers who are a massive help when it comes to managing our reserve. Over the next couple of months they'll be busy helping us to remove unwanted scrub on the heath, and do essential work on the long pond.

There are some interesting bird sightings to report: a Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) was spotted on the reserve a few months ago. This sparrow-sized bird is often seen on the ground feeding on ants. A number of crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) have been spotted flying over regularly, a migrant Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) passed through, and to top it all off an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) passed over last week. This magnificent bird of prey has a wingspan of more than 1.5m.

We hope you are able to visit the reserve over the coming weeks, and just as a reminder, please always keep your dog on a lead as we have livestock on site. □



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## Guiding returns to Dersingham - Outdoors

Lynne Wheeler

Since March, Girlguiding has also been in lockdown, but we have found ways to keep Guiding alive during the past weeks and months. The members of the 1st Dersingham Rainbows, 2nd Dersingham Brownies and 1st Dersingham Guides have been receiving many different badges and activities to complete at home - some of these badges were: Drawing, Painting, Fixing, Helper, Let's Get Brekkie Ready, and the Woolly Sheep Challenge. There will be a lot of sewing on of badges when we are meeting properly again!

The Brownies and Guides have sadly not been able to enjoy their annual holiday and camp, but they have taken part in a virtual camp where they had to sleep "somewhere other than their own bed." The girls rose to this challenge, sleeping in different rooms inside the house, tents in the garden, dens indoors and even the caravan on the driveway.



All the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides had the opportunity to join in with the Girlguiding Anglia Midsummer Challenge at the end of June, which involved camping and midsummer themed challenges.

During the summer, as lockdown has been lifting, Girlguiding has given us permission to meet with our girls again (in small groups) and outdoors. Therefore, across a week at the end of the summer holidays, we arranged multiple meetings to enable all the girls from the 1st Dersingham Rainbows, 2nd Dersingham Brownies and 1st Dersingham Guides to come to an outdoor Guiding meeting. It was wonderful to see the girls again and to give them the opportunity to share all the badge work they had completed, to play games and to enjoy being either a Rainbow, Brownie or Guide again. It also gave us a chance to present badges that we were unable to give out due to lockdown, but had been earned during March. The girls also all received a commemorative VE day badge.

We are hoping that in the next few weeks, Girlguiding will give us permission to meet indoors again and the girls can enjoy Guiding with their friends again. If your daughter would like to be a Rainbow, Brownie or Guide please visit [girlguiding.org.uk](http://girlguiding.org.uk) and click "Join us." □

### Grass mowing in Centre Vale

Thank you to everyone who cuts their grass verges on the Centre Vale estate. Special thanks must go to the two gentlemen who are keeping the two larger areas mown. It has enhanced the area and has encouraged dog owners to be responsible.

Sue Eastmore

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## Crossword Answers

### Across

6 Interplanetary. 9 Big Ben. 10 Test tube. 11 Aesthete. 13 Begins. 15 Earner.

17 Became. 19 Tissue. 20 Rhubarbs. 22

Birdseed. 24 Sabres. 26 One of these days.

### Sudoku Answers

### Down

1 Limited edition. 2 Stab. 3 Cringe.

4 Unusable. 5 Stet. 7 Letter.

8 Robin Redbreast. 12 Tarns.

14 Guava. 16 Eleventh. 18 Bridge. 21 Ulster.

23 Dhow. 25 Brat.

## Word Wall Answers

**Lamps:** standard, hurricane, safety, bedside

**Jones:** Inigo, Quincy, Catherine Z., Jack

**Band leaders:** Ellington (Duke), Goodman

(Benny), Conniff (Ray), Ball (Kenny)

**Winds:** breeze, gale, typhoon, zephyr

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

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

Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
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
No 129 (April/May 21)	Monday 8th March 2021	Monday 29th March 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 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 for four or more editions, paid up-front. These prices include VAT. Full details and booking forms can be obtained from the Parish Office or email: 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** 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  
83 Manor Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6LN  
Tel 01485 541465**

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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## DERSINGHAM VILLAGE SCREEN

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on

September 29th at 7:30pm

### FINDING YOUR FEET (12)

When Lady Sandra discovers that her husband of thirty-five years is having an affair with her best friend, she seeks refuge in London with her estranged older sister.

Sandra is a fish out of water next to Bif, her outspoken, serial-dating, free-spirited sibling who lives on an inner-city council estate.



Doors open at 6:30pm

Entry £5; Under 16s £3

(Includes tea/coffee/squash)

Licensed Bar also available

COVID 19 restrictions apply within the Centre and numbers are limited.

Book your seat by calling 01485 540644.

Dersingham Village Screen is managed by  
Dersingham Village Centre Association, Charity No 1178462.  
Supported by Creative Arts East  
[www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](http://www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk)  
Tel: 01485 543195



DERSINGHAM  
VILLAGE CENTRE

## DERSINGHAM VILLAGE SCREEN

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on

November 24th at 7:30pm

### THE KEEPER (15)

A look at how a German POW and a young English woman overcame prejudice, personal tragedy and public hostility as World War II came to an end.



Doors open at 6:30pm

Entry £5; Under 16s £3

(Includes tea/coffee/squash)

Licensed Bar available

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DERSINGHAM  
VILLAGE CENTRE

## DERSINGHAM VILLAGE SCREEN

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on

October 27th at 7:30pm

### JUDY (12A)

Thirty years after starring in "The Wizard of Oz," beloved actress and singer Judy Garland arrives in London to perform sold-out shows at the Talk of the Town nightclub.

While there, she reminisces with friends and fans and begins a whirlwind romance with musician Mickey Deans, her soon-to-be fifth husband.



Doors open at 6:30pm

Entry £5; Under 16s £3

(Includes tea/coffee/squash)

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DERSINGHAM  
VILLAGE CENTRE

## Coffee Shop

at

Dersingham Village Centre

Tuesdays & Thursdays

10am to 12noon

Call in for a cuppa

Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate.  
Cold drinks also available

Cakes & biscuits, and a friendly welcome too!

Dersingham Village Centre Association

Registered Charity No 1178462

[www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](http://www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk)

Tel: 01485 543195



DERSINGHAM  
VILLAGE CENTRE



DERSINGHAM  
VILLAGE CENTRE

# DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CINEMA

## at Dersingham Village Centre

### Sept to Nov 2020

7:30pm Tuesday Sept 29th

**FINDING YOUR FEET (cert 12)**

7:30pm Tuesday Oct 27th

**JUDY (cert 12A)**

7:30pm Tuesday Nov 24th

**THE KEEPER (cert 15)**

**Entry: £5 - includes tea/coffee/squash**

**Under 16s: £3 (Entry subject to film classification)**

**Licensed Bar available**

**COVID 19 restrictions apply within the Centre, and numbers are limited. Call 01485 540644 to book.**

Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by  
Dersingham Village Centre Association, Charity No 1178462.  
[www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](http://www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk)  
T: 01485 543195

Supported by Creative Arts East.

