

Number 131

August/September 2021

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



Open Gardens 4th & 5th September



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Editor's Notes Jo Halpin Jones



Thank you to Stephen Martyn for his delightful painting for our front cover. Despite the very changeable weather we are experiencing at present, we can now enjoy the beach if we can dodge the showers or make a run for the beach hut if you have access to one. We are so lucky to have so much coast all around us. I don't know why I don't visit it more often, as when I do, it lifts the spirits enormously.

We have a packed edition this time: details are emerging of organisations abandoning Zoom and actually meeting face to face; the churches are gradually opening up again; postponed events are finally taking place, such as the St Nicholas Church abseil (how do you fancy a rapid descent from the tower?); and other activities are already back in action, such as the walking group, tennis and bowls. Some events have had to be postponed until later in the year, but you can find details within the magazine. And we have introduced a new feature – a general knowledge quiz.

A major village event at the beginning of September is Dersingham Open Gardens. One of the benefits of various lockdowns has been the extra time people have spent giving attention to their borders and bushes, their ponds and pergolas. I know I have cleared out nooks and crannies that haven't seen the light of day nor the touch of a spade or secateurs for many a year. There's a good selection of gardens opening up, some golden oldies that have become firm favourites, but also a crop of new entries to delight you. The event takes place over two days, so there's time to get round them all!! Half a dozen artists are opening up their studios as well as their gardens, so you can catch up with their latest artwork. See Jane Justice's article for more details about the whole event, and do come and support it.

Sadly we shan't be receiving more articles from Dick Melton as he has decided to retire because of some health issues. How we have enjoyed his tales of life in this area over past decades. We wish him all the best.

There is, however, a welcome return for Elizabeth Fiddick, who tells the story of Joshua Freeman, a nineteenth century "gentleman farmer" of Dersingham, and she also paints a picture of life in the village at that time. We can also enjoy Part Two of Brian Anderson's fascinating story of code breaking machines during WWII.

Natural England keep us up to date with what is happening on Dersingham Bog at this time of year; the RSPB report a major revamp up at their Titchwell reserve; Sandringham let us know the latest developments on the Estate; and as usual we hear the latest news from our Parish Council, Borough Councillors and from Dersingham Village Centre.

We hope you enjoy this summer edition of Village Voice. Do let us know if there is anything else you would like us to include – or what we have too much of!! We always welcome your comments. Just drop us a line at villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk or send a letter to the Parish Office in the Village Centre.

Many of the articles in this edition were written before the Prime Minister announced in early July that all COVID-19 restrictions would be lifted on July 19th. By the time you receive your copy of Village Voice in late July you will find that many local organisations will not have the restrictions outlined in these articles. There will be no legal requirement for safeguards, but individuals may still like to take their own precautions, particularly when they go anywhere crowded.□



Dear Village Voice



Sea Eagles

I read with particular interest an article in a recent copy of the Village Voice about the proposed re-introduction of the Sea Eagle into the local area and was very surprised to

learn that in a survey that took place in Hunstanton involving 500 respondents, a majority were against the idea.

Personally, I would be delighted to see the return of this magnificent bird, hunted as it was almost to extinction in the 19th century and feel disappointed that so many are against the bird's return.

As humans we do rather take the view that we have 'the right' to decide the fate of other living creatures. I'm unsure where that 'right' came from, but it shows an arrogance and disdain not becoming of a supposedly intelligent species.

The Sea Eagle was roaming the skies well before any of us were born and I'm sure it must have believed it had 'the right' to live and breathe and hunt wherever it chose, especially along our country's coastline. But clearly humans had a different idea and thus their very sad demise.

We now have a chance to right that significant wrong and I for one welcome the opportunity to do so. If the Ken Hill Estate are behind the introduction, then they certainly have my support.

Ronald Westrup

Dew Pond?

Re the photo from Phil Nelson on page nine of the last edition of Village Voice, and his enquiry as to what it is.

I believe it to be a dew pond, used to collect dew, rainfall or perhaps even topped up with water by Estate keepers or workers to supply water for birds or general wildlife during dry spells of weather. Lined with shells set into the liner, I guess not only for decoration but also to aid smaller animals to get a grip to get out if the water was too deep for them. I seem to recollect from about sixty years ago there was/is a similar one at Wolferton, on the outskirts of the village.

I hope this is of some help and interest, and if anybody knows of a different purpose for these items I would be interested to hear. Of course the other possibility is that these were swimming pools built by the Littleuns (as mentioned by your learned contributor Mr Dick Melton) as they made their way from Dersingham via Wolferton to pastures new. Just a thought.

Many thanks for such a brilliant magazine.

Richard Larrington

The Disappeared Hitchemburg

There is a booklet for sale in Sandringham House and in a chapter for West Newton there is a reference to the above. From tour guides to historians nobody can identify with the phrase.

If any of your readers can provide an answer I would be most obliged.

Colin Toule

Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd



By the time you read this, hopefully there will have been a lifting of the restrictions placed on our lives for the last fifteen months. However, we should not forget that we are still in the midst of a pandemic. This is defined as a global epidemic and whilst we are managing it in this country, we should not forget that many other countries are not as far forward as we are in their vaccination programmes. We still need to continue to think about the impact of our actions on others and I will still want to wear a mask in crowded indoor spaces to help protect those around me.

As you may have noticed, work is continuing apace on the skatepark and it should be open for use by early August. Many thanks to the workmen who have quietly gone about construction, causing as little disruption as possible. I hope the park will be enjoyed by many. Keep your eyes open for posters about the official opening.

The Parish Council has returned to face to face meetings as we are no longer legally able to meet virtually. Zoom has enabled us to continue to meet, despite restrictions, and it has now become a way of life for many. I will admit to being old enough to remember the first live international broadcast in 1967, what a different world! The Parish Council had not met together in the same place for fifteen months and it was good to see everyone again, even if it was behind masks. A reminder that our meetings are open to the public, so if you would like to come and see what we do, the dates, times and venues of meetings, together with agendas, are published on our website. If you are interested in making a difference and would like to become a Parish Councillor, we still have vacancies. Please speak to myself or our clerk.

We are currently working with the County Council to have a trod built at the southern end of the village to give access to the Common from Lynn Road. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the term trod (I didn't know what it meant until I joined the Parish Council), it is a low-cost footpath using unbound material instead of asphalt, but still fit for purpose. It is a cheaper option for upgrading a muddy track or grass verge. We do not have a date for construction but it should be built by the end of March 2022.

On the financial side, we continue to support the Sports Ground, the maintenance of St Nicholas churchyard and the Heacham and District car scheme with annual grants. We also have a small pot of money available for other grants. So, if your charity or group need a little help please let us know. Last year we gave grants to the Youth Football team and Dersingham United Charities, in both cases for much needed safety signage.

Finally, I have been asked to remind everyone about the defibrillators around the village. There are three that are available 24/7 – at the Dersingham Social Club in Lynn Road, at the library and at the Spar shop. If you make a 999 call and it is decided that you need to use a defibrillator, the ambulance service will direct you to the nearest one and give instructions on how to access it and more importantly, how to use it. They are all regularly maintained and can be life savers. There are several other defibrillators in the village but they are inside buildings and can only be accessed when the buildings are open. □





News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

We were disappointed, but not too surprised, that the Government left most COVID restrictions in place until July 19th. Like everyone, we had been preparing to restart activities, only to postpone several times. We are now looking forward to operating without the restrictions that have been in place for so many months. However, we do ask that users and visitors carry on practising good hygiene and be considerate of others.

Friendship Lunches & Coffee Shops will resume on August 3rd & 5th respectively, Tea Dances on September 24th, and Village Cinema on September 28th with *The Keeper*. Dates are yet to be confirmed for Sunday Socials and Village Voice Live.

Save the Dates:

- ** Open Gardens on Saturday & Sunday, September 4th & 5th
- ** The Tennis Club Disco is re-arranged for Friday, October 1st
- ** The annual Ceilidh & Barn Dance is on Saturday, October 30th
- ** The Christmas Fair will be held on Sunday November 21st

With a date for a Jazz Supper to be confirmed, and Tapping House re-scheduling their 50s & 60s night (date to be confirmed), we have some great events to look forward to!

And we are now able to take card payments at our activities and events.

The Association's Annual General Meeting will have taken place on Tuesday July 13th, and there will be a report in the next issue of Village Voice.

The Benjamin Foundation launched the new club for children aged 8-11 years with a taster session on Wednesday July 1st. Sessions will be every Wednesday from 4:30pm to 6pm, in term time. We are confident that the club will be very well run with many varied activities.

Village Centre Lottery winners for June were 34, 39 & 28. July's draw will take place too late for the results to be reported here and will be announced in the next issue. The Lottery costs just £5 per month and the proceeds are used to support our activities.

Trustees are reviewing room hire rates and other fees. We have held all our charges at the same level since the Centre opened in October 2018, but our costs have all risen in the last three years. Any increases will be kept as low as possible. Village Cinema will re-open in September with a ticket price of £6.

Keep updated on events and activities at the Centre by checking our notice boards, or visit our website www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk and sign up for the regular newsletters. We also have a Facebook Page and post announcements on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group. □

Contacting Dersingham Village Centre

Just to remind everyone that if you need to telephone the Village Centre the number to use is 01485 543195. This number is manned by volunteers, when possible, but you may have to leave a message.

Important: Our old mobile phone number (07707 732295) is no longer in use and we will not receive any calls or messages made to it. Please don't ring it!

The easiest way to contact the Centre is by email and you can use either bookings@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk or contact@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk but please remember that these addresses are also monitored by volunteers so you may not receive an immediate response. Thanks!

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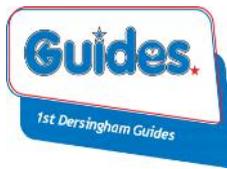
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The 1st Dersingham Guides celebrate ninety-one years of Guides in Dersingham

Elizabeth Wheeler

June 25th 2021 was a very special date for the 1st Dersingham Guides as it was exactly ninety-one years since the unit was founded. The celebration was even more special as June 25th was a Friday, so the Guides were able to celebrate on the actual day!

To celebrate this very special birthday, the Guides travelled back in time to June 25th 1930 to complete a series of challenges that the original Dersingham Guides in 1930 would have needed to accomplish. The Guides carried out activities for their Tenderfoot



Test - early Guides needed to complete this Test before they could become Second Class Guides and earn Interest Badges. The Guides therefore needed to master three different knots, learn the make-up of the Union flag, find out facts about the nations within the United Kingdom, learn the Guide Promise

and memorise the ten Guide Laws. Every Guide was given a card to tick off the completed activities, just like their 1930s counterparts would have done. Luckily, all the Guides passed their Tenderfoot Test and were presented with the badge.

In Norfolk, Girlguiding Norfolk is very lucky to have its own Archive Resource Centre full of historically important items connected with Girlguiding, and when it opened in 2016 it was the first purpose-built Girlguiding archive in the UK. Our thanks to them for recreating the Tenderfoot Test for modern-day Guides to enjoy.

A birthday celebration would not be complete without a cake and candles, so the Guides sang Happy Birthday to themselves before enjoying a slice of well-deserved birthday cake.

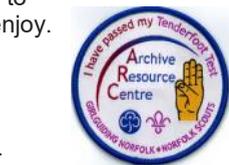
As well as celebrating the start of our Unit, we welcomed one of our newest members, as April made her promise during the evening. We also presented four of the Guides with their Guide Bronze Award - the Guides need to



complete two Theme Awards, and each Theme Award requires the Guides to earn an Interest Badge, a Skills Builder Badge and complete a certain number of minutes of specific unit activities. These awards are hard to earn, so congratulations to Charlotte, Fallon, Jasmina and Gracie (from left to right in the photo).

Happy 91st Birthday to the 1st Dersingham Guides!

In some of the images, masks were quickly removed so the photos could be taken before being reapplied □



A welcome for new member, April

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Dersingham Methodist Church Elizabeth Batstone

Sunday 23rd May was a great occasion as we opened the church doors for morning worship, some five months after we had to close them. Following the Covid guidelines means we have to limit the number present and also to remember to sanitise our hands and wear our masks, but we all enjoyed seeing each other and being in church again. Services have continued during June and July.



We were hoping that from mid-June we no longer needed to restrict the numbers and like many others were disappointed that this was not possible. However, hopefully we will be all together from the beginning of August.

The Jigsaw Club will have started again on 22nd July, 9.30 am to 10.30 am and will continue monthly on the third Thursday. Rene and Carol have been very busy sorting out the jigsaw cupboard and making much needed room for the many new jigsaws they have been given. If you like doing jigsaws, do pop in; the club joining fee is 50p per year and 10p per jigsaw borrowed. For further information ring Rene Hayward on 541035.

As restrictions lift and we feel more comfortable about mixing, we hope to restart our activities; watch out for future Village Voice articles and posters.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors. For further information please contact me on 01485 541068 or stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com. □

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The Norfolk Hospice celebrates record-breaking tulip fundraiser

Thanks to the generosity of the general public an astonishing £21,525 has been raised in aid of The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House from Norfolk Tulips (Belmont Nurseries) and The Ffolkes' Tulips for Tapping event.

The Ffolkes and tulip grower Mark Eves worked with The Norfolk Hospice to open the twenty-one acre tulip field in Hillington to the public. The event, which was held from 28th April to 9th May, sold over 5,000 tickets and tulip enthusiasts travelled from as far as Cornwall and Newcastle to visit. The event garnered national interest after it featured on television programmes such as ITV Anglia News and This Morning.

The money raised will all go straight to the Hospice to support the care services they provide free of charge to local families. The total is a record-breaking amount raised from any event supporting The Norfolk Hospice and over fifty volunteers gave their time to ensure that the event was a success.

Mark Eves, tulip grower and a director at Belmont Nurseries by PS & JE Ward Ltd, said, "We are blown away by the amount of money raised and the number of people who attended. We are pleased to have been able to support the work of The Norfolk Hospice, as even within the circle of people that we know it's amazing to see how many lives that have been touched and benefited from their care and continued support."

Lindsey Atkin, Community & Corporate Fundraising Manager at The Norfolk Hospice, said, "It's been an absolute pleasure to work with The Ffolkes and Mark for this special event and we are so thankful to them, our amazing volunteers and everyone who supported the event and helped us raise such a fantastic sum of money, it will make a big difference after such a challenging year."□



Dick Melton bows out



For nearly twenty years "our boy Dick" has been entertaining us with his recollections and anecdotes from throughout his life, and with his research into local history; he has also posed questions about what is going on around the village right up to present times. Because of problems with his eyesight he has now been forced to give up writing these absorbing pieces for us. He has certainly given us an insight into how life used to be over many decades.

We should like to thank Dick for all the hard work that must have gone into researching all his contributions. We wish him well and hope that things improve for him.□

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Dersingham Walking Group Tony Bubb



Our walks have resumed and how good it is to get out with the group again. Not a very large group yet but I hope our forthcoming routes will tempt more folk.



We started with a walk I led around Wolferton and the bog, with an interesting wander along the “forbidden” track that was the railway line, possible as we had a Natural England volunteer with us who had a key to the “gate we may not use.” We were surprised to see how much growth has occurred on the cliff where we used to see the sand martins nesting and now we can’t. The picture shows just how flat Norfolk isn’t. We later met the cows who were sheltering in the shade by one of the ponds, before gaining the high ground to return to our start point, passing WWI practice trenches and the disused water supply for the village.

Walk number two, on 23rd June, started from the Peddars Way near Anmer Minque, where a small but beautifully formed group of us met, led by Steve Martyn and Margaret Mann. The circuit was one that has been done a few times over the years, but we reversed it to make it a little more varied. We walked into the woodland that

fringes the road and after a few minutes emerged onto the Houghton farmland, with a family of Jacob’s sheep eyeing us suspiciously, and many large pigs, with their young piglets cavorting in the sunshine. Passing the pigs at a respectful distance we continued on a track which led us to West Lodge. Here we had to walk along lanes, as the woodland paths nearer to Houghton Hall are unfortunately closed to the public. However, after perhaps a mile of lanes we were back on field edge paths which took us to the Peddars Way and our return to the start point. A very pleasant amble in warm sunshine taking about one hour and fifty minutes.

Wednesday July 28th 2.00pm

A tour of Sandringham woods and arboretum. Approximately four miles. Meet at the village sign grid reference TF 685297. Leader Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

Wednesday August 11th 2.00pm

A foray into Roydon Common exploring its wonders and with a chance to greet the ponies. Approximately five miles. Start at the car park TF 681229. Leader Alan Coleby 01485 543481.

Wednesday August 25th 6.30pm

An evening walk around the Snettishem RSPB reserve. The tide should be coming in and the birds will be getting ready for the night so there should be plenty to see. About three and a half miles. Start at the RSPB car park TF 652329. There is a parking ticket machine but I have never found it working. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday September 8th 2.00pm

A tour of Syderstone and the surrounding countryside. Meet at Syderstone Church. Five miles. Start point TF 832326. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday September 22nd 2.00pm

A circular walk via Roydon. Four and a half miles. Meet at the big layby on the A148 opposite the turning to Sandringham. Start point TF 711253. 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.

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.

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 □

Ingoldisthorpe Village WI **Lesley Geer, President**

As I write it seems that we lie in wait, and just as we think we are almost there the target moves further away. Our plan was to be back up and running by July, but the last update regarding the proposed Covid lifting date made that unachievable, so we now set our sights on August.

I personally have done the Zooming part, participating in the Norfolk Federation and National Annual Meeting, and now hope we can focus on our first members' gathering, a Tea and Chat afternoon planned for mid-August.

From there we will go back to our normal programme with our first community event, our annual Harvest Lunch, planned for Saturday 25th September. Posters will go up locally to advertise this, with entry by ticket only, so keep a look out.

Since the onset of Covid restrictions our members have continued to keep in touch, if not face to face, then by email, telephone and our regular monthly newsletter; showing care, concern and friendship, which is what WI is all about.

We look forward to seeing you, our community friends, very soon as we carefully return to normal activities. □



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Dersingham Tennis Club Judy Collingham

We continue to attract new members, which is encouraging, though we are always eager to welcome fresh blood.

Our competitive League programme has begun, with mixed success, but we have enthusiastic teams and mostly we are happy just to be back on court.



Our Disco Supper which was due to be held on 3rd July has had to be cancelled, but never fear! It is rescheduled for 1st October, with DJ Stephen Hayter spinning the decks to bring us music from our favourite decades. Dress up in 70s gear for a bit of fun or just come as you are. You can pre-book a table for your group or mix in with others; or be as socially distanced as you feel comfortable with. Fingers crossed we will be allowed to go ahead.

Find more information, book a court or just see what we are about through our website:
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/dersinghamtc> □



Sandringham Parish News Tony Bubb, Parish Council Chairman

As you can see on the heading, following the AGM I am now Chairman of this Parish Council with Simon Hickling continuing as the Vice Chair. I have had the pleasure of attending this Council as one of your Borough Councillors, so I am familiar with its activities. However, I see myself purely in a caretaker role and will happily hand over to an actual Sandringham resident should one come forward – I qualify by living within three miles of the parish. We have vacancies on the Council and at our next meeting we have a couple of candidates to consider, but we could always do with a few more, particularly ladies.

I would like to thank Ben Colson, Martin Cove and Karl Dennis for the time they have given to the parish.

Meeting dates for the next year are as follows:-

Wednesday 8th September 2021, Wednesday 10th November 2021

Wednesday 12th January 2022, Wednesday 9th March 2022, Wednesday 11th May 2022

All at 6.30pm – venues to be announced.

But these pieces are not only about the meetings of the Parish Council, they also should have other news of the Parish activities, past and future, so please send them to me for inclusion.

Contact me at: frostytrees@btinternet.com □



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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron

It seems we are getting there, albeit slowly. Restrictions were relaxed somewhat in May, which meant we could dispense with the booking system for our Saturday Roll-ups, as we can now accommodate up to forty-eight players. The Committee decided that as a club we would restrict players to thirty, as we could not safely have more. Spectators can also come along in restricted numbers.

We are managing to serve refreshments, and members are being very patient with the social distancing measures we have in place. It was disappointing that restrictions could not be lifted in June, but we do see the wisdom in this. Fingers crossed for 19th July!

Should this happen, plans are afoot for holding the Memorial get together with old and new members, to celebrate the life of our dear late friend, Dickie. We hope that this event will be held on Sunday, August 8th, when, along with Dickie's son Richard and his wife Sharon, we can remember the happy times when Dickie was with us. We hope to have a short bowling session, followed by a buffet, where Richard and Sharon can exchange fond memories of their Dad. We are praying for the lockdown to be lifted by then, and for good weather on the day.



We would like to welcome our new club members, both those new to bowls, and the more experienced. They are fitting in well and seem to be enjoying themselves. The more experienced ones have already become involved in our club activities, which is great.

We managed to start the Wednesday afternoon's Dickie Murrell Memorial League, and it is proving to be very enjoyable and competitive. The four knockout competitions are well under way, and most matches are being played in a timely manner. After a slow start, the two external leagues we have entered have begun, with mixed results.

Due to the shortened league season, there is no promotion this year, but it's great to be able to compete with our old rivals again. We have also had many very favourable comments on our green, which is a great boost, and is down to some very hard work and commitment by our green team. I cannot emphasise enough how grateful we are to them for their time and dedication.

In the last article I hoped that we would be able to hold our presentation lunch in October. After talks with our venue, we have decided that it would not be practical to go ahead this year, and as a result, awards will be presented on the finals day for our Knockout competitions, on Sunday, September 12th.

By the publication date, we hope to have fewer restrictions specifically for our bowling, and in our lives in general. We realise that Covid will not go away any time soon, but hopefully we can return to a more normal way of life. Meanwhile, stay safe everyone. □

Dersingham Gardening Tips (from Florida!!!)

Jane Jestice

When we had a major family trauma a few years back we adopted a daily mantra to help us with the uncertainty of each day - "make no plans". This stood us in good stead then and has helped me through these continually shifting days!

I am feeling very lucky right now as I am writing this from Florida. Life here is totally back to normal, which is wonderful, but also strange and a bit unnerving. We have a house here on a gated community with a small garden of our own around the house. Apart from this garden area the landscape is managed, so the lawns are mown and the trees and shrubs kept trimmed and communal flower beds planted out.



The garden round our house, however, is ours to do as we wish. I am frequently amazed that ANYTHING manages to grow at all here, let alone with the speed and lushness that it does. The flower beds are mulched annually but under them is a very shallow layer of soil and then just rocks, most of which seem to be chalk. We do have a sprinkler system, but especially through the summer the sun is searingly hot, broken by torrential storms. As long as the plant has the right light conditions the only issue seems to be cutting it back to stop the whole garden going wild!

At the moment we have monarch butterfly caterpillars in our garden. I planted milkweed, which is the only food the caterpillars eat, to encourage them. The migration of the monarchs is one of the big mysteries in the natural world. They return to the same overwintering sites in autumn, usually to the same tree every year, with a round trip of thousands of miles, even though the returning butterfly is the great-great-grandchild of the one that left the previous spring.



Back in Dersingham please think about helping out hedgehogs in your gardens. The population is in severe decline and they need our help. Some simple things to do are making sure there is a hole in your fence to allow them to roam freely, put out a bowl of fresh water daily, at dusk put out a bowl of meaty pet food or even buy some hedgehog food. Check bonfires before lighting, and compost heaps before forking - favourite places for hedgehogs.

Make sure you have Dersingham Open Gardens dates in your diary, 4th September and 5th September. □

Hunstanton

u3a

We would confirm to all Dersingham members that as usual we will not be holding an August meeting. The good news is that we are planning a welcome back live celebration for our September meeting on Monday 20th September at 2.00 pm at Hunstanton Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton. We shall be entertained by **Chanter's Jigge** - a Norfolk folk duo playing traditional music on ancient and modern instruments. It would be helpful if you could let us know if you will be able to join us for catering purposes: catering.u3ah@gmail.com

Our website www.u3asites.org.uk/hunstanton details contacts and how to join the group. □



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Adrian Flux Lap of Anglia Cycling Event

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August 18th - 21st

A group of cyclists are about to face a demanding challenge in order to raise funds for the East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA). This will be the ninth year that this event has taken place, and since the first Lap in 2013, an amazing £133,827 has been raised. They will be cycling over 435 miles in just four days, covering about 100 miles a day. It is not, however, a race. The cyclists will travel in small groups, with rest spots along the way, and then stay overnight in Holiday Inns for a well-earned rest.

The starting point is the helipad at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The riders head east along the road to Gayton until the turn off for Pott Row. They then travel up past Congham, do a jink across the A148 and continue to West Newton, where they sweep west around the Sandringham Estate arriving at the Visitor Centre. As they leave, they do not come into the main part of Dersingham: they skirt round past the Sawmill and St George's School and leave the village by exiting up Shernborne Road. Let's go and cheer them on!!



The route for the rest of the first day winds around inland from the north coast, finally arriving in Norwich for the night. For the following three days the cyclists continue to Ipswich and Luton, then make the return leg to King's Lynn on Saturday August 21st. This route covers most of the area served by the EAAA in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. A map of the full route can be found here: <https://www.lapofanglia.co.uk/route>.

Since EAAA's launch in 2000 they have attended over 24,000 lifesaving missions, touching the lives of many thousands of people. Their crew comprises specialist prehospital doctors and critical-care paramedics, operating out of two high-tech helicopters from 07:00 until 19:00 from a Norwich base and from 07:00 until 01:30 from a Cambridge base. They were the first air ambulance in the country to attend helicopter emergency medical incidents in the hours of darkness to unknown and unlit locations.

EAAA receives no regular government funding and completely relies on the community it serves to keep them flying and saving lives across East Anglia. If you wish to make a donation, go to <https://www.eaaa.org.uk/support-us/make-a-donation>.

Lap of Anglia "Extreme" August 20th - 21st

As if 400 miles plus in four days was not enough, a new event is being introduced this year, starting two days after the main Lap. More experienced cyclists will cover the same route in two days! □



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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

As the summer term draws to a close and the children dream of staycations with their family and friends, they are pulling out all the stops to complete their topics and catch up on lockdown learning.

'Once upon a time' has been the overarching theme in the Early Years. The children have been fortunate enough to meet Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Little Red Riding Hood. The children thoroughly enjoyed acting out the stories in the role play cottage. They made get well soon cards for Grandma, painted forests and baked fairy cakes to cheer Grandma up. Goldilocks has her very own hair salon set up in the classroom, which is doing a roaring trade after (Goldi) lockdown!



Nursery: Hair salon



Reception: Fossil hunting

Reception have been busy palaeontologists, excavating the school grounds and discovering dinosaur fossils, including skulls, a claw and a tooth. The children developed their own laboratory and brought their finds back into the classroom for further analysis, where they measured, weighed and investigated their cache of bones more closely.

Year 1s have been overrun (or is it overrum?) with pirates! They have been busy investigating Captain Cook's adventures around the world, searching for buried treasure using metal detectors and practising sea shanties. They learned about Black Beard and his motley crew and life aboard a pirate ship.



Year 1: Pirates



Year 1: Eat them to defeat them

Year 2 received a challenge to investigate the rubbish washed up along the shoreline. They are keen to establish which items are most harmful to the environment and take the longest to degrade. They have set up an experiment, making their own saline



Year 2: Science

solution, to see what happens to different materials when they are bashed around in the salty waves. The Rock Pool Project visited the class virtually, with a live event exploring rock pools off the south coast, where biologists explained the different habitats and creatures that live there. It is hoped the school can engage in a Mini-Bioblitz citizen science project over the summer.

Year 3 have been delving into the plant and animal kingdoms, investigating how to care for pansies and growing sunflowers, which stimulated some beautiful artwork. Sea creatures have been the main focus, running alongside the fabulous class book *Oliver and the Seawigs*. The children have set up their own animal habitat experiment in Forest Schools, creating mini-beast hotels to see which ones the little critters prefer! The children also had the opportunity to visit the amazing new play park at Sandringham and try out the new equipment.



Year 3: Sandringham play park

The Victorians topic for Year 4 has introduced the class to a fascinating period in British history. Learning about different inventions of the times and the impact they have had on lives today, has led to opportunities of exploring electricity, creating circuits and investigating conductors and insulators of electricity. The Victorian craftsmanship of William Morris is being united with the modern age, by combining print work in the style of Banksy and carving lino prints. All the children's work has been inspired by the incredible class text, *I was a rat* by Philip Pullman - an ordinary boy in the Victorian era, with 'ratty habits'. It was a source of inspiration for creative writing and leading to the children's very own mini courtroom drama!

The whole school has embraced the 'Eat them to Defeat them' campaign. Each week there is a new vegetable challenge. Parents have cooked recipes from zombie peppers, to sweetcorn fritters and tomato faces! The children have been chopping, tasting and making a variety of art and DT vegetable-based creations to promote healthy eating. Year 1 has been particularly prolific, producing a plethora of beautiful 'vegi' artefacts.

Mrs Bower has been working hard with Year 5s, training up young leaders who will play a pivotal role in September, setting up activities for the younger year groups at playtime and co-ordinating activities to unite the school.



Year 5: Making corn fritters

Year 6 have been preparing for their move to high school. They have been completing transition work set by Smithdon High School on creation myths. Also, the children are preparing end of year activities, including a play called *Wow. What a Year it's Been*, which focuses upon the trials and tribulations of life during a global pandemic.



Year 5: Young leaders

As the school slowly comes out of hibernation, it is hoped that Year 5 and Year 6 children can spread their wings and exercise their sporting prowess by taking part in Kwick Cricket at North Runcton, rounders at West Norfolk Rugby Club and Quad Kids Athletics at Lynnsport. As the end of term approaches, the school plans to have all the children back on one site, a reunion that is longed for by everyone! Hopefully the summer will make way for a September full of hope and the promise of a return to normal teaching and learning within the classroom. □



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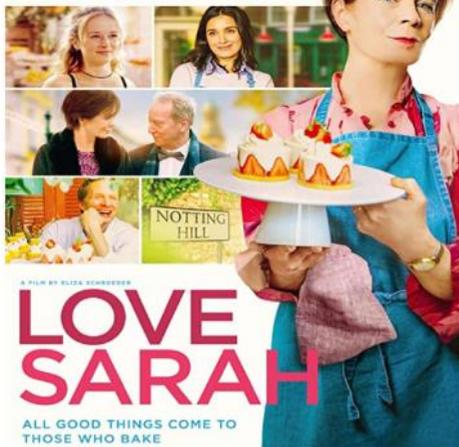
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Sandringham News

The gardeners have been busy with every kind of weather in the last couple of months, which has kept the lawns and weeds growing, and in addition the late spring delayed planting out of the bedding by almost two weeks.



We have also been busy propagating a special range of plants which we feel represent aspects of Sandringham, including myrtle plants originating from Queen Victoria's wedding bouquet. The special range will go on sale shortly in the Sandringham shop plant area. In the Royal Parkland a special Queen Bee flower mix sown in June has finally had some rain and will hopefully start a succession of colour and food for the birds and the bees.

Afternoon tea is now being served in the Sandringham restaurant, using produce from the wider estate, and the terrace café will remain takeaway for the remainder of this year. Season ticket holders will welcome the news that they now do not need to pre-book gardens tickets for a visit. They may arrive at the garden entrance on any open day, at any time, and just show their valid pass (unless bringing a guest or visiting the House).

As we head into the summer months we look forward to welcoming back some of our larger events such as the Food, Craft and Wood Festival, outdoor theatre and two special concerts over the bank holiday weekend. □





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Funding boost for threatened wildlife

Located near Hunstanton, RSPB Titchwell Marsh is home to some of the UK's most threatened wetland wildlife, including bitterns and avocets. Thanks to funding received from LIFE on The Edge (www.projectlote.life), an exciting project will be delivered at this diverse nature reserve this autumn to improve their fortunes. The project aims to transform the freshwater habitats that these scarce birds are reliant upon and to enable visitors to be closer to nature.



Avocet with chick

Home to the iconic avocet and acting as an important service station for migrating waders, the freshwater marsh at RSPB Titchwell Marsh will face a transformation. Using an amphibious excavator, the single freshwater marsh compartment will be split into three, with new water control structures installed. This will allow the freshwater marsh to be managed on a constant rotational basis ensuring a plentiful supply of food for breeding avocets, migrating waders and wintering wildfowl. In addition, a series of new nesting islands will be created to improve the breeding success of avocets and common terns, but could also attract new breeding birds for the reserve, including sandwich terns and ringed plovers.

The second part of the project will be aimed at restoring the freshwater reedbed. The reedbed at RSPB Titchwell Marsh was integral in ensuring the bittern didn't become extinct in the UK when its population dropped to just 11 booming males in the 1990s. However, despite the overall conservation success of this species in the UK, with more than 200 booming males today, RSPB Titchwell Marsh has not recorded a breeding pair for ten years.

This project will restore the freshwater reedbed by repairing eroded banks, recreating a network of ditches and ponds, and installing new water control structures. The restoration

work will improve the habitat to not just benefit bitterns but enhance the wetland for other species such as bearded tits, water voles, eels and a variety of invertebrates.

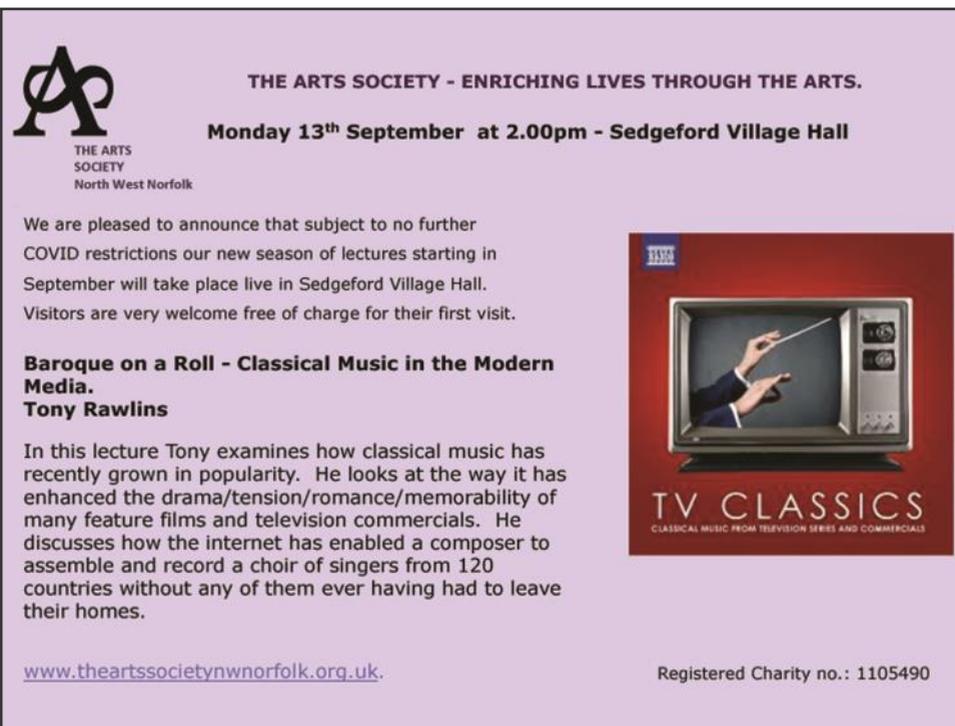
An exciting element of the reedbed restoration will be one of the first of its kind in the UK: to create 'spoonbill islands' for the small but growing breeding population of spoonbills in the UK, and on the Norfolk coast.

Spoonbills were once a common sight in East Anglia, featuring in medieval banquets. But as the Fenlands were drained, these distinctive birds lost their home and became a desirable species for egg collectors and hunters, resulting in them becoming extinct in 1668. As the Dutch population rapidly grew, in 1999 the first pair for 300 years bred in the UK, but it took a further 11 years for a colony to form at Holkham National Nature Reserve in Norfolk. They have since become a regular sight on the Norfolk coast, including at Titchwell Marsh.

This exciting project will commence in August 2021 on the freshwater marsh. After four weeks it is anticipated the work will move into the freshwater reedbed with the project being completed by the end of October, in readiness for the arrival of the wintering wildfowl.

Throughout the project the reserve will remain fully open for visitors to explore our trail network. Some of the birdlife will move elsewhere during the works, however they will quickly return and hopefully in greater numbers and more diverse than before. Visitors can keep up to date with the project by visiting our website <https://community.rspb.org.uk/placestovisit/titchwellmarsh>

For further information, please contact: Lizzie Bruce, North West Norfolk Reserves Warden, lizzie.bruce@rspb.org.uk □




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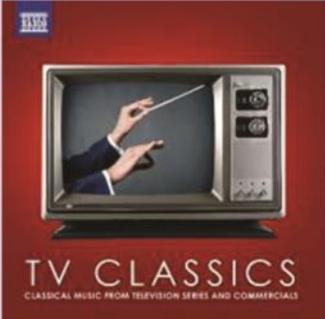
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Letter to Village Voice re Queen Elizabeth Hospital from Gordon Taylor

You are probably well aware, from coverage in the media particularly, about the current situation with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn. The building, opened in 1980, with an expectant life of thirty years, is still providing surgical and medical care for people in this area more than forty years later.

The only problem is that the building is in poor condition structurally, particularly the roof, which is in a serious condition and needs replacing. Earlier this year, seriously ill patients in the intensive care unit had to be evacuated at short notice and taken to other parts of the hospital due to concerns that the room was in danger of collapse. I work in the hospital, and have first-hand experience of the situation. Currently, parts of the roof are being held up by over 200 props.

To replace the roof, and bring the hospital up to scratch from a safety point of view, is estimated to need somewhere in the region of £500 million. Alternatively, to build a new hospital would require around £700 million. Unfortunately, up to this point, all attempts to secure funding for either option have been unsuccessful. Currently, a full inspection of the roof is ongoing, with around 50% of it having taken place so far. Urgent repairs are being done when this is deemed necessary, and is being paid for by emergency capital funding.

The reason I am writing this letter is as follows: currently there is both a campaign taking place to raise awareness of the seriousness of the situation, as well as an EDP petition which people are being asked to sign. The government is due to announce funding plans for new hospitals in September, but there is no guarantee that King's Lynn and Norfolk will be successful. It would be great if you would be prepared to help support the campaign in whatever way you can. The links can be found at the end of this letter.

Save the QEH campaign

Email: kingslynnanddistricttradesouncil@hotmail.co.uk for information

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Write to your local MP: James Wild (North West Norfolk), Duncan Baker (North Norfolk), George Freeman (Mid Norfolk), at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Gordon Taylor, 2 Kenwood Road, Heacham PE31 7DD

Where are you now?

We understand that quite a few of our readers have moved away from the village, but continue to receive Village Voice by various routes. We'd love to hear where you are now, what you are doing, and perhaps entertain us with some memories of your time in Dersingham.

Please contact us at villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk or write to us at Dersingham Parish Council Office, 83 Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LN.

We look forward to hearing from you.□



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Gardening with Disabilities May Davey

Our Club is back in action!

We had twenty-eight people at our first meeting on May 21st at Dersingham Village Centre. We sat at tables for six and served teas at the table. Marianne Charles gave us an interesting talk on geraniums. It was so good to see so many members again.

On June 18th we had Our Own Flower Show. Members chose their favourites and the Best in Show went to Doreen Hammond again for a vase of three poppies. Thank you to all those who took part. Their flowers made a lovely display.



Marianne Charles talking about Geraniums



Doreen Hammond, Best in Show, and May Davey

Before the voting on the flowers, we had a brief Annual General Meeting. The Committee was confirmed for another year: May Davey - Chairman; Gloria Pantling - Secretary; Susan Neil - Programme Secretary and Publicity; and Christopher Davey - Treasurer. The entrance fee will be £3.00 in future, but there will be no subscriptions until 2022. May asked people to join the Committee because we had three resignations during lockdown and the load is falling heavily on the shoulders of these four remaining committee members. They had cooked scones, which we had with Chris's strawberry jam and clotted cream. It was a happy occasion and there was a nice crowd there.



Members judging exhibits.



Members enjoying tea in June

On July 16th Allan Livingstone gave an illustrated talk on butterflies. (The Daveys were on a thrice-postponed trip to Iceland.)

On August 20th we are visiting Marianne Charles' lovely garden at Holme-next-the-Sea. Members will use their own transport, but lifts will be available. Contact Gloria (01553-671912) or May (01485-544953) for more details.

On Friday September 17th Sue Neil has arranged a coach trip to Fullers Mill in West Stowe, Bury St Edmunds. Members will pay £18.00 and non-members £20.00. This outing is being heavily subsidised by the Club because coach hire has gone up so much. It will be our first outing since 2019! There are lovely gardens and an excellent tea is promised. We would love friends to join us to help pay for the coach. Please contact Gloria if you would like to come. The coach holds fifty-four people, so there will be plenty of room!

New members are always welcome at our meetings at 2.00pm on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, unless we are on an outing. The next one at DVC will be on October 15th. Do come and see if you like us.□



**Royal Air Force Bircham Newton Heritage Centre
OPEN DAYS 2021 - Open 10am to 4pm**

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Sunday, 26th September

Sunday, 31st October

Sunday 14th November (Remembrance Sunday)

Opening times are from 10am to 4pm

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Breaking Fish - Part Two

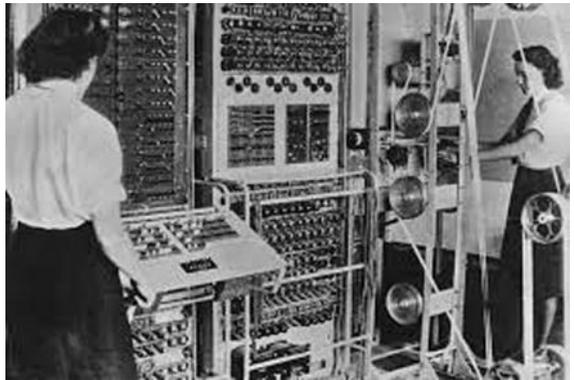
Brian Anderson

In Part One I described in outline the "Fish" Lorenz machine and the techniques used by the Ultra team at Bletchley Park to decipher messages encrypted by it. Despite Ultra's successes in breaking the cipher by hand, this method was far too slow. Mechanisation was required. There were two parts to this task.

The first was to obtain the wheel settings of the machine. This attempt at mechanising was with a machine called Heath Robinson (after the creator of impossible machines popular in the 1930s), later shortened to Robinson. Robinson was designed to work by comparing a paper tape of the encrypted message with a tape of possible solutions. The machine was installed at Bletchley Park in May 1943. Robinson was required to run the tapes at 2000 characters per second. In fact it couldn't even reach 1000 characters per second. The sprocket holes used to drive the tapes became elongated and the tapes lost synchronisation, rendering the process useless. Sometimes the tapes tore apart completely. Ultra then turned to the Post Office Research Laboratories at Dollis Hill for a technical solution. A talented engineer called Tommy Flowers was dispatched to Bletchley to see if he could fix Robinson. After a very short period of testing and investigation, Flowers decided Robinson would never work.



Tommy Flowers



Colossus

He came up with a new and very novel design named Colossus. It dispensed with the idea of moving the tape using the sprocket holes; instead, he proposed running the tape over smooth, carefully tensioned pulleys. He also proposed having just one tape - that containing the encrypted message or pair of messages. The tape with the possible wheel-setting solutions would be stored as electronic data within Colossus using thermionic valves (note for younger readers: valves were the active electronic precursors to transistors). Lastly, using a photocell, the sprocket holes would be used to generate a clock pulse to keep everything synchronised. As far as I am aware, this was the first time a clock pulse had been used.

Bletchley Park were sceptical about the use of valves, regarding them as unreliable and refused to fund the project. Flowers knew better - if you didn't move the equipment about, if you soldered the valves in their sockets, turned them up to full power slowly and then *never turned them off*, valves were reliable. So he got the Post Office Laboratories to fund the work. And Colossus worked!

While Tommy Flowers was beavering away at Dollis Hill, Ultra was continuing to decipher Fish messages using the old technique. When Rommel was finally defeated in North Africa, the Allies contemplated the best location for an attack on southern Europe. The favoured option was an invasion of Sicily. Unfortunately, the Germans had reached the same conclusion and had reinforced the island. If an Allied invasion was to succeed, the German High Command had to be persuaded that the invasion would occur elsewhere, using Sicily for a feint attack. An ingenious and macabre plan called Operation Mincemeat was launched which sought to fool the Germans into thinking that the landing would be in Sardinia or possibly the Greek Archipelago. (The story of Mincemeat deserves an article of its own). The Allies soon knew that the Germans had swallowed the deception - Ultra had broken the Italian C38 cipher and the *Abwehr* (German Secret Intelligence Service) Enigma was being read. Also, Fish decrypts showed that strategic decisions were being made to move army and naval forces to both Greece and Sardinia. Further Enigma decrypts showed the tactical implementation of those decisions. The invasion of Sicily (Operation Husky) was launched on 10 July 1943. It succeeded and Italy had surrendered by early September. Husky is the first occasion I can find where Enigma and Fish played complementary roles in supporting Allied operations.

Meanwhile, back at Bletchley Park, Colossus was ready and was delivered from Dollis Hill in December 1943. It passed all the tests set by Ultra. It contained 1500 valves and could read the tape at 5000 characters per second - the tape was running over the pulleys at 30mph! It must not be supposed that all that the Ultra team had to do was turn Colossus on and out would pop the plaintext. The code breakers still had to provide data and guesses for it to work on. There were a number of techniques used. One of these (covered in Part One) was the analysis of different messages sent with the same wheel settings. Another was cribs, where frequently used phrases were used to open messages. Examples are "*Heil Hitler*" and "*Nieder mit den Engländer*" - down with the English. Partial breaks could be useful - one code breaker recovered *flug* and deduced (correctly) *flugzeug* - aircraft. Statistical techniques like frequency analysis were used. When enough data was ready, Colossus was programmed and run to produce options for wheel-breaking. It was essential the encrypted tape was accurate. The intercept station at Knockholt had two receivers for the Fish signals. Each produced an undulator tape. Each tape was interpreted by two ATS operators. Two teleprinter tapes were produced and their data on them sent to Bletchley Park on two separate dedicated phone lines. Two more tapes were produced and these had to agree with an error rate of less than one character per thousand.

Moving to the second task and the second machine - Tunny. Tunny was an exact mathematical emulation of the Lorenz machine. If Colossus provided the right wheel settings, Tunny produced the German plaintext. Together, Colossus and Tunny were able to decrypt Fish messages much more quickly. With D-Day looming, Ultra now demanded an even faster machine. Tommy Flowers started work on Colossus II in March 1944 and was told it had to be ready by June. It contained 2500 valves and ran twice as fast as Colossus I.

Together, Colossus and Enigma were able to follow every German move as Operation Overlord was being planned. In a way it resembled Operation Husky - the Allies favoured Normandy where the Germans also expected a landing. So, another deception operation was needed. It was clear that the ruse of Operation Mincemeat could not be used again, so a different approach was adopted. A completely fictitious United States First Army was created: a vast number of dummy tanks and landing craft was placed in East Anglia and dummy radio traffic transmission made from there. The object of this was to convince the Germans that the Allied landing would be at the Pas de Calais. To reinforce the deception, "German agents" supplied reports that an attack across the shortest Channel crossing was being planned and that a feint attack would be made on

Normandy . None of these agents existed - the reports were all transmitted by "Garbo", a Spanish agent recruited by Germany but working for Britain. You may remember Chris Boxall talking about this at Village Voice Live as part of his presentation on Overlord.

Ultra was put to work to see if the Germans had taken the bait. Ultra deciphered a Fish message involving von Rundstedt (Commander in Western Europe) showing the deception worked. It further revealed that *Panzerarmee* commander General Guderian had reported an inspection in Normandy, giving the details of the fortifications, unit locations and strengths. A decrypt by the Americans showed that a Japanese general had also visited Normandy and reported in detail to Tokyo via radio link. There was enough to launch Overlord with confidence. So successful was the deception that the Germans still believed Normandy was a feint attack until the middle of July, nearly six weeks after D-Day.

However, the success of Overlord led to the Allies becoming overconfident with disastrous consequences.

Firstly, at Arnhem in September 1944: Operation Market Garden involved an airborne assault on a bridge over the Rhine. Allied commanders ignored warning signs from Ultra that there were German forces concentrated in the area. Two-thirds of the attacking force were killed or captured. The bridge was not taken.

Secondly, the Ardennes Offensive in December 1944: despite clear warnings from Ultra and with evidence of *Luftwaffe* reconnaissance activity (using their most modern aircraft, the Arado Ar234 jet bomber), the Allied commanders assumed that the *Wehrmacht* was a spent force. The Germans were allowed to concentrate their forces unhindered at the least-well-defended Allied sector. On 16 December they attacked, achieving almost total surprise. Their advance was not halted until 25 January 1945. Most Allied casualties were American, of whom 19,000 were killed.

But the end of the war was now in sight and after its conclusion, Alan Turing and Tommy Flowers visited Germany and saw the Lorenz machine for the first time. The Germans assured them that it was unbreakable. Tommy Flowers suppressed a strong desire to give Alan Turing a wink.

I wish to thank David Kenyon of the Bletchley Park Trust for help and advice. □

Dersingham Day Centre **Jan Holt**

At Dersingham Day Centre we are hoping to start our meetings again at the Village Centre on Wednesday 1st September. We are all keeping our fingers firmly crossed!

It will be so good to unpack the Scrabble set, cards, dominoes and knitting wool, to catch up on all the gossip, and of course for members to enjoy the delicious lunches provided by Carol and Avril.

We are really looking forward to seeing everyone again and of course to welcome new members.

If you would like to know more about joining Dersingham Day Centre, then please contact Ann Saunders on 01485 542885 or Hilary Judd on 01485 543204 or 07887 486739.

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Dersingham Open Gardens



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Dersingham Open Gardens 2021

Jane Jestice

Since Open Gardens 2020 life has continued to be a roller coaster of restrictions and emotions. During this time more and more people, young and old, have appreciated the calming effect gardening brings. It is not only about the plants, it also connects us to nature in a wider sense, and gives us a chance to encourage insects and animals into our gardens. Sharing our different garden successes was one way of keeping in touch with my children, and my grandchildren, who have all loved to report what they have been doing or seen in their gardens. One of my greatest pleasures is just to walk around my garden each day and see the changes from the day before.

A garden can take so many forms: half an acre of beautifully manicured lawns and beds, to a few pots on a patio, and everything in between. Chelsea Flower Show and Hampton Court Flower Show offer the most spectacular and jaw-dropping array of gardens and plants, but I wonder how many of us have fallen in love with a plant there, bought it, only to find



it doesn't survive in our garden. The joy of being able to visit gardens in your local area is that whatever you see growing is more than likely to grow in your garden too. The owners of the gardens will probably have had some of the gardening problems that you have had and be able to offer advice or solutions. On top of that, we have the chance to enjoy some of the best kept secrets of the village hidden behind walls, hedges and fences.

This year we are following the success of last year and opening our gardens on Saturday 4th September and Sunday 5th September from 11-5 each day. We have many old favourites open and some new gardens to explore. Tickets will be on sale for £4 in advance at Dersingham Post Office and £5 on the day at the Village Centre. There will be refreshments on sale at the Village Centre from 10.30 on both days. All proceeds from the event will be divided between St Nicholas Church and the Village Centre.

"Together Again" is the theme of the floral display that will be showing in St Nicholas Church during the weekend, and one we all embrace. They will be depicting what we have missed over the last year and is a must to visit.

There will also be some of our local artists opening up their studios alongside their gardens.

Make sure you put this weekend on your calendar and come and see some of the wonders of Dersingham!□

Dersingham Bog News

Tom Parkes, Natural England

NATURAL
ENGLAND

Summer has finally set in here at Dersingham Bog, despite the recent, but welcome, rains over the past weeks. It's these times that the normally green to brown habitats become more appealing, with plants flowering across the reserve. Hints of pink and purple are appearing in patches across the heaths, as the bell heather and cross-leaved heath begin to flower, foreshadowing the spectacle to come when the ling heather flowers, colouring the heaths in stunning carpets of pink.

The heaths are not the only area here to gain some vibrancy in the summer months. Lower down the slopes within the bog and mire, cotton grass seed heads appear as white tufts dotted around the reserve, while even lower still sundews add splashes of red to the mossy floor. But most prominent of all in these areas is, of course, bog asphodel. Reaching high above the sphagnum moss where they grow, bog asphodel, appearing as spikes of yellow star-shaped flowers, can be seen standing out amongst the greens of the mire. These flowers act as important food sources for pollinating insects found in these habitats.



Bog asphodel

In the non-plant world, Dersingham Bog is just as busy. Stonechats will be moving onto their second brood of young, having successfully reared the first brood earlier in the summer and spring. They can be seen perching on twigs and branches hunting insects for their growing young. Nightjars are nesting in the heaths, waiting until the evening when they will hunt for food and display with their iconic churring call. Evenings at this time of year are particularly special, when the light begins to fade into night, female glow-worms will climb onto protruding vegetation and use bioluminescence to light up their abdomens, hoping to attract a male. For these reasons it's particularly important at this time of year to keep any dogs on a lead and to stick to the paths.



Vegetation clearance

Taking advantage of all this activity, the staff here work hard to survey as many of these species as possible. Breeding birds, bees, butterflies, moths, dragonflies and more are all surveyed, some as often as weekly, to ensure we are able to record all the species present and thus best direct the habitat management we undertake in their favour. Another important task in the summer for our staff is the cutting and removal of vegetation at set plots in the mire. These plots were previously cleared of *Molinia* grass tussocks and reseeded with sphagnum mosses. They were created to allow the mosses and related species like sundews to thrive without being crowded out and becoming out-competed by the grasses. Any grass or other vegetation in these plots is cut yearly and removed, keeping the areas wet and nutrient poor. □



Dersingham Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



A “now you see it, now you don’t” sort of summer isn’t it? Well, though our weather may be a challenge, our Borough Council has challenges of its own, though many are of a positive sort.

Let’s talk about the Town’s Fund, which the Town Deal Board has secured for King’s Lynn. The upfront sum is £25 million, but to secure that a good case has to be made for each project and the need to demonstrate community involvement is paramount. So if you have a view on what would constitute a real advantage to the lifeblood of Lynn, don’t hesitate to get in touch. (Judy’s email is cllr.judith.collingham@west-norfolk.gov.uk, as she chairs the Regeneration & Development Panel). Your views will be channeled to the Town Board. We are also looking at ways of making things better for our wildlife, with new ideas being discussed to be set at the planning stages of development.

Our Covid vaccination figures in this Borough are up there with the best and of course increasing all the time. Don’t forget, especially those who are in the age group below forty, that there are walk-in vaccination centres. Complete details concerning vaccinations in Norfolk can be found at <https://norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination-programme>.

If you click on [HERE](#) on that site you find where there are the walk-in/no appointment centres in Norfolk. At the time of going to press, locally these were at the Corn Exchange on the weekends, but this may change.

Anecdotally, the walk-in centres are not overwhelmed, so please utilize them! The site also informs us that if you are forty-plus you can now get a second dose after eight weeks instead of twelve. You can get this either by re-booking online or going to a walk-in centre.

A slight delay in the provision of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which are appropriate for the younger age groups, has occurred, but this should occasion only a temporary delay. But check the above website as the situation is constantly changing.

Meanwhile, we are taking tentative steps to reopen activities in our Village Centre and across the Ward. More details on such events can be found in Village Voice. We hope you feel able and confident to support them.

With best wishes for a happy, healthy summer. □

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Abseiling the Church Tower!

Mark Capron

Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne

Yes, the sponsored church tower abseil has been re-arranged for the third time, now to Saturday 2nd October. I am not particularly great with heights, but I am still looking forward to doing the abseil. I do know that stepping over the edge of the tower is the hardest part for me. I hope to be able to enjoy the wonderful views as I come down to earth (gently!).

The sense of achieving this abseil will be immense! Why not join me?! We ask for a minimum of £50 sponsorship, more would be great, to aid the improvement of facilities for visitors to the church. If you would like to do the abseil, please contact Pauline Martin in the first instance as there is a limit on places available: 01485 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk for more information.



This promises to be a wonderful occasion, where participants can do something impressive and memorable whilst raising money to improve the disabled toilets and kitchen facilities in St Nicholas Church. During the day there will be lots of tasty refreshments to sample, whilst you can enjoy watching the brave and courageous abseilers descend the tower with your feet firmly on the ground!

The abseil will be overseen and organised by a former Royal Marine and now mountaineer instructor called Chris. When I go over the edge of the tower, I will place my trust in him. Jesus encouraged Peter to put his trust in him by walking on the water towards him. Peter had a bit of a wobble and started to doubt, but Jesus held out his hand and guided him. No doubt there will be a number of abseilers who will be nervous, that is natural, but with guidance and encouragement from Chris and his team, along with other abseilers, it will be a great support.

In the Bible, after Peter walked on water, there was a realisation for many when they said of Jesus in Matthew 14:33, 'Truly you are the Son of God'. For some abseilers the realisation could be that fears can be overcome and through it achieving something remarkable and local here. I look forward to welcoming you to the abseil day and sharing in something very special.

Live Stream Worship

Thanks to a great team behind the scenes, we have been able to offer services in church buildings since April, and at the time of writing they are on Sundays: 9:30am Contemporary Worship in the Dersingham Village Centre and the 11am Traditional Worship in different church buildings. Both styles of worship are weekly and you would be very welcome to come along to either or both. Please check details and book in for the track and trace system 01485 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk.

The small technical team working behind the scenes has now enabled the weekly live streaming of the Sunday 11am Traditional Services, utilising the new camera system. It is still a steep learning curve, utilising the technology, but the impact it is having for people in our villages and beyond is really encouraging. Why not join in yourself - access details are below. I hear of many people who are still not able to get to church, but really appreciate feeling a sense of connection in being able to join in the services from home.

www.dersinghamonlineworship.com www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

YouTube Channel: 'Dersingham Online Worship'



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Dersingham Evening WI Katrina Mundy

We have now held three Zoom evening meets, with May and June having invited speakers. At April's Zoom meet all were welcomed to our 59th birthday meet by Stephanie, our President. Pre-Covid, we would have been having a party in St Cecelia's, but we still managed to raise a glass/coffee cup, although many missed the slice of cake we would normally have had, but that will have to wait until, hopefully, July. It is thinking hats on now for ideas of how to celebrate our 60th birthday next year.

We had a game of bingo followed by a "scavenger name" hunt, with members collecting from around their homes articles beginning with all the letters of their Christian names. Some of us with longer names decided to shorten them for the night (I went from Katrina to Kat - much easier). Members were quite inventive with some of the objects, with one member spelling her name in dance movements (no guesses needed for who that was), and another member using her husband who was dressed in the items.



In May we had John Vigar's talk "Banquets, Bedrooms and Balls", which was a fun look at the development of the country house from its medieval hall house to the mid-20th century, with slides from some of the lovely old houses we have in this country. We learnt, among other things, about the "lady friend" of the Prince Regent who looked after the giraffe he had been given as a gift, and how on the Prince's death she had to pack up and took the skeleton of the giraffe with her. John also pointed out how over the centuries you portrayed your wealth, and to prove you were not "new rich" you displayed old masters or portraits of your many ancestors on the walls. It appears that through this century we have seesawed from formality to informality in our great homes, especially when it comes to entertaining and meal times. Many thanks go to John for this highly interesting talk.

In June we held our (hopefully) last Zoom meeting, with guest speaker Shirley Webb (a colour consultant), whose talk was "Building Confidence through Style". After a late start, due to the vagaries of technology, Shirley finally managed to connect to us and begin. Seventeen members enjoyed a talk about colour palettes - who knew there were forty-eight different colours to suit everyone, depending on hair and eye colour and skin tone. Many of us agreed that we did indeed have a full wardrobe of clothes, but perhaps only really wore up to 50% of them (which, when I told my husband, he said rather smugly, "I've told you that before"). We felt that most of us were guilty of buying an outfit because it looked good on someone else, but when we got it home realised it was a big mistake and it remained at the back of the closet.

We all have those difficult areas of our bodies that we wish we could change, but we learnt how best to disguise them with style of clothes and colour, and of course the all-important accessories.

We are going to invite Shirley back to talk to us in 2022 when we can have the benefit of having her in person, plus samples to try.

On Friday 23 April, fifteen members met for a walk round the village in aid of ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World). The weather was lovely and we set off in three groups at timed intervals and walking different routes so that we could keep socially distanced. Wendy had very kindly provided Lyn and I (who were acting as leaders for the day) with guides and a map to the various points of historical interest around the village. These were so interesting that my group was late arriving for their coffee stop at Petals, which meant that we had to leave when another group arrived later. Many thanks to Petals for coping with groups of ladies all giving separate orders.



We have held coffee mornings in April, May and June, using four or five hosts, thus allowing small groups of five members to meet, first outdoors and then in the host's home when Covid restrictions allowed. Many thanks to all the ladies that hosted these - all those that attended enjoyed the events. It was lovely to meet up with members we hadn't seen for quite some time.

In June we are still able to have our lunch outing to the Rose and Crown, which I am sure the ladies will enjoy.

Our MAD group is restarting on 17 June, so the knitting needles will once more be clicking (not that they haven't been during lockdown) but now the ladies can meet together and chat at the same time.

Our July evening meet is on 21 July, just two days after (everything crossed) Covid restrictions will have been finally lifted. This will be a social evening with cake and drink; a time for us all to sit in the same room and chat together – this hasn't happened since March 2020. So, if you are passing St Cecilia's that evening, the noise you hear will be Dersingham Evening WI (just in case you were wondering).

We are also hoping to restart our walking group near the end of July, with Babs leading us in a walk from the Common through The Drove, Sandringham and of course down to Petals Tea Room for coffee and cake.

We have a summer event planned for our August meet and hope to have an Autumn Fair in October, so watch this space for more details.

This has been a long and at times very stressful time for all of us, but hopefully the end is in sight, and although we may not get back to things in quite the same way as before this happened, we will get back.

If you would like to know more about the WI, please phone Lyn – 01485 541257 or Stephanie 01485 542146□

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It's early days as we start carefully to come out of lockdown, but a couple of our prayer meetings have started up again. The Rosary group meet on Mondays at 2pm at St Cecilia's in Dersingham and the Mothers' Prayer group meet every second Monday at 2.30pm at Our Lady's in Hunstanton.

For Parish news, including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the Parish News page on our website; for information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters, including coronavirus updates, see the Links page of our website at www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.

People are advised not to go to Mass if they have any symptoms, however mild. Please remember to wear a mask when coming to church, keep your distance and use the hand sanitiser provided.

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, but there is still 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 a few changes to the way Mass will be celebrated and people should be guided by the stewards. Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org. Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org.

The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675. If you require a Priest urgently please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email parishpriest763@gmail.com.

Hunstanton Community Choir **Pamela Austin, Hon. Secretary**



The Hunstanton Community Choir, like every other choir, has had a quiet fifteen months, without rehearsals. However, the committee members, most of whom were newly appointed in October 2019, fairly quickly began to anticipate a very quiet year ahead in 2020. Nevertheless, they faced several challenges requiring their attention: the quest for a new Musical Director, and the need for new premises for future rehearsals due to the repair work to be carried out on the Town Hall. We believe that both of these issues have been resolved, and we look forward to the resumption of activities as soon as it is safe for us to do so.

We would be very happy to see new members when we are able to start singing again. We do not audition, members are supplied with words and music, and all newcomers will receive a friendly welcome, whether seasoned singers or people who have always wanted to sing, along with those just seeking a new pastime and a renewed social life after the restrictions caused by the Covid problems. We all look forward to seeing each other, and new members, at the earliest opportunity. Look out for further publicity! □

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NORFOLK CARE AWARDS 2019

The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle



I'm not much of a talker. Being on my own most of the day I don't have anyone to speak to, (not that it bothers me) and when Remote Control Man is home from work, he wants to switch off and not listen to my scintillating chatter, so I just dream up projects, or the next thing I am going to do with the flower beds. There is no lack of intellect or brain cells - I'm just not verbal. This is fine with me, except that when I do open my mouth to talk to someone, I have difficulty finding the words. It's strange, for I have no problems when I am writing - it's just when I'm talking. Lack of practice. Remote Control Man is an expert at filling in the missing words - I just wave my arms around when I can't think of the word I want, and he always comes up with the right ones for me. Even the builders currently slaving away here at the moment have got the hang of it. When I am issuing instructions as to what I want, and can't think of the words, I wave my arms, and plead, 'help me out, help me out' and they are coming up with the words I want.

The system backfired a bit this morning. Remote Control Man asked if I had a bump on my arm after the Covid vaccination, and I replied, 'No'. He looked worried, and said he had quite a bump and proceeded to take his shirt off. I got up close to inspect the wound, expecting something horrid, and then began to laugh. "What is it?" he shouted fearfully, and I couldn't think of the word! "It's a - ?" I kept saying. The word just wouldn't materialise and he couldn't help me on this one. Worried he had rabies or something, he was shouting, "Tell me, dammit!" I moved closer to do things to it with my nails, but he yelled and leapt away from me thinking I was going to poke the lump. "Don't you dare!" he screeched. By this time, I was laughing so much I had become hysterical and was still saying like an idiot, "It's ait's a.....it's a....." Eventually, albeit very slowly, the word "plaster" filtered through into my brain. I still couldn't get the word out of my mouth for laughing so much, and then when I did, I became even more hysterical. It didn't do a lot of good to the bowl of rhubarb and cereal I was eating at the time. That plaster must have been in place for a couple of weeks - great sticking power, for it hadn't come off even with plenty of showers. The parrot was laughing like a drain.



My back garden has looked absolutely stunning so far this summer, despite all that rain we had for so long. All my planting efforts and astronomical expense on the myriad plants and bulbs paid off. It has turned out even more beautiful than I had imagined. I am just waiting for the new roses to bloom on the pergola. I bought mature plants, so there are lots of buds on them already. However, I am feeling rather bad about it at the moment, for I have now moved on to the front garden, which is also having a

complete make-over as I have mentioned before. I have, in fact, now got a 'potager' garden, though I hadn't realised that was what I was creating. Just in case you don't know either, it is a vegetable garden that has been designed to look ornamental and beautiful, and includes flowers as well. I have had some raised beds made with block and render and filled with lovely soil. In those have gone the flowers, though I will be dotting lettuces and beans in amongst them. I had the builder make me three raised beds with sleepers (just one sleeper high) for vegetables, and I have lots of pots of varying heights which I have dotted around. There are borders all round the edges

which have to be dug over well as they are filled with mare's tail and ground elder. A gardener's nightmare. I refuse to use any pesticides, but I don't think they make much difference to these particular weeds anyway. I just have to dig over a few times and get as many roots out as possible. While the planters were being built, I had dug up all my perennials and put them in pots temporarily, which all look very pretty, but eventually those flowers will go back in the borders, and I will then fill the pots with herbs. I am enjoying myself hugely, even if I am very slow on account of my age and infirmities. The chickens join me whilst I am thus employed, and their contented murmurings are a joy to me, as are the cooing of the doves and the chatter of the blackbirds. I do hope my back garden understands I still think it is wonderful and that I have not forsaken it. Can't be in two places in one time.

Not much else has been happening, for I have been so busy doing all this, plus of course decorating my 'gypsy' hut, which now looks absolutely stunning. I have outdone myself with decor performance. When I get a bit knackered with all the gardening, I just pop inside and take a nap on the sofa in the hut - it's just like being on holiday.

I started painting the picket fence along the pavement. Gor Blimey Guvnor! It's like dealing with the Forth Bridge, or is it the Fifth? Anyway, instead of thinking of the whole fence, I found it better to concentrate on the first three downward planks and begin, while ignoring the miles I have to attend to. I happily slapped on the smelly paint and didn't even try and think of progress. That philosophy seemed to work, for it didn't then seem a horrendous task. It's looking rather good - a sort of bottle green. Not quite the shade I had anticipated, but still good. A nice gent had stopped to chat the other day when I was putting in some plants, and I said I wasn't sure what colour to paint the fence, and he told me that his job used to be in fencing paints, and suggested I use Demi Dekk, as they have loads of colours. I had a look online, and indeed there were hundreds of lovely colours to choose from, but I decided on the green, as it blends in with the shrubs and is pleasant on the eyes for those passing by, not intruding in any way. I was at it all day and now I am completely worn out, but such a good tired. It is so satisfying for me to be able to do all this work. A couple of years ago I couldn't lift a paintbrush, let alone use one. I'm not saying I am fit, mind. I am not, but I am a dogged, determined and stubborn old bat, and if I want something done, then I get on with it in the best way I can. So I did it sitting down on the garden chair. Simple.

Can't remember if I mentioned it before, but the builders discovered, when cutting back the shrubs to erect the fence, a host of drug syringes that had been tossed into my garden. I find it so sad to think that the youngsters of the village have nothing better to do than inject potentially lethal potions into themselves. A sign of the times. I know they think the drugs are harmless, but I wonder if they have ever thought who makes these concoctions, and what is actually in them? Are they made in sterile conditions with clean ingredients? I suspect not.

I qualified as a hypnotherapist some years ago, I do sometimes still get a phone call for help. The other day a young man phoned me to say that he had taken the drug DMT and ever since had been living a 'Ground Hog Day', living in a hell of repetition which involved a constant state of dying. He says he actually dies each time and it is terrible. He begged me to give him a Zoom session in order to look into his mind and help him. He said the same thing is happening over and over again, even the phone call he was having with me, even though, he added, I wouldn't remember it. (!) I had to tell him no one can 'look into his mind' and that I don't do Zoom, but I did know a lady who did. I passed on his details and my friend did telephone him, but he never returned her calls.

Thing is, that young man's brain has been damaged by the drug and might not recover. Will he continue his life in a terrifying living hell, with his brain on a continual loop, believing he is going to go through another frightful death every day? And yet drugs continue to be freely available, sold by the unscrupulous, bought and used by youngsters

who don't realise the potential harm they can do. Or perhaps they do know, but think it won't happen to them. Well, some adults use them too, of course.

I do know how a brain can malfunction - after giving birth, I suffered from post partum psychosis, which was the most terrifying experience I have ever gone through. Something to do with very high blood pressure and toxins causing brain malfunction. Diabetics will know what weird things the brain will do when suffering a hypo. When their sugar levels get too low, this causes really distressing symptoms. Items that you know are in front of you disappear, and if you try and phone for help, you just stare at the machine, as you have no idea how to use it.

So, with that, I shall end on this hot, sticky afternoon. I was fed up with the rain, and now I am fed up with the heat. There is no pleasing some people, is there!□



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NORFOLK COAST PARTNERSHIP

Norfolk Coast Partnership – new logo
Catherine Leigh

The Norfolk Coast Partnership are delighted to introduce our updated logo. Eagle eyed readers may have already noticed it in our Norfolk Coast Guardian publication or on the Coastal Code poster produced as the coast reopened in April to visitors and locals.

This refresh has been developed as we work on producing a new website. Both the previous logo and website have certainly stood the test of time, having been created over fourteen years ago. You'll see that we have retained the key elements that represent the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, such as the wildlife, landscape, including built environment, and dark skies reference. New icons added recognise the part that people, leisure and sustainable transport play in our management of this special place, and the line linking these follows (roughly) the shape of our coastline, with the colours representing the fluidity of this and the land/marsh/sea interface.

Of particular note is the bird who some may remember as pre-dating even the previous logo and it is important to us to carry this representation of our heritage through to the current refresh.

We hope you like it and comments are welcome. aonb@norfolk.gov.uk

To save any wastage, there won't be a sudden change as we use up any printed resources that carry our old logo, but rather a gradual transition. Hopefully I will have news of our new, more user friendly website in the coming months. □

General Knowledge Quiz

1. Where can you find the Sea of Tranquility?
2. Which actor played James Bond the most times?
3. What are you afraid of if you suffer from xanthophobia?
4. What is the capital of Australia?
5. What does GDPR stand for?
6. What was the most popular girls' name in 2019?
7. What is the currency of Denmark?
8. Which tennis Grand Slam is played on a clay surface?
9. What is the name of the coffee shop in the US sitcom *Friends*?
10. In which part of the body would you find the cruciate ligament?

Answers on page 65

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Salvation Army

A brass player at a loose end at 7 pm on a Tuesday evening? That can't be right. Come and join our Tuesday evenings. We have a small brass band at Snettisham Salvation Army in Alma Road, but we are joined on practice nights by brass players who just come to enjoy playing. The ability range goes from absolute beginner to one guest who qualified through Birmingham Conservatoire. Practice lasts for about an hour and a half.

If you play a brass instrument, or you did some time ago, maybe when you were at school and have now stopped, we invite you to come and join us. This is the Salvation Army band practice and we already have a number of friends who just come for the pleasure of making music on a practice night. They are not in the Army band, or even in the Army. They don't play with us on a Sunday. We'd love to see you.

It is so good that as restrictions begin to be lifted we are once again able to restart certain activities. We are already open for Sunday worship and it is so good that we are able to once again meet as a band and make music to glorify God. Psalm 150 reminds us to 'Praise the Lord' and goes on to say,

'Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Praise the Lord.'

As we are able to restart other activities we will let you know. So watch this space!

Alison Kirby
Snettisham Salvation Army
Email alison.kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk
Mobile 07436425118



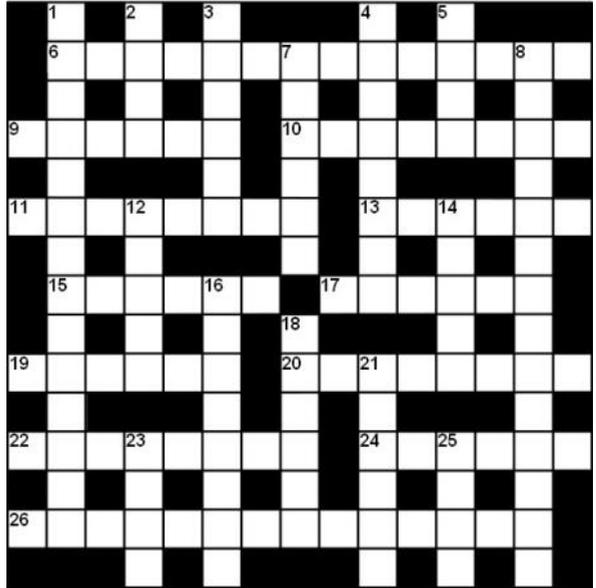
Flowerbed at the end of Post Office Road maintained by the Dersingham Task Force

PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword by Philip Neal

Across

- 6 Daughter enjoyed occupation at journalists capital location (8, 6)
- 9 Morning campers (2, 2, 2)
- 10 Good legs incorporated by drunk rum runner (8)
- 11 Catherine for example in the public eye (3, 5)
- 13 Escape when Harry overcame Democratic Party (6)
- 15 Young long to be in the outskirts of Tetbury (6)
- 17 Examined gown underpaid (6)
- 19 School brains found in youngsters (6)
- 20 Teams up floundering in river against the tide (8)
- 22 Sketch I've devised with reckless English T.T. portrait (8)
- 24 Grotty old hat (6)
- 26 Dinner hour used to solve feeding problem (14)



Answers on page 65

Down

- 1 Government isn't unfortunately caught by surprise (14)
- 2 Could you catch this on 11? (4)
- 3 Get high when you mix nip in your drink (6)
- 4 Fish out of your depth (8)
- 5 Hitch small horse (4)
- 7 Curl up at home with the French (6)
- 8 You'll be lucky – but only if I'm late (4, 2, 4, 4)
- 12 H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O (5)
- 14 Give Lincoln credit for trunk (5)
- 16 Uncertain about that sine calculation (8)
- 18 I hear you are in boyfriend agency (6)
- 21 Is undercover singer (6)
- 23 Obligation before marriage on 1st Dec. (4)
- 25 Hurt when he got bill (4)

Sudoku

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



Joshua Freeman, Gentleman Farmer of Dersingham Elizabeth Fiddick

Joshua Freeman was born on 3rd July 1805 in Swanton Morley near Dereham. On 31st May 1832 he married Susan Tingey, the daughter of Thomas Tingey and Susan Roberson, in Scoulton, a small village not far from Swanton Morley where Susan had been born on 3rd October 1811.

Joshua was thirty-two at the time and had already built up a good farming enterprise at Hall Farm, Bylaugh close to Bawdeswell. It was here that his son Joshua was born in 1834, followed by daughter Susan Tingey on 26th May 1836.



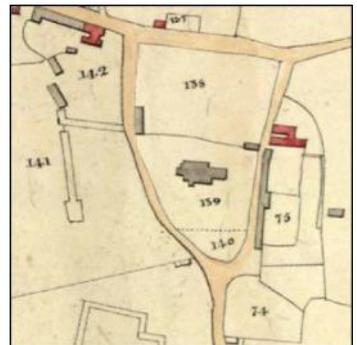
It was in September of 1836 that Joshua decided on a move, so all his farm stock of 560 sheep and lambs, 20 bullocks, 12 cart horses, 2 cows, 10 head of swine, farming carriages, and implements was sold by auction.

Shortly after that Joshua, Susan and their two young children arrived here in Dersingham to take up the tenancy of Church Farm. The farm was part of the Sandringham Estate, which had been bought in 1836 for £76,000 by John Motteux, who thus became Joshua's landlord. John Motteux never lived in Sandringham and on his death

Joshua Freeman & Susan Tingey-Freeman

left the estate to Hon. Charles Spencer Cowper, the stepson of the Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston.

The Tithe Map of 1839 shows the farmhouse, buildings and garden (75) behind the church that became Joshua and Susan's home for the next forty-eight years. The area marked 138, which is now an extension of the churchyard, was then pasture land. Area 140, also pasture, was the site of the old tumbledown vicarage, an eyesore that so angered John Pell in his fine Tudor manor house (74), that about 1660 he ordered it be demolished. Joshua farmed many further acres of land, arable, pasture and marsh. In fact, by 1851 the census tells us he had 1300 acres and employed 30 labourers. Ten years later the workforce had expanded to 39 men and 28 boys.



When Joshua arrived here the village was small, with a population of just 606. We can imagine this village that Joshua knew quite easily by simply removing in our mind's eye all the modern houses and estates and replacing them with pasture and arable fields. On a walk towards Hunstanton along the Main Road, The Great Pasture and common land would be on our right, whilst on the left common land and pastures would have stretched away to the marshes of The Wash with nothing to obscure our view.

Mary Ann Brett lived in Dersingham Hall, whilst James Fitt operated the corn mill at the top of the village. Robert Fox farmed at Hill House, George Chadwick ran Oak Farm in Chapel Road, and Robert Hunt, Richard Stanton and John Smith of Ling House were other farmers Joshua would have known. John and James Frost were the village blacksmiths with a smithy near our present library and no doubt the services of John Flegg, the wheelwright and Thomas Pickerell, a carpenter were often called upon. Old George Skelton the Decoy man may even have sold Joshua some wildfowl. The family's mail would have been delivered and collected by mail cart each day from the premises of Isaac Bunn the post master, and Abraham Davis, the carrier with his trusty old horse and wagon, was on hand to fetch or deliver anything the family required from Lynn. The village had a glover, a tailor, and four shoemakers. William Hotchin ran his butcher's shop on the corner of Doddshill, whilst Charles Reynolds, John Terrington and Robert Skinner ran general shops. After a busy day's work on the farm there were just three public houses - The Dun Cow, The Cock Inn (now The Feathers) or The Coach and Horses - where a labourer could relax with a well-earned drink.

As Joshua settled in his family continued to grow. In 1838 daughter Emma, sister to Joshua and Susan, was born. A son, John Tingey, was born in 1840 and Frederick in 1841. Three years later Ellen was born and Mary Jane completed the family in 1847. All were baptised in St. Nicholas Church by Vicars Rogert Collyer and then Edward Bellamy. What a busy, lively household that must have been. It is not surprising that Elizabeth Allen was appointed as a governess and four servants were employed to help Susan in the house and dairy.



Ellen Freeman

Over the years Joshua witnessed many changes here. He would have watched the workmen cutting through the marshland to lay the track for the coming of the railway (1862). He would have been there to welcome Mr. Firth as the first headmaster of the newly-built school at the bottom of Doddshill in 1875. He would have approved the refurbishment of the hitherto dilapidated church and welcomed the building of the vicarage in 1877. He would have watched with interest as Theodore Jannoch established his nationally famous Lily Nursery at Brandenburg House (now Lane End). More importantly, he would have shared the village excitement with the arrival of The Prince of Wales at Sandringham, who became his new landlord. The village grew quickly once the Royal Family arrived; the population increased to 1014 and Joshua established a sound reputation as an excellent farmer and agriculturalist.

The 1860s was a significant decade for Joshua and Susan. Their two daughters Mary Jane and Ellen both married in 1866 and 1869 respectively. They moved away from the village, as later records reveal them living in the north of England. In 1867 son John married Catherine Oakes and they set up their family home in Saham Toney near Bylaugh. A major change happened when their eldest son Joshua emigrated to New Zealand where he married Catherine Bregman in Auckland in 1870.



Red Pumps Garage

In 1868 Joshua purchased from Robert Elwes and The Prince of Wales a large farm with land that stood in Chapel Road. Today we know the farmhouse as Beck House and the farm buildings occupied the site now covered by the Red Pumps Garage. It was a sizeable investment by Joshua.

Susan left Vanbrugh Terrace some time after and lived at 45 Lee Terrace, Lewisham. She was joined by her sister Emma about 1901. In her will of 1915 Susan left £20 to her tenant James Jackson and the farm in Dersingham to her nephew Walter Oakes Freeman. However, in a codicil she directed that should she sell the farm the proceeds were to go to Walter. This is what happened as the farm became the property of Sandringham Estate.

Emma died in 1913 at Maidstone, Kent . Susan died on 31st January 1922. Blackheath Lodge Farm having been sold, the final link of the Freeman family with Dersingham was broken.

The full biography of Joshua can be found on the Dersingham History website. The History of Blackheath Lodge Farm will soon be completed. □

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 65

DIAMOND	PARSLEY	PERIDOT	BOY
SLIP	OLIVE	BELL	BERYL
CHIVE	OPAL	DILL	RUBY
EMERALD	BASIL	JADE	MINT



**SHAKESPEARE'S
GUILDHALL
TRUST**

St George's Guildhall reopens **Ivor Rowlands, Chair of Trustees**

From Monday 21st June, volunteers from Shakespeare's Guildhall Trust (SGT) will once again be welcoming guests from around the UK, to see inside Britain's oldest working theatre and the only theatre in the world that can claim Shakespeare performed there.

The initiative is a key part of the SGT strategy for the Guildhall and for the town. The SGT team has always believed that St George's Guildhall can play a pivotal role in developing King's Lynn as a major tourist destination. In the nine months prior to the pandemic closing the Guildhall, our volunteers showed over 3,000 visitors around the theatre. We now see the re-opening of the Guildhall as a significant opportunity to attract even more visitors to the town.

Initially, the Guildhall will be opening Monday to Friday from 10am until 2pm, but we hope that the opening hours can be extended to include weekends and longer days in the near future.

Lesley Kemp, the new SGT Volunteer Coordinator, has been working hard over the past few weeks to get the Guildhall and the volunteers ready to re-open. This includes training and preparations to make sure we can welcome visitors safely in line with the new Covid-19 safety requirements.

SGT is continuing to work with as many partners as possible to promote the Guildhall and King's Lynn, including creating striking new yellow photographic posters. The outskirts of Lynn are busy with passing visitors – either to the coast or to out of town shops – who never venture into the town centre. By drawing attention to the most undiscovered heritage gem in Lynn, we will attract more visitors to the town. We hope to place posters around the outskirts of town – e.g. on the Hardwick retail park, fast-food drive throughs, and around the bypasses. Do you know any spots or could you display one? If so please contact us!

Can you help us?

The entire SGT team comprises unpaid volunteers and we are extremely grateful for all of the energy, time and commitment

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National Trust
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

given by our trustees, advisors and volunteers. We are always looking for more volunteers to help our cause of creating a lasting, sustainable mixed-use arts, cultural, heritage & educational asset for the whole community. If you can spare a few hours a week and have skills that we can use, please get in touch and let us know how you can help SGT turn our vision into a reality.

Anyone with skills in the following areas would be particularly welcome to help us: Marketing & Communications, Social Media, Research, Education, Catering, Event management, Performance programming, Community outreach & engagement .

We are also still keen to hear from anyone who would like to become a visitor guide.

Click this link to watch a short video about our volunteers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9op5snltgqE> □

General Knowledge Quiz Answers

1. On the moon.
2. Roger Moore.
3. The colour yellow.
4. Canberra.
5. General Data Protection Regulation.
6. Olivia.
7. Krone.
8. The French Open (Roland Garros).
9. Central Perk.
10. The knee

Crossword Answers

Across

1 Dateline London. 9 Hi De Hi. 10 Smuggler. 11 Big wheel. 13 Decamp. 15 Titchy. 17 Probed. 19 Bairns. 20 Upstream. 22 Vignette. 24 Shabby. 26 Undernourished.

Sudoku Answers

Down

1 Administration. 2 Stye. 3 Alpine. 4 Flounder. 5 Snag. 7 Nestle. 8 Over my dead body. 12 Water. 14 Caber. 16 Hesitate. 18 Bureau. 21 Siskin. 23 Need. 25 Ache.

Word Wall Answers.

Cow: Boy, Bell, Parsley, Slip.

Herbs & Spices: Basil, Chive, Dill, Mint.

Shades of Green: Emerald, Olive, Jade, Beryl.

Gems: Diamond, Opal, Peridot, Ruby.

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

Forthcoming Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

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

Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
No 132 (Oct/Nov 21)	Mon 6th Sept 2021	Mon 27th Sept 2021
No 133 (Dec 21/Jan 22)	Mon 8th Nov 2021	Mon 29th Nov 2021
No 134 (Feb 22/March 22)	Mon 10th Jan 2022	Mon 31st Jan 2022
No 135 (April 22/May22)	Mon 7th March 2022	Mon 28th March 2022

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. □

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

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ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

at DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

Coffee Shop - resuming Thursday, August 5th
9:30am to 12:30, Thursday & Friday weekly
(Fridays from Sept 10th)



Friendship Lunch - resuming Tuesday, August 3rd
1pm, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays monthly
Call 01485 540644 to book



Open Gardens
Saturday & Sunday, September 4th & 5th
Tickets/Refreshments at the Centre (more details to follow)



Tea Dance - resuming Friday, September 24th
2:00pm to 4:00pm, Last Friday monthly
Ballroom, Latin, Sequence



Village Cinema - resuming Tuesday, Sept 28th
7:30pm, doors Open 7pm
The Keeper, Cert 15



Tennis Club Disco & Supper
7pm, Friday, October 1st
Call 01485 540271 for information



Ceilidh & Supper
7pm, Saturday, 30th October
Call 01485 540271 for information



For more details -

- Check noticeboards/leaflets at the Centre and around Dersingham
- Visit www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk (sign up for the weekly updates)
- Check our Facebook page
- Telephone the Centre on 01485 543195 (Answerphone in use)

Dersingham Village Centre Association
Registered Charity No 1178462
www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk
T: 01485 543195

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