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April/May 2022

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine





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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



You will see quite a bit of blue and yellow around this edition of Village Voice to show solidarity with the appalling news from Ukraine. By the time this VV comes out I dread to think what will be happening there. I am alternately obsessed with flipping news channels to find out the latest or trying to resist turning the TV back on in order to retain a little peace of mind. Twenty-four-hour news coverage hovers seductively in the background. There have been major conflicts in recent decades in the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and others, but the situation in Ukraine has led to an intensity of coverage that I have never seen before. I suppose the closer to home, the more public interest it provokes, especially when instigated by what seems to be a deranged Putin. No one man should have that amount of power. Our thoughts are with them all - the soldiers, the civilians sheltering in bunkers, the emergency services, the fleeing refugees and those still waiting to see how far the Russian onslaught will spread.

But rant over and back to our local reality: Firstly, a big thank you to Dersingham artist Jill Ilett for her delightful springtime painting for our front cover. It just so happened that the picture was predominantly blue and yellow, now somewhat accentuated by its border! If you are interested in buying this painting, do give Jill a ring on 01485 545798. Jill will be joining others in opening her studio during Open Gardens in the autumn.

We are starting to let you know what will be happening in and around the village to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Our next edition, covering June and July, will be coming out a week or so early so that you can get last minute information on local events. Your former Village Voice editor, Tony Bubb, has very kindly offered to pull together and produce a souvenir programme which will be inserted in the centre of VV. If you are planning any kind of activity, such as a street party, stalls, competitions, etc., then do contact him so that your events can go in the programme. Email him at frostytrees@btinternet.com. Please get your information to him by Tuesday 19th April, just after Easter.

Thank you to our usual contributors for keeping us up to date with what is going on for them. In this edition we give notice of upcoming events such as the Norfolk Hospice Tapping House's Tulip Festival; we report on the progress of the Dersingham Choral Society; hopefully entertain you with articles on hedgehogs, butterflies, Liz Fiddick's final episode of *Law and Order*; and a description of a local rural farm childhood; and we let you know how you can put Green Cross signs and information in your house to help any emergency services find your medication and contact details of family and friends in case of incapacitation. Finally, Village Voice Live is back – details on the back cover.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Village Voice and look forward to sharing with you all the local plans for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the next issue – some pleasant celebrations in these unsettled times.□





Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd

When I became Chairman of the Parish Council in 2019 the future looked bright and rosy. Then within a few months the Covid pandemic took hold and we all had to learn how to live differently, not seeing loved ones, having to wear facemasks, keep social distancing, using Zoom, to mention a few. With the lifting of restrictions, we were all beginning to hope that we could start to return to normality. However, this all pales into insignificance with what is now happening in Ukraine. Despite exotic place names and the country being nearly 1500 miles to the east (less than the distance from here to southern Spain), we watch in horror at the shelling of towns and cities. Can this destruction of people's homes really be happening in Europe in 2022?

It makes me think of the terror that our parents and grandparents must have felt during the Second World War. My mother was fourteen when the war ended and although she spoke of many things, she never mentioned the fear that the family must have felt when going into their bomb shelter at night, never knowing if their home would still be standing the next morning, or if their family and friends would still be alive. Nor the separation from their father, again not knowing if they would ever see him again. I cannot comprehend what it must be like to run in fear of your life from your home to a foreign country, not knowing when you will ever be able to go back or if there will be a home to return to.

I am sure we all feel powerless at the sight of so much suffering, tears may flow, but I feel humbled at the strength and resolve of the Ukrainian people. Who knows what the situation will be by the time you are reading this. Many thanks to everyone who has given so generously to the various appeals for goods and money for the refugees. I hope we can be as generous to those who make it to the UK from Ukraine. Sorry to have burdened you with my personal views, but the impact of this invasion will affect us all in some way or another.

In the meantime, the Parish Council continues to look forward to the next few months. We are awaiting quotes for the supply of electricity for the street lighting in the village (the Parish Council is responsible for street lights away from main roads and bus routes); we are expecting and have planned for a significant rise in prices. Having opened the skatepark and provided new Christmas lighting, we have been looking at what residents have requested for the Recreation Ground. Unfortunately, we will not be able to do everything, so a five-year plan has been prepared to enable us to take some of the ideas forward. The plan is available to see on our website. We are also busy with preparations for Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations at the beginning of June. This is set out in a separate article but there should be something for all tastes at some stage over the weekend. Here's hoping the weather is dry.

Finally, my usual plea - would you like to make a difference to the village? We do have vacancies on the Parish Council for Councillors. If you are interested, if there is something you would like to be done or simply you want to be part of the decision making about what happens in the village, then we may be for you. You are welcome to attend any of our meetings to see what we do. Dates are publicised on the Parish Council website. If you would like to learn more, please contact myself or our clerk Sarah Bristow.
clerk@dersingham.org.uk
coral.shepherd@dersingham.org.uk

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S
PLATINUM JUBILEE
THURSDAY 2nd to SUNDAY 5th JUNE
2022**



As we all know, this year Her Majesty the Queen is celebrating seventy years as our monarch. This is a unique world event and something that none of us will see again.

This year, as usual, Her Majesty spent the anniversary of her father's death at Sandringham and opened this year of celebration with a small event at Sandringham House. However, the main focus of the year will be the extended holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June.

National events will be as follows:

Thursday 2nd Trooping the Colour and Beacon Lighting
Friday 3rd A national service of thanksgiving at St Pauls Cathedral
Saturday 4th The Epsom Derby and the Party at the Palace
Sunday 5th The Big Jubilee Lunch and Pageant

Plans are underway in Dersingham for our own celebrations and there will events on every day, so hopefully there should be something for everyone to help mark the occasion. So far we have the following:

Thursday 2 nd	Jubilee Exhibition at the Village Centre (on display for the whole weekend) Concert by children at the Village Centre followed by lighting of our Beacon
Friday 3 rd	Coffee Morning at St Nicholas Afternoon Tea at the Village Centre for platinum residents
Saturday 4 th	Fun Day at the Recreation Ground Jubilee Jamboree at the Village Centre
Sunday 5 th	Service of Thanksgiving at St Nicholas Church Cricket Festival and Picnic followed by live music and hog roast at the Sports Ground Big Lunch at the Recreation Ground Street Parties

Events at the Recreation Ground and Sports Ground will be free for all to attend (you will need to pay for food and drink for the Cricket Festival Hog Roast). You will need tickets for events at the Village Centre, so watch the village noticeboards and Facebook page for details of how to apply.

We will be producing a full colour souvenir pull out detailing all of the village events in the next edition. If you are a club or group putting on an event not mentioned above and would like it publicised, please let Tony Bubb know at frostytrees@btinternet.com.



News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

COVID

All restrictions have currently been removed. While that is good news, some people may still be a little anxious, so we ask that Centre users and visitors be responsible and respectful, and also continue with good hygiene. We will continue to supply hand sanitiser at all entry points to the Centre.

Activities & Events

Friendship Lunches (1st & 3rd Tuesdays): These are very popular, so we are asking diners to book by 12noon on the preceding Friday.

Coffee Shop: The Tapping House fundraising team returned to the Coffee Shop on March 3rd and will be in charge on the first Thursday each month.

Village Cinema: The team are currently choosing films for the spring & summer. The next few showings are: March 29th - *In the Heights*; April 26th - *Love Sarah*; May 31st - *The Father*.

Village Voice Live returns on April 12th with a talk on Swaffham's Howard Carter, who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb.

Plans for our **Platinum Jubilee** event on Saturday June 4th are well underway. For more information, please read Graham Eley's article and the poster in this issue.

Bookings: We cannot guarantee to provide an instant response to booking enquiries as there are often other factors to consider. Tom, our Bookings Secretary, is a volunteer, as are all the Trustees, but will normally reply to enquiries within two or three days.

Village Centre Lottery

February winners: numbers 2, 42 & 21 winning £24.75, £16.50 & £8.75

March winners: numbers 22, 14 & 6 winning £24.75, £16.50 & £8.75

Keep updated by checking notices at the Centre and around Dersingham and visit our website www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk where you can sign up for the regular newsletters. We have a Facebook Page and also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group. If you have any questions about the Centre, its activities or bookings, call our landline 01485 543195. An answerphone is in use so please leave a message with contact details, and someone will get back to you.

Best wishes from all at the Centre. □



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DVCA Jubilee Celebration Event 2022

The Queen came to the throne in 1952 and was crowned in 1953. To celebrate those occasions the Dersingham Village Centre Association (DVCA) is organising a “**Jubilee Jamboree**” in the Village Centre on Saturday 4th June.

The word “jamboree” may conjure up in your mind a Scouts and Guides rally, but in my dictionary it is also defined as a noisy celebration and party – that’s us!

What will be there:

- The St Nicholas Hall will be decorated with bunting, flags etc.
- The tables and chairs will be arranged in street party style layout.
- The tables will be laid in a look back to the 50s themes with additional decorations.
- The food recipes will be from cookbooks of the 1950s – no pizza or curry!
- The music will be by The Summertime Kings whose style is rooted in the 50s.
- The drinks, available at the bar, will include the 50s’ favourite Babycham, in period glasses – ask your mum or gran!
- The guests will be you, the people of Dersingham, your children, family and friends.

Buy some tickets from the Post Office and come along – suitably dressed in 50s style if you wish to add to the occasion. If you have any items, pictures, etc that you feel will add to the event, please contact Graham Eley on 07901 896102.

RECREATION GROUND EVENTS

AN AFTERNOON OF FUN FOR THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

**Saturday 4th June, 12 noon to 5pm
on the Dersingham Recreation
Ground**

Anyone wishing to have a stand on the above day, please contact Valerie Brundle on 07789 598940 or Kurtis Green at Tropics Fish Shop.

Light refreshments and drinks will be available throughout the afternoon. Music and amusements for children, stands, and much more.

We are also having a small dog show during the afternoon. To take part please contact Valerie on the above number. Small, medium and large classes (all breeds eligible). £2.00 entry per dog per class. Payment up front please. The first 15 entrants per class secure a place. Prizes awarded by Pouch Biscuits. A vet will be on hand.

CELEBRATING THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE BIG LUNCH 2022

**Sunday 5th June, 12 noon to 4pm
on the Recreation Ground
in Dersingham**

Everyone is welcome to come to the Big Lunch, whether you bring your own food or decide to join us.

We shall be catering for every taste, including vegan, vegetarian, etc. Light refreshments and drinks available all afternoon.

OUR MENU:

Choose from pork roast, BBQ, hot dogs, burgers, fish & chips

Why not come along and talk, make new friends, and enjoy yourselves?



Dersingham Choral Society A new choir is born!

Dersingham's new choir, with its new name to reflect its aims and branding, had its first rehearsal on Thursday 10th February at St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham. And a word on the branding: we want everyone to be proud of associating with the choir, and the logo appears on the music scores, the merchandise we sell, name badges, welcome packs and membership cards etc.

Jan gave a welcome speech at the beginning and Simon, our Musical Director and Matthew, our Accompanist, then led proceedings. It was heartwarming to hear people singing again and enjoying themselves.

It's hard to believe we have now had four rehearsals with a strong core of members providing a rousing sound to the music. There is much laughter in the rehearsals and people have acknowledged that they feel better afterwards.

Of course, we want to build on this initial success and if you know anyone who wants to join our choir, either in Dersingham or from any of the outlying villages, please ask them to come along. Rehearsals are every Thursday from 7.00 to 9.00pm and doors will be open from 6.30pm. There are just a couple of forms to complete for registration.

You can join the choir at any time during the term and we will ensure you are buddied up with another member to catch up with the music. You will still get two free weeks and payment structured for the remaining weeks of the term.

We are appreciative of the kind comments at the end of the rehearsals and welcome suggestions and ideas from the choir members.

We look forward to the choir becoming an established part of not just Dersingham's cultural programme but also that of other villages.

We are planning another **Open Day on Saturday 2nd April from 10.30am to 1.30pm at St Cecilia's Church**. And this time, not only will we be recruiting for the Choral Society but also gauging interest for a second choir that sings contemporary music.

We look forward to meeting more people from Dersingham and surrounding villages. More information will be given on the Dersingham Village Facebook, on posters around the village and in Village Voice.

If you're unable to attend the Open Day, you can obtain more information by emailing oglenys88@gmail.com. □



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Tulips for Tapping

Following on from last year's very successful fund-raising event in aid of The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House, a field filled with a superb array of

tulips will again be open to the public.

The tulip field is located just off the A148 near the Knight's Hill roundabout in King's Lynn. The exact location will be released to ticket buyers. Because of the unpredictable British weather, it cannot be known exactly when the bulbs will burst into bloom. However, it is expected that the flowering will begin from late-April to mid-May, with final dates being confirmed in April, approximately one to two weeks before opening to the public. The field will then be open for ten days over a two-week period.



The site will be open from 10am-4pm and tickets will be released in 45-minute slots. There will be food and drink traders and toilet facilities at the field and ample parking. The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House will be selling a selection of hospice and tulip merchandise. No dogs or drones are allowed on the field and due to the uneven terrain, wheelchair and pram use is discouraged.

Tickets will be £5 per adult, £3 for children under 17 and free for under 5s.

Tickets are expected to sell out quickly, so please follow The Norfolk Hospice on social media and keep an eye on their website for updates: www.norfolkhospice.org.uk/tulips □

Dersingham Open Gardens 2022

Jane Jestice

As we are well into 2022, we have begun planning for this year's Dersingham Open Gardens weekend. It will be held on September 3rd and 4th, so make sure you have put these dates on your calendar.

Although it will be after the official celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we thought it would be wonderful if the village could also celebrate the theme of the year in our front gardens for passersby to enjoy. The colour scheme could be red, white and blue, you could hang up bunting, or add royal references to the garden. So, get your thinking caps on as you have plenty of time to plan!

If you think you would like to open your main garden this year and are not already on our list, please get in touch and we can tell you what it entails and answer any questions you may have. We have a village full of amazing gardeners, so let's look forward to another wonderful Open Gardens. If you have any questions, or would like to find out more about opening your garden, contact Judy Collingham on jcairnscol@gmail.com.

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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

The Dersingham Pillbox

I meant to put this little story in the last issue of Village Voice, but I forgot. If you listen to Radio Norfolk on the wireless, you will hear a programme called *The Treasure Trail* where a presenter goes around Norfolk trying to find the treasure at the end of the trail. You, the listeners, have to ring in and help the presenter find the end of the trail.

Well, a month or three back the trail was in Dersingham trying to find a pillbox, which was a type of advance defence building used mainly by the Home Guard during the Second World War. There are still a few scattered around Norfolk, including one in Dersingham.

The crew were having trouble finding it, so they stopped a lady who told them it was on the top of Dersingham Open Common, but this is not a pillbox. It was a concrete base for a searchlight that spotted enemy planes for the guns that were mounted on Wolferton Plain; this is on your left as you are going down Wolferton Hill into the village. The Dersingham pillbox is at the north end of Mountbatten Road. This pillbox is hard to spot, especially if you are riding in a car. Before this area was built up, this pillbox was in a large field and, as there were no large trees on the marsh in those days, there was a good view of the coastline.

There were pillboxes all over the country during the Second World War, not just on the coast but inland as well. There was one on the common at East Winch that always had a snake or two in it. After the war a lot of these pillboxes were blown up. A man I knew, who lived down Centre Vale, Dersingham, had been a demolition expert during the war and he went around blowing them up. However, the Dersingham one was saved and is now looked after by the Parish Council. It is certainly something to be preserved.

There was a Navy pillbox in Hunstanton. This was tall and situated on the cliffs, especially for looking out to sea. There was also a Royal Observer Post along the Chalk Pit Road from Dersingham to Ingoldisthorpe. There were many pillboxes and observer posts around Norfolk.

Here is a list of some more Royal Observer Posts in Norfolk: Reepham, Southery, Swaffham, Stalham, Upwell, Watton, Wells-Next-the Sea, West Beckham, West Raynham, East Walton, Wiggenshall St Germans and Winterton-on-Sea. No doubt there are more about in Norfolk.

When the war started it was thought that if the Germans were to attack England it would be somewhere around The Wash or the Norfolk coast, as there was a lot of shallow water in the area. Therefore, a lot of defences were put in from Boat House Creek, Wolferton round to Holkham. The kind of defences put in were tank traps, barbed wire, dragons' teeth and minefields.

Manor Road

I was speaking to a chap who has not lived in Dersingham for long. He said that a man told him that after the Second World War, Manor Road had more shops and businesses than any other road in Dersingham. Well, maybe it did, even though it was not as long as it is now, as Manor Road stopped at Parkers Corner. The stretch from Parkers Corner to Jannocks Corner was Sandringham Road until it met up with Chapel Road. If you turned right at Parkers Corner and went up the hill, this stretch was called Sandringham Hill until it got to The Avenue.

Manor Road started at the junction with Lynn Road. This was called Senters Corner. Mr Walter Senter had a sweet shop and cycle shop on this corner. Next to Mr Senter's shops was Mr Tuck's nursery, where he grew plants and tomatoes. Next door was George Blower's blacksmiths. George later became landlord of The Ship public house in



Ingoldisthorpe. Opposite on the left was the Albert Victor public house that closed in 1981.

Further down on your left was a very large house that was a public school with a large swimming pool in the grounds. The school closed down in the late 1950s and it was then bought by a Mr Elton Rose, who turned the surrounding land into a chicken farm. When Mr Rose left, a Mr Scott from King's Lynn changed the name to Wood Royal. Further along was Laundry Lane, so called as there was a large laundry at No. 9. Going on further along Manor Road was George King's barber's shop, where I could get a haircut for sixpence. Opposite this my grandfather, Walter Melton, had a tin shed in his front garden from where he sold paraffin and garden tools. Next door was Mr Dew's fish and chip shop that later became Mr Dobb's electrical shop.

We then come to Heath Road where, on the right, was Fred Easton with his second-hand cars. This had been a builder's yard. On the left was a butcher's shop owned by Mr Kerry and then Ken Milton, whom I worked for. It then became a bookmakers and then an undertakers. Carry on down Manor Road and, on your right, was Playfords the bakers with a large bakery at the back. Next was Mrs Terrington's shop: one side sold medicines, the other side groceries. This was later taken over by the Handfords, who turned one half into a hairdressers. Keeping on the right was Barclay's bank. Then, on the lefthand side, at the junction of Manor Road and Sandringham Hill, was the largest shop in the village – Parkers Stores. As you went into the shop, with its large white double doors, it opened up into two shops: clothes and footwear to your left, and groceries to your right.

Well, that's about all for now. Let's hope we have a better year than the last one. All the best to you all from the boy Dick, Sunny Hunny. □

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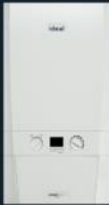
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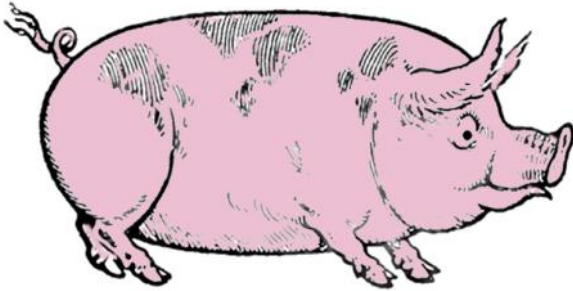


15

The Farm Sheila Davies

We lived in a variety of tied cottages on farms during my childhood; but a particular one stands out in my memory. It was a large, previously quite grand house, now falling a little into disrepair. It had been incorporated into the farm over time and was said once to have been a seventeenth-century coaching inn, with a range of adjoining outbuildings. It was certainly the largest house we had lived in, comprising nine bedrooms, four of which were attic rooms. However, on inspection my father declared the attic rooms unsafe and immediately nailed up the door to them. There was still plenty of space for us to enjoy though, and for the first time I had a bedroom to myself!

My father had bluffed his way into this job; the vacancy was for a pigman. By now he had worked in agriculture for a few years, but was raised in the east end of London, and I doubt if he had ever seen a pig at close quarters! I think the main reason he went for the job was that pigs needed feeding seven days a week, so it was slightly more money. Not to be daunted by his lack of experience, he threw himself into the job with gusto. For the first week we lived there, I would often wake in the night on hearing the pigs squealing. I'd race into my parents' room, searching for dad's good ear (he was totally deaf in one ear) shouting, "Dad! Dad! The pigs are crying!" Dad wearily got up and went across the yard to investigate, only to find that as soon as the pigs heard him up and about, they assumed it was breakfast time, and really started up in earnest! We soon discovered pigs



do sometimes squeal in the night and learnt to ignore them. Dad was very conscientious and learned quickly, and he really looked after them well. Often, when a sow was giving birth, he would stay up all night with her, as there was a real danger of her rolling over and suffocating previous piglets, as they often had litters of around twenty. I don't think he was ever recompensed for this.

The pigs were kept in quite spacious sties across the yard, except for a short time in the summer when the gilts were driven over to the orchard to await - with some trepidation I'm sure - the arrival of Charlie. Charlie was a very large pink boar with a huge grinning snout, who was so big he wobbled when he walked. On arrival in the orchard, at first he would snuffle around and gorge himself on the fallen fruit, then wobble off to seek out the ladies. He certainly did his job well, as father was kept busy for some time afterwards, helping "little Charlies" into the world!! During the winter months, Charlie resented being penned up and obviously missed his girlfriends, as he often managed to make a dash for freedom. The cry would go up, "Charlie's out!" and we would all rush out into the yard to find Charlie charging around with a maniacal glint in his eye. He was surprisingly agile for his large girth, and he had great fun evading capture, but we kids thoroughly enjoyed chasing after him. Mum and Dad not quite so much. Dad used to strengthen his pen regularly, but I'm sure Charlie just watched and quietly plotted when to make his next escape, as he nearly always managed to disrupt a peaceful Sunday afternoon.

Although life was good, and I was quite content, I was a sensitive child with a vivid imagination. I often used to wander around the rooms in the farmhouse, wondering who had lived there and what their lives had been like. It was around this time I started having

a recurring nightmare. It was always the same: a small man with a weather-beaten face, wearing a black cap and overcoat standing by my bed staring down at me. My bedroom adjoined my parents' room, and I would run in there, hurl myself at my mother screaming, "He's got me! He's got me!" My mother declared I would give her a heart attack one day. We called him my bogey man. This went on for a while, and one morning at breakfast my mother said, "Your bogey man is starting to get to me, even I saw him last night". I had never described him in detail before, just said there was a man by my bed, as the dream frightened me and I didn't want to dwell on it. She went on to describe him and what he was wearing. A chill went through me. She had indeed seen my bogeyman!

Years later, when I was involved in estate agency, I was chatting to a client who said he spent his childhood on a neighbouring farm. I told him where I lived, and he said his father had told him the story of a family who lived in our house with two small boys. The children were out on their cycles one day, when sadly one was run over and killed. The father never really recovered from this and later committed suicide at the farm. Were we visited by a ghost? I think we probably were. Fortunately, the dreams stopped as abruptly as they started.

One summer's day a rather large man arrived in the yard on a motorbike, carrying a torch and pickaxe. He explained he was a reporter with the local paper and had heard on the grapevine that we had a tunnel in our cellar leading down to the river, which was close by, and could he investigate. Wow! This was exciting! I had reached an age when I was an avid reader of Enid Blyton's Famous Five, and my imagination knew no bounds. The cellar, large, dark and cold was used to house our coal, together with quite a bit of accumulated junk gathered over time. I rarely ventured inside, convinced there were huge hairy spiders lurking in every corner. The reporter went in and poked around for a while and eventually found the opening of the tunnel tucked away in a dark corner. He explained contraband goods would be transported down the river and into the inn via the tunnel. Sadly, he didn't get very far into the tunnel when he discovered it had been bricked up. Never mind, I gained a lot of kudos at school for a few days, proudly telling all my friends of the real smugglers' tunnel found in the cellar of my house!

We stayed longer in this house than at any other. I think my father grew quite fond of the pigs; I know I certainly did. Nowadays, within the family, if we talk of our times on "the farm", we instinctively know it is this house we are referring to, despite the other farms we lived at. After we left, sadly the house continued to fall into disrepair and it has long since been demolished, but my memories of the happy times we all spent there will never fade.□

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“Strictly” dancing to the music of time Lesley Nadel

Since the earliest origins of cave paintings in India dating to circa 8000 BCE, dance has been part of the human story. The varied forms exist in all cultures. Dancers have performed for their local audiences for centuries - belly dancing in Egypt, Hawaiian hula, Tahitian Ote'a and Maori Haka. Asia has a rich history of dance and Chinese dance is traced back at least 3000 years.

Dance can take us from normal levels of experience to spiritual rituals. Bonds within communities can be forged and even though styles have adapted over centuries, the act of the dance is still a very expressive art form. The body moves rhythmically, often to music. Sometimes the dance is choreographed to express beauty and emotion, other times simply to connect with people. All ages dance, from highly trained professionals to amateurs, and some of us just move and shake.

The simple and repeated movements of folk dances led to social dancing, and in Europe the folk dances of the Middle Ages became formal ballroom dancing. A whole new world developed from the Renaissance as dancing masters instructed courtiers and the wealthy upper classes with the proper steps to attend court dances. As women's fashion allowed greater freedom of movement, so did social dancing become livelier. In the mid-nineteenth century the waltz was beginning to reach global popularity. By the beginning of the twentieth century two-person social dancing was beginning to gain acceptance as the norm.

Dance has become the regular pleasure in the lives of a wide variety of people; ballroom still retains its rich history from the Renaissance, and jitterbugging and disco, seen from the 50s and 70s, also originated from earlier ballroom. Now more complex rhythms and movements have become popular with salsa, cha-cha, tango and rumba, and in the last fifty years hip hop has taken off worldwide with its roots in black America.

A major influence in dance is undoubtedly ballet which became an art in the eighteenth century. Ballet companies were formed all over the world and many modern masterpieces and timeless classics were created. In the twentieth century modern choreographers such as Balanchine have created new forms of performance dance. But all choreographers need music to set the mood or atmosphere for the dance as it will decide what the audience sees and experiences. Music and dance have similar close structures: tempo, rhythm, meaning, etc. One discipline explains the other and vice versa. Importantly, ballet music will tell the story directly and with detail. Tchaikovsky's famous ballet, *The Nutcracker*, refers to the music itself, as well as the dance moves. The music assists the dancer to interpret the movements in an individual and unique way within the requirements of the choreography. Many classical ballets are performed with a classical music accompaniment.

The Arts Society Northwest Norfolk is hosting a lecture at Sedgford Village Hall on 11th April 2022 at 2.00 pm exploring the wide-ranging music chosen by ballet choreographers through the years – ***It's not Just Tchaikovsky***. This month's talk by The Arts Society accredited lecturer, Nigel Bates, will include several performance videos. For further details on the lecture and how to join our Society, visit www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk □





THE ARTS
SOCIETY
North West Norfolk

THE ARTS SOCIETY - ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS

Lectures held at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm

Monday 11th April 2022

***It's not just Tchaikovsky.* Lecturer: Nigel Bates**

This lecture explores the wide-ranging music chosen by ballet choreographers through the years, proving that the right composition with the addition of the right moves and the right designs can create modern masterpieces and timeless classics. We move from the grandness of Imperial Russia with the creation of Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty and other established and popular works through to the current modern repertoire of the Royal Ballet, exploring the challenges met by both composers and choreographers. His talk includes several performance video clips.



Monday 9th May 2022

***An Introduction to Norwich Silver.* Lecturer: Christopher Garibaldi**

Norwich was one of the most important sites of 16th and 17th century silver manufacture outside London. It had its own assay office from 1565 to 1702 and a thriving silver trade supplying silver for Norwich and Norfolk churches, as well as providing secular objects for a domestic market. This lecture examines the development of the Norwich silver trade, the establishment of its assay office and its system of hall-marks, and explores the possible reasons for the assay office's closure in the early 18th century. It also looks at the principal public collections of Norwich-made silver and assesses how they can be seen to manifest a strong sense of regional identity.



For more info and how to join, visit our website: www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk
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Royal Air Force Bircham Newton Heritage Centre OPEN DAYS 2022 - open 10am to 4pm

The Heritage Centre at Bircham Newton has a unique collection of memorabilia from the former Royal Air Force station's past service, which spanned more than 44 years, including two world wars and the Cold War. On display are photographs and personal memories of service personnel who served there and other related items from its fascinating history. The Centre is staffed and run entirely by volunteers, many of whom are ex-service or children of service personnel. Close by there are two stone memorials to remember those who served at Bircham Newton and its main satellite airfield near Docking.

Easter Sunday 17th April
Sunday 1st May
Sunday 29th May
Sunday 12th June
Sunday 26th June
Sunday 17th July
Sunday 31st July
Sunday 14th August
Sunday 28th August
Sunday 11th September
Sunday 25th September
Sunday 30th October
Sunday 13th November
(Remembrance Sunday)

The Heritage Centre will be opened in compliance with current Covid 19 guidance

Disabled access & toilets available, car parking and entrance are free.

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Message in a bottle

The Lions Message in a Bottle scheme is a simple idea that encourages people to keep their basic personal and medical details where they can be easily found by emergency services, should the need arise – in the fridge.

The bottles are available from Carole Brown Health Centre. They contain green cross stickers, one to go on the fridge door and another to be displayed on your front door, or you could make your own.

The details required are:

- Your full name and brief physical description
- Your doctor's name and surgery address and telephone number
- A brief description of any medical conditions you are suffering from
- Allergies and allergic reaction to medication
- Location of your medication in your home
- The names, addresses and phone numbers of two people who may be contacted in any emergency
- Details of any pets that may be on the premises

We also advise that you keep your repeat prescription list with your medication

Pets

If you are unable to organise care for your pets in an emergency, it is helpful if you can also leave the following details with the green cross bottle:

The person below has offered to help.

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

Number and type of pet(s):

Pet's name(s):

Temperament:

Likes and dislikes:

Any urgent care needs (e.g. medication and how many times a day):

Which vet practice is the pet registered at?:

Food, medicine, leads are kept:



Our April meeting will be at 2.00 pm on Monday
11th April at the VILLAGE HALL, OLD
HUNSTANTON. PLEASE NOTE: This is a
different venue.

u3a

Speaker: John Vigar on *Hidden Treasures in Norfolk Churches*.

Please go to the u3a Hunstanton website at u3asites.org.uk/hunstanton for further information or email publicity.u3ah@gmail.com.



The Salvation Army, Snettisham

Alison Kirby

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the sea and established it on the waters. Psalm 24.

Springtime is a wonderful time of the year, isn't it? A time when new life begins to appear. Spring bulbs begin to sprout and flower, animals begin to produce new life and trees begin to come into leaf after a winter of being a mass of bare branches. This spring seems especially welcome as we cautiously emerge from a pandemic which has severely restricted our lives for the past two years.

At The Salvation Army we are beginning to see our programme restart. Although we have been open for worship every Sunday since April 2021, it has been more difficult to reopen other parts of our programme, but finally we are beginning to get back to normal.

I am pleased to say that we will be able to restart our ever-popular coffee mornings. On the second and fourth Thursday of every month our hall on Alma Road will be open between 10am and 12 noon for tea, coffee, cakes, sausage rolls and much more, and of course a good old natter!

On the first Thursday of every month our craft group will be reopening. Times are to be confirmed so keep a look out on our noticeboard or call me for more information. You can bring along your own project and also help us with our nominated project for a local charity.

Our Men's Fellowship group restarts on 20th April at 7.30pm and will meet every third Wednesday of the month. All of these are in addition to our activities already up and running: Sunday worship at 11am, CAMEO Club every Monday at 10.30am, Prayer Group every Tuesday at 10am and Band Practice every Tuesday at 7pm. These are open to everyone and you will be made most welcome.

For more information contact Alison Kirby, Corps Leader, Snettisham Salvation Army Alison.Kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk Tel: 01485 579079. Mob: 07775 717852



**LAVENDER LACE DAY**

ARE YOU CRAFTY?

Lavender lace makers are having a

Lace and craft day

Saturday 30th MAY 2020 10.00am – 4.00pm

At

Hunstanton Community Centre

Avenue Road Hunstanton PE36 5BW

Come along and have a go at lace making. Bring your own craft making, to show and share your expertise. Tatting, crochet, knitting, patchwork, quilting or other crafts, all welcome.

Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits included

Bring a packed lunch.

Demonstrations, exhibition and trade stands.

Tickets £5.00 by post or on the door

For tickets and further information: Mrs Lyn Halifax, 5 Sarahs Rd, Hunstanton, PE36 5PA. Phone 01485 533611

Please enclose s.a.e

Dersingham Task Force

Dennis Weatherill

Since our participation in the Church Christmas Tree Festival, we have been enjoying our overwinter rest period. However, with the onset of spring we will be back in action maintaining our two village gardens on Lynn Road and Post Office Road. The first job will be a general tidy up before the weeds get their act together, then it will be a continuous job keeping them under control until November.

You may have seen the daffodils along the grass verges near the recreation ground and also by the speed limit signs south of the village. Most of those were planted two years ago, but more were added last autumn. It's rewarding to see the results and a welcome sign of better weather to come.

We meet every second Wednesday at 10.00 am for an hour's light work followed by coffee, (and cake if you've been very good) and a natter at Thaxter's. If you would like to join us, please get in touch and you will be made welcome.

Contact: denzilweatherill@gmail.com or 07482 913399.□

Ingoldisthorpe pub??

Up until 1970 Ingoldisthorpe had a pub – The Ship – but it seems to have disappeared without trace. Can anybody accurately locate it, remember its demolition or conversion, or even own up to drinking in it? There is an online photo, but there seems to be no match on the ground, or it might even be another pub altogether.□

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Dates and Deadlines! A NEW TAX YEAR

Kathryn Gigg, Chartered Accountant, Hunstanton

MARCH TO APRIL 2022

1st March 2022

ITSA: Late filing penalty charged where 2021 Self Assessment Tax Return was not filed by 28th February 2022.

31st March 2022

Company Tax: Final date for reclaim of tax paid by a close company on a loan to a participator if loan repaid during the financial year ended 31st March 2018.

Corporation Tax: Returns for accounting periods ended 31st March 2021 should reach HMRC.

ATED: Deadline to amend returns and pay any outstanding tax for the year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

1st April 2022

ITSA: 5% penalty imposed on 2020/21 Income Tax, CGT and Class 2 and 4 NIC not paid by today. The penalty can be avoided if a time to pay arrangement is agreed in advance.

Employers: New national minimum wage rates apply.

VAT: Making Tax Digital for VAT extended to all VAT-registered businesses for their first VAT period starting on or after this date.

ATED: Fixed revaluation date. This valuation will be applicable to determine whether ATED applies and the relevant charging bands from 1st April 2023.

4th April 2022

Tax conditionality: Tax checks introduced for renewals of licences in England and Wales for driving taxis and private hire vehicles, operating private hire vehicle firms or dealing in scrap metal.

5th April 2022

LAST DAY OF THE 2021/22 TAX YEAR: Various tax claim and elections deadlines.

Personal tax: deadline for electing to transfer (part of) the married couple's allowance from husband to wife, or withdraw such an election, for 2022/23.

CGT: Last day to make disposals to use the 2021/22 CGT exemption.

CGT: deadline to claim that an asset became of negligible value or a loan to a trader became irrecoverable in 2019/20.

IHT: Deadline for utilising Inheritance Tax exemptions for 2021/22 (and any excess from 2020/21).

NIC: Deadline for claiming exception from Class 4 NIC for 2022/23 where the same earnings are subject to Class 1 NIC.

NIC: Deadline to reclaim Class 1 NIC mistakenly paid in 2020/21 on earnings that should have been categorised as self-employed.

NIC: Deadline to pay voluntary Class 2 or Class 3 NIC for 2015/16.

Pensions: Deadline to make a contribution to qualify for tax relief in 2021/22.

Employers: Income Tax exemption and NIC disregard for employer-provided and employer reimbursed COVID-19 tests ends.

Employers: Temporary Income Tax exemption and NIC disregard for employer-reimbursed expenses that cover the cost of relevant home office equipment ends.

Income Tax: Trading loss carry-back extension ends.

6th April 2022

FIRST DAY OF THE 2022/23 TAX YEAR

NIC: 1.25% rate increase for Class 1, Class 1A, Class 1B and Class 4.

Dividend Tax: The dividend ordinary rate will increase to 8.75%, the dividend upper rate will increase to 33.75% and the dividend additional rate and dividend trust rate will increase to 39.35%.

Company cars: Relevant percentage for calculating taxable benefit for a car with no CO2 emissions increases from 1% to 2%.

30th April 2022

ATED: Deadline to submit and pay the tax for the year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. If a relief applies, this is also the deadline to submit a relief declaration return.

Corporation Tax: Returns for accounting periods ended 30th April 2021 should reach HMRC.

Article written in February 2022.

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

**Kathryn
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The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle



Well I never! Reading about ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) in the newspaper today, I was quite shocked, and interested to see that I had most of the symptoms associated with that condition! Goodness, gracious me! I did the test, and yes, I do probably have it. A bit late to do anything about it now, I imagine, and I've learned to cope with how I am. One of the symptoms is always leaving things to the last minute. It infuriates me that I always do it, but spurred on by the knowledge I have to get on with it, I eventually get it done – and am exhausted into the bargain. As the Editor of the Village Voice could confirm, I am always one of the last to send in my copy.

I recently had my diabetic check-up, where you have to take in a urine sample, have blood samples taken, have your feet pricked to see if you can still feel pain (or, indeed, see if the feet are still there) and be weighed. I duly attended, but they phoned up late that evening and asked me to provide another sample the next morning. "Oh," I said, "I haven't got a pot to piss in" ** (I couldn't resist, even though I thought they are probably fed up with such jokes) and asked if a jam jar would do, if sterilised. "Yes," she said. I was told to decant my offering into a proper pot (Why?) and was sent off to the toilet to do this. There was a big notice on the door, OUT OF ACTION, but next door was a baby changing room with a basin, which I thought would do. But I couldn't find the light. There was no switch that I could see on the wall outside, nor one on the inside, nor a pull – not easy to find one in the gloom. Leaving the door wide open to let in a small amount of light to do my decanting, I eventually accomplished this then thought I ought to wash out the basin in case I had spilt anything – I wouldn't want to contaminate anyone or their baby. The faucet went berserk! Water gushed over me with such force I was soaked to the skin, all down my front and my hair. Sticking my head up proudly I marched up to the desk with my little pot, water dripping off me as I went and no doubt wet footsteps on the floor behind me. My hair was wet, my faux fur waistcoat soaked and dripping. If the state of me was noticed, nothing was said, so I stalked back to my car as if this was my usual regal state - and drove back home fast.

My medical embarrassments do not end there, however...

Every six months I have to tootle off to the hospital to have a scan to see if Mr. Cancer has returned. I get a bit jittery for a few weeks beforehand, knowing it could be a possibility, as ovarian cancer is a dodgy one to beat. Up to now, it's been so far, so good. I had to drink one and a half pints of water beforehand, and not wear any metal bits on my clothing. I was, as usual, perfectly colour co-ordinated in inky purple trousers and boots the exact same colour, and a pink fleece top. And, very nice too, I thought. Far nicer for hospital staff to deal with a washed and colour co-ordinated patient, than one not. Apart from that, I get out so seldom now, that when I do, for whatever little purpose, my wardrobe is thoroughly scrutinised and chosen as if for a ball at Buckingham Palace.

I don't like driving far now. The recent isolation lark has a lot to answer to. So, dear Remote Control Man was returning from work to be my chauffeur. The morning was icy when I chose my wardrobe. By the time my beloved had returned home to take me, the weather had become sunny, and I had got hot in the fleece, so just about to leave, I decided on a thinner top. In haste, I grabbed the first thing, which was a Bette Lynch leopard skin top (faux, of course) I had recently made, scattered with a few rows of lurid gold sequins for the ultimate barmaid effect.

I was duly ushered into the scan room by a bloke with a wide Australian accent that I couldn't understand – all the worse because I had forgotten to wear my hearing aids. I then realised the sequins might show up on the scan and cause problems. I think he said, "it's okay, they're not metal." So, I needn't have worried.

I lay on the couch and all went well until the process was finished. "You can get up now," he said. I have a very fat stomach and getting up is never easy for me. I grunted and groaned and tried to rise but couldn't. I then tried swinging my legs up in the air with force so that when I slammed them down again, my torso would rise. That didn't work. I remained prone. Being an Australian gent, he was not a gallant hero, and merely laughed and wandered off. He was not going to offer help, and I was not going to ask. Eventually the legs-in-the-air-thing did do the trick after about five grunting and gasping efforts, though it didn't do a lot for my self-esteem, especially as I have always secretly thought of myself a Marilyn Monroe look-alike and this image was not she. Who knows, perhaps if she were still alive, she would be mostly stomach too and have to swing her legs aloft in order to rise. I told him that old age sucks, smiled, and tottered towards the exit.

The arrangement made with Remote Control Man was that I would phone him, and he would drive up from the car park to the hospital doors and collect me. All I could summon up on my phone was the local vet. I couldn't find my beloved's number – somehow all numbers had been deleted, except the vet's. What to do? AND I needed the loo – all that water – but had preferred not to use a hospital toilet. I thought I could wait until I got home, but I had a pressing need now, and where to find himself with all the rows and rows of cars packing out the carpark? There was only one thing to do, walk up and down the rows of cars until I found him. I didn't expect him to see me, for he would be playing snooker on his phone and not be looking around. Up and down I staggered (I had left my trusty walking stick behind). I didn't even know the make of his car - only the last two letters on the number plate - and that the car was black. And dirty. After two rows I could no longer breathe, so decided to get help from reception. Maybe I could phone the vet and ask them if they had his mobile number. I staggered back up the steep hill to the reception area, and could barely gasp out my plea for help, when a feeling of such relief swept over me as I saw a tall figure enter the doorway. My Prince had found me! He had actually looked up and seen me stumbling around the car park and wondered what the hell I was doing, so started up the car. As we left reception, he strode forth with his lanky legs, leaving me behind, still panting and puffing. "Wait!" I wailed, and he just laughed. I needed his arm to cling onto. "For God's sake, I AM DYING HERE!" I bellowed after him. He did wait, laughing, and I clung like a limpet until I was seated in the car. What bliss. Then, I thought with a sense of guilt, maybe I shouldn't have shouted the "I am dying" bit at a hospital portal – but maybe that is all part of my heretofore undiscovered condition of ADD?

***The saying, 'they haven't got a pot to piss in' is apparently derived from the days when tanneries curing leather needed urine for the process. Local poor people would keep a pot by their doors and take the contents to the tannery where they would be paid. Really poor people couldn't afford to buy a pot, hence the saying.□*

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Ingoldisthorpe Village WI

Lesley Geer, President, Ingoldisthorpe Village WI

Well, a turbulent time has been had by all over the last few weeks, coping with the storms and Covid still in the background. I sincerely hope you are all ok and not suffering any lasting damage.

In February, despite the weather and the dark, members turned out to our 'Pudding Evening with a Twist'. This was a palatable taster guessing game, and despite several members being expert cake makers you can rest assured there was no cheating (well, not much!)

Our book club has got off to a flying start under the direction of Lindsay with two books already on the agenda for discussion.

Our planning meeting went ahead, and we have a busy schedule up to March 2023. Our first event, which unfortunately will be in the past when you read this, is a coffee morning on 12th March. As always, this will be publicised by flyers and leaflet distribution around Ingoldisthorpe Village.

Our own celebration of this special year, a St George's Day Jubilee Tea on Saturday 23rd April, from 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm, is being held at the Church Hall, Hill Road. Keep a lookout for posters giving details of how to apply for tickets.□



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Dersingham Methodist Church

Thank you all very much for supporting our recent coffee mornings. It was good to see so many coming in, buying items from the stalls, sitting enjoying sausage rolls and coffee, and chatting to friends.

Here are details of forthcoming events:

Easter Services: Good Friday 15th April 10:00 am. At 10:30 am: Village Walk of Witness for those who wish to join in.

Easter Sunday 17th April: 10:30 am - Service led by

Greg Sargent.

Flower Festival: Theme: Miracles – God at Work. Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th May, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Coffee, light refreshments, teas. Stalls: books, cakes, cards, gifts, plants. Children from the local schools will sing at 10:00 am on Thursday and Friday.

Sunday 29th May: Services to celebrate our 132nd Church Anniversary: 10:30 with Revd Robert Roberts, and Songs of Praise at 4:00 pm. with the Revd Richman Ncube. Proceeds for Church funds.

We look forward to seeing you all to enjoy the flowers, the delicious cakes, buying something from the stalls and sharing in our Festival. □




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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

As we chase away the winter blues and spring is on the horizon, the children have been looking forward to pancakes, World Book Day, Red Nose Day and the promise of chocolate eggs at the end of the term! The classes have had a productive half term since waving goodbye to Christmas, enjoying exciting new topics and learning opportunities.



The early years have had an amazing time learning about traditional tales. Not only have the children read a variety of stories, but have sewn gingerbread men, made houses for the three little pigs and created beanstalks. At the end of term the children celebrated one of the school's values of love. They shared a wonderful day filled with activities enabling them to explore and talk about loving others and themselves.

Reception have had a busy half term learning about the penguins in the Antarctic and following the Pilchard-Brown Penguin family as they travelled around the world trying to find their way home. The children enjoyed thinking about adventures, listening to music from different countries, looking at the famous landmarks, and the favourite part was definitely tasting the food!



Year 1 rounded off the half term by enjoying a week filled with fun and friendship. In line with the school value of love, the children made jam hearts to share with someone they love at home, made bird feeders to

show love for the environment and created exercise circuits in the woods to show love for themselves and caring for their health. Finally, the children were able to get out and about again and took the opportunity to visit the library, where they explored the books and signed up for new library cards. They are now embarking on an adventure to the savannah, where they will meet many different interesting and exotic animals! They cooked Kenyan food and learnt how to play African drums. The children had fun celebrating the end of their topic by performing the traditional African folk tale *Awongalema* with music, dance and drama. They produced some wonderful artwork and enjoyed celebrating the school value of love, teaming up with Year 5.

Year 3 had an exciting half term learning how and why the Romans invaded Britain! The children found out about daily life in the Roman world, such as their houses, inventions and even toilet habits. A visit to Norwich Castle Museum taught more about Roman soldiers' weapons and tactics, as well as how the



Celts in Iron Age Britannia may have felt when they were invaded. About half the class felt they were team Celt, and half team Roman! Back at school, the children made model chariots to reflect their choice, driven either by a Roman charioteer or by Queen Boudicca!

Year 4 made rocky road and shaped it into hearts for the school value of love day. They also wrote the recipe on heart designed paper and created their own poems. As part of the half termly RE inquiry, the children described a story from the Bible in their own words with pictures and drawings. The topic for the half



term was Vikings and the children enjoyed making longboats with their own dragon-head designs, creating coil pots from clay and exploring the adventures of the Vicious Vikings!



Imagine winding yourself through the most complex maze in history, only to come face to face with a monstrous creature with the body of a human and the head of a bull. This fearsome creature introduced the Year 5s to Greek myths and the topic for our

spring term. After analysing sources of evidence to decide if the legend of the Minotaur could possibly be true, the children went on to discover the ground-breaking Greeks and their influence on people's lives today. Accompanied by the class text, *Who Let the Gods Out* by Maz Evans, the children were able to enjoy and explore this hilarious novel, whilst discovering more about Ancient Greece, but also discover the importance of friendship and integrity.

Year 6 have been reading *The Island at the End of Everything*. This book, set in the Philippines, is based upon the forced creation of a colony for those suffering from leprosy. It contains themes of family, friendship, and how society both views and treats those suffering from illness. Alongside this, we have focused upon the natural world and evolution as part of our topic work, which also linked to debates about creationism in Religious Studies. Elsewhere, the class continues to work assiduously as we build towards SATs in May.

From everyone here at Dersingham Primary and Nursery School, we wish you a speedy return to normality and look forward to sharing our continued learning journey with you next time!□

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*Events in Wolferton
this Spring*

We've got plenty on this Spring for you so please join us!

Social Club general opening times
 Friday and Saturday evenings 8.00 pm - 11pm
 Sunday lunch time 12.30 - 3.00 pm

Coffee morning in the Social Club
Saturday 2nd April 10am to noon - coffee morning and a lot more
 going on including raffle and sales stands. Proceeds to Wolferton
 Church and Happy Memories

Prize bingo in the Social Club
Tuesday 19th April doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30
Tuesday 17th May doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30

and here's one for your diary!

Saturday 21st May 10am to 4pm - plant sale on the village green with
 refreshments and merchandise selling in the Social Club.
 Proceeds to Wolferton and West Newton Churches.

Details of Easter church services will be published separately
See next edition of Village Voice for our Jubilee events



FORTHCOMING EVENTS APRIL / MAY 2022

FRIDAY 1st APRIL	APRIL FOOLS FUN DARTS NIGHT – 7.30 p.m. Admission free
MONDAY 4th APRIL	BINGO NIGHT –Club opens at 7.00p.m. “Eyes Down” at 7.30 p.m. £6.60 for a book of 10 cards & £1.75 for a “Flyer Card”. Fully licenced bar and Raffle. To book email to events@anmerclub.co.uk
FRIDAY 8th APRIL FILM NIGHT	KING RICHARD - 12A - Based on the inspiring true story of Richard Williams the father of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams Club opens 7.00 p.m. Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 payable at the door. For full details please visit www.anmerclub.co.uk
FRIDAY 22nd APRIL	Musical Entertainment with THE DUKES UKULELE BAND – 7.30 p.m. Admission £5 To include Jacket Spud with Chilli & Cheese - Fully licenced bar and Raffle
FRIDAY 29th APRIL	QUIZ NIGHT - 7.30 p.m. start Club opens 7.00 p.m. Entry £2 per person. For further information & to book email: events@anmerclub.co.uk Fully Licensed bar Raffle
SATURDAY 7th MAY	PIE & MASH SUPPER - £10 pp – Club opens 7.00 p.m. Advance booking only – please contact Dorothy on 01553 631349 with name and contact tel. number or email events@anmerclub.co.uk by Monday 2 nd May Licenced bar and Raffle
MONDAY 9th MAY	BINGO NIGHT –Club opens at 7.00p.m. “Eyes Down” at 7.30 p.m. £6.60 for a book of 10 cards & £1.75 for a “Flyer Card”. Fully licenced bar and Raffle. To book email to events@anmerclub.co.uk
FRIDAY 20th MAY	FILM NIGHT – Club opens 7.00 p.m. Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 payable at the door. For full details please visit www.anmerclub.co.uk
FRIDAY 27th MAY	QUIZ NIGHT - 7.30 p.m. start Club opens 7.00 p.m. Entry £2 per person. For further information & to book email: events@anmerclub.co.uk Fully Licensed bar Raffle
SATURDAY 28th MAY	CRAFT FAIR, FUN DOG SHOW & CAR BOOT SALE – Noon £5 for Craft stall. To book please contact Dorothy on 01553 631349 with name and contact tel. number or email events@anmerclub.co.uk by Monday 23 rd May Licenced bar and Raffle – Entry to Dog Show - £1 per dog. Club bar open from 12.30 p.m.
Opening Times Unless otherwise stated	Fridays - 7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. – Last Orders 10.00 p.m. Saturdays – 12.30 to 2.30 p.m



Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy

February 11th saw a few of us having a go at tenpin bowling in Hunstanton followed by lunch at the Waterside. It was an enjoyable couple of hours even if there weren't many of us. Well done to Wendy who won and many thanks for organising it.

Wednesday 16th February saw our members gathered for a talk by David Reeve, "Protecting the Royal Family". This was a highly entertaining and amusing talk, with David giving an insight into what it takes and means to protect all members of the Royal Family when they come to stay at Sandringham, which he was involved with for over twenty years. It appears that it is not just protecting them from those who wish to cause them harm but from the intrusive press as well. Over the years ways to harm and intrude on privacy have become more sophisticated.

Protection is required most of the time, so he has seen some very private moments of the family and this can mean that the role varies from being a driver, to helping mucking out horses, shooting, knowing first aid, shopper, in fact doing anything that will keep you close to that member of the Royal Family you are protecting at that time. On top of that you also need the right clothes for the right occasion. David has been lucky to have been invited on several occasions to dine with members of the Royal Family and his story of his nervousness and panic, especially the first time, had us all laughing.



Our competition for the evening was "A Royal Memento" and these were plenty with personal photos of family members meeting Royals, to medals and commemorative items. David was most impressed by these.



Our book club has now started a new book, *Never Greener* by Ruth Jones, which I am led to believe is a little risqué in places (apparently after page 9, if you have the paperback version).

February and March saw a small number of members attend coffee mornings at Jill's and Christine's respectively. Many thanks to them both for opening their homes to us and for the refreshments. I always think coffee tastes better when you have friends to share it with.

On March 16th we enjoyed our first open meeting of this year (this means invites go to the other local W.I. groups) and the speaker was Charlotte Paton on "Twenty-five things you may not know about King's Lynn". I know there were some

facts I didn't know previously and will make my next visit to the town more interesting. Many thanks to the members of all the other W.I.s who joined us for the night, or perhaps it was the cake they came for. The competition for the night was an old photo of King's Lynn.

At the time of writing the committee are also busy planning our April meeting as this will be our 60th Birthday. Food, wine, birthday cake and 60's music are part of the plans. Hopefully some may come in 60's dress (will have to do a lot of surfing the web for ideas – not sure if I can carry off mini skirt and boots now, but you never know, you may see a few flower people around the village that night.)

The dining group, which is now every two months, had a lovely meal at the King William in Sedgford. Thank you to Diann and Maggie for again organising a lovely occasion.

We also hope to have a walk in aid of Women Walk the World in April for the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW).

ACWW exists to amplify the voice of rural women across the world so that the problems they face, and the solutions found, are heard and acknowledged by international policy makers and legislators. At our monthly meeting all donations for refreshments, etc., are donated to this and Pennies for Friendship, which is the general fund for ACWW.

Our craft groups continue and we have made some lovely cards using different types of stencilling and colouring. These are always fun, and much laughter as well as frustrations occur (especially when handling double-sided tape). I know I certainly look forward to my Monday afternoon at Babs.

Our evening meet is on the third Wednesday of the month at St Cecilia's Church at 7.15 pm. All ladies are welcome. If you would like to know more about the W.I. please contact Lyn 01485 541257 or Katrina 01485 544773.□

Dersingham Day Centre **Jan Holt**

Well, spring seems to have truly arrived this morning. The sun is shining and the snowdrops and daffodils are in flower. As ever we've been very busy at Dersingham Day Centre. We've played Bingo and had our brains taxed once again by one of our Honorary President's fiendish quizzes. Purple Angels entertained us with their lively singing – and many of us joined in – a really enjoyable afternoon. We've had our usual activities of Scrabble, cards, Rummicub, dominoes and triominoes (this was a new one for us – a rather more complicated form of dominoes) and of course we chat all the time. We also celebrated the birthdays of Pauline Walker and Shirley Daniels in January.

All at Dersingham Day Centre were very grateful to receive a really generous donation to our funds from the Martin Folkes Masonic Lodge in Hunstanton. Alice Worth presented the cheque to our treasurer on their behalf.

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 07887486739. □



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Butterfly report for 2021

Brian Anderson



This report will refer to butterfly monitoring transects, and it has occurred to me that the idea of transects may be unfamiliar to some readers. I did explain it quite a while ago, but the readership has probably changed. The idea is simple - a route is selected containing (it is hoped) a variety of butterfly habitats. There are rules about temperature, wind speed and sunlight, and the distance from the route that recording is acceptable. Ideally, the route is walked once a week between April 1st and September 30th. There are currently forty-nine active transects in Norfolk. The transect coordinator is Alan Dawson and I quote his 2021 draft transect report at various points below.

The early part of the year was dominated by the weather - it always is, of course, but this time not in a good way. The butterfly season starts slowly in March when the adult butterflies which overwinter start to emerge on warmer days. It normally gets going properly in April when you may see Orange Tips, Green-veined Whites and Holly Blues. But this year April was miserable, being the driest for about sixty years and the fifth coldest since 1870. Most of May had below average temperatures and was of one the wettest on record. At the very end the weather warmed up and spring butterflies were seen in some numbers. This is not to say that there were no butterflies in the preceding weeks, but the numbers were well down on normal. It was not until late June that things really picked up - July and August were good months on the transect, in our garden and for casual observations. Alan Dawson's draft report on the 2021 transects notes that the late spring led to *"a shorter average flight time for most species."* The transect was good in particular with the recording of one species seen only once before and another that was new to the transect and indeed the parish.

The Wider Countryside Survey had only one visit (out of a possible four), largely because of the weather. I have described the rules for recording these surveys in 2018.

All the surveys were conducted jointly with my wife Yvonne.

Comments on selected species:

The Whites

All the white species (with the exception of the Brimstone) dropped in numbers. The most affected were the Orange Tips. They are single-brooded (univoltine) and have a flight period of April to June, so were badly affected by the inclement spring weather. The Green-veined White has a similar ecological niche but being double-brooded (bivoltine) was able to recover in numbers in the summer brood. Inward migration probably boosted Large and Small White numbers.



Purple Hairstreak

Blues and Hairstreaks One Common Blue was seen on the transect. Eight Holly Blues were seen (it's interesting that we see far more Holly Blues in our garden than we do on the transect). The star of this particular show was a Purple Hairstreak in July. This has been recorded only once before on the transect in 2014. I suspect they are actually more numerous than the data suggest as they spend most of their time at the top of oak trees which provide the aphid honeydew that is the principal food source of the adult. The caterpillars feed on the oak leaves. Small Copper and Brown Argus

were not recorded in 2021, but the numbers have been always low.

Aristocrats and Fritillaries

I have mentioned the Silver-washed Fritillary in several previous reports. They have been seen in Ken Hill Wood and the gardens of Sandringham House. This year I am happy to report that we've had the first one recorded both in Dersingham and on the transect. Alan Dawson writes that, *"the species has been spreading rapidly across Norfolk over the last few years...the increase is quite extraordinary, from one record in 2013 to around 700 in 2021."* I see from Alan's draft report that three transects around Swanton Novers (about 5km east of Fakenham) recorded a total of 199 in 2021. Note that these records are from transects only and will exclude casual observations, so the actual of number of records will be even higher.



Silver-washed Fritillary

The Small Tortoiseshell is a common butterfly that has declined seriously in recent years. The reason for the decline is debated. Most experts blame a variety of parasitic flies or wasps, although there is disagreement over which parasite to blame. Others point the finger at climate change, sometimes blaming the warming trend for boosting the number and range of parasites. No hypothesis has universal acceptance, and none has been discarded. In 2021 we had hopes that some sort of recovery was beginning as they were up in numbers on the transect. In our garden we recorded 39 over the season, which is the highest number since we came to Dersingham in 2011. These hopes seemed to have been dashed when I checked with a few people elsewhere in the county - they hadn't seen any increase. But then some more optimistic news arrived. Alan Dawson's draft transect report showed that Small Tortoiseshell numbers increased by about 30 per cent compared with 2019 (2020 has been ignored for comparison purposes because lockdowns meant many transects were not walked.) So, perhaps there is hope yet!

Peacock numbers also increased, and the Red Admiral did well. Painted Ladies were very infrequent.

The Browns

All the Browns declined - Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet. This is probably because the weather was so poor in April and May for, although none of these species fly until June or later, their caterpillars would have had limited opportunity for feeding in the cold spring.

A search for the Grizzled Skipper In June Yvonne and I stayed for a week at a cottage in the grounds of Oxburgh Hall. This is quite close to Foulton Common, currently the only known site of the Grizzled Skipper in Norfolk. Despite much searching we failed to spot any. Alan Dawson's report shows just four recorded for 2021. We are at risk of losing this butterfly entirely from the Norfolk list. But we did see a Dingy Skipper at Foulton. It is the most moth-like of all British butterflies. Sadly, this is also declining.□



Grizzled Skipper



Dingy Skipper

Campaigns and policy volunteer (West Norfolk)

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Law and Order - Part 3

The Overseers of the Poor

Elizabeth Fiddick



The relief of the poor was not considered to be the responsibility of Central Government. A series of Poor Law Acts from the sixteenth century onward created a system to be administrated at local level. It outlined the Poor Rate, a tax levied on property in each parish to fund the support of the poor, and required each parish to elect two Overseers, working under the supervision of a J.P. to collect the rate, manage the budget, provide basic shelter, food and clothing to the needy and provide help during periods of ill health or unemployment. The Overseers were elected every Easter and churchwardens were frequently the preferred choice. They would meet monthly to discuss the budget and to identify which residents qualified for benefit. At the time it was considered that the Overseers were worthy citizens who would be able to distinguish between the deserving and the undeserving poor! The list of Overseers appointed for this village contains many familiar names that we have met before like Richard Stanton, John Skinner, John Smith and George Silcock.

A record of the Poor Rate assessment here is found in our church records, once again containing familiar names. The extensive property and lands owned by Robert Goltý meant that he was taxed £9-4s-1¹/₂d. A Hamond of Dersingham Hall paid £10-2s-3³/₄d, whilst a small landowner like Money Sendall with just one tenement and garden paid 2s.-3d. But there were other sources of income for the Overseers. Residents frequently left money in their wills, like Robert Bylock and Thomas Goodman, who left 4d and 6d respectively to the Poor Man's Box. Other wealthier residents left land, like Jeffrey Bummer who bequeathed three acres at Snettisham to be used for the benefit of the poor. Elizabeth Pell, the widow of Valentine Pell, left £100 for the purchase of land to be used in the same way. The Rev. Kerrich subsequently purchased twenty-three acres of land from William Grigson for this purpose. At one time this land was rented to a John Mason at £17 per year for eight years. Some of this money was used to purchase loaves which were placed each week on the Pell Tomb in the church for the nominated poor to collect each Sunday. When Thomas Kerrich was our Minister, they were known as the Thomas Loaves. In time of winter, coals were also bought and distributed to the deserving poor.

Throughout the church records are accounts of how the money was spent. In one record 12s was spent on twenty-four leeches for different paupers. 10s 6d was paid on the dressing and cure of the incised wound in the knee of Thomas Grimes. A jacket and breeches were provided for the boy Watts at 10s whilst the boy Davy received a jacket, waistcoat and breeches for 12s. Supper was provided for three persons at 2s 6d whilst two other needy persons were provided with breakfast 2s and dinner 2s. 1s was spent on rum and water, 18s 4d on ale and 6d on brandy and water. One Richard Johnson was paid 5s during his period of illness and there are regular weekly payments made to support widows. The record for 1751 shows thirty-three villagers named as having received charity of some sort.

An Act of Parliament in 1723 allowed parishes to buy, rent, or build a workhouse. One was established here in West Hall Manor House in Manor Road and is marked on Bryan's Map of 1826.



West Hall Manor Road Workhouse

By 1776 there were 2,000 small workhouses throughout the country. From 1723 to 1834 they became more places to accommodate the elderly poor or give a home to the young or orphaned poor. There are many references to this workhouse or Town House as it was often referred to in the records. In 1784 a half year's rent of £5.0.0d for the workhouse is recorded and Walter Dye was paid 6s-8d for four days' work on the Town House and his labourer received 2s-6d. 6s 6d was paid to a tinker for copper mending on the workhouse.

The Overseers could identify which residents would be sent to the workhouse and they had the power to remove children from a home not considered to be beneficial to their health, safety or wellbeing. The records show that the Overseers often sought legal advice about these matters and there is a record of the answer to one such query from a firm of London solicitors. The Overseers reported that in the case of bastard children, *"We cannot take a child away from its mother till it is seven years old without the mother's consent. We are obliged to allow her for it as a Justice directs."*

In 1834 under the new Poor Law Act these smaller houses were closed as the new, larger Union Workhouses were established. The Docking Union Workhouse was built at this time.



Bryant's Map of 1826



West Hall Manor House on right with The Albert Victor Inn on left, in the early twentieth century



Docking Union Workhouse



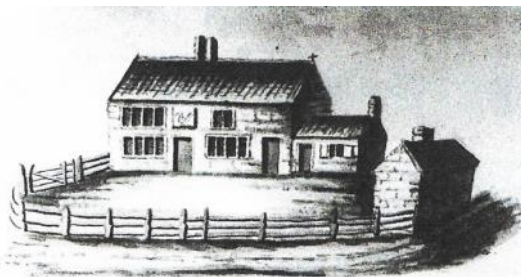
**Docking Union today
Photo: Evelyn Simak**

In all cases relief was to be given only to established residents of the parish. If not born here a resident could gain settlement by owning property, entering an apprenticeship, by marriage or serving in a public office. Anyone applying for poor relief had to prove settlement and was subject to an examination before a Justice and the Overseers. There are copies of these examinations in the church records and one such person was James Guy who came before the panel here in August 1815 and had quite a story to tell.

James, thirty-seven years old, stated that he was told and believed that he was born in Dersingham. He lived with his parents until aged seventeen and then volunteered to serve in His Majesty's Navy for the Borough of Castle Rising. He served seven years and on his discharge returned to Dersingham to live with his parents. He was then impressed and served a further seven months in the Navy before being discharged as he had been wounded. He thought that was about 1804. (I wondered if he could have fought at the Battle of Trafalgar.) He then served in the Merchant Service, sailing from different ports until the February that had just passed when he was discharged due to his poor health. Since then he had been unemployed. He had a wife named Sarah but no children. The document is signed by the J.P.s and by James Guy. With such a record of service I trust he was successful in obtaining relief.

If a pauper applicant could not prove settlement they would be removed to the parish nearest their place of birth. Parishes they passed through had no responsibility for them under the law but were expected to provide food and shelter for one night. However, if a pauper passing through a parish was in desperate need of help it was seldom refused. Such was the case of William Botts in the severe winter of 1789 when he was on the highway near Wolferton. He slipped in the icy conditions, fell and broke his leg. He lay helpless on the icy road until William Skinner of Dersingham came along in his wagon, took pity and brought him to The Cock Inn.

The Parish Officers were called and they sent for Mr. Rand, surgeon, of Snettisham who set William's leg. It took two months for the leg to heal, and William was probably accommodated and provided with food in the Town House. The surgeon of course duly presented his bill which came to three guineas. The charges for nursing and maintenance amounted to seven guineas, a grand total of ten guineas.



The Cock Inn, replaced by The Feathers

The Overseers were naturally anxious to recoup their money. They were expected to keep tight control of their budgets and account for every penny spent, so they sought the advice of Henry Partridge of Middle Temple, London. In answer to their questions, Mr. Partridge informed them they would have to pay the bill as they had employed the surgeon and Botts was a casual pauper. They could not claim from Wolferton and could only claim from the parish of his birth if they had informed that parish of all the circumstances from the start. If no such notice had been given, then they would have to meet the costs themselves.

In another instance, the Overseers sent a claim to the Overseers of Wisbech seeking reimbursement for the cost of thirteen weeks support amounting to £3-5s-0d for a pauper called Rix of that parish. This was a standard printed letter but at the end the Overseer had handwritten, "*PS If this is not settled in a week, payments to the Pauper will cease*".

So, the Parish Constable, the Commons Reeves, the Overseers of the Poor, the Road Surveyors, along with the churchwardens and the vicar worked together to ensure the maintenance of Law and Order. All the officials were local residents elected by their peers and together could decide what needed to be done to ensure the smooth running of the village. This system, for all its shortcomings and failings, served the village well for many years.□

Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership

Briefing 25 February 2022

Face coverings still required in local healthcare settings following government's "Living with Covid" announcement

Patients and visitors to all healthcare settings within Norfolk and Waveney will still be required to wear face coverings to protect the health of patients and staff when COVID-19 restrictions are imposed.

While Monday night's announcement of the government's "Living with Covid" plan set out plans for the lifting of Covid restrictions, [local health leaders are reminding people that NHS guidance in healthcare settings has not changed](#), and patients who are not exempt from wearing a face covering should continue to wear one.

Through the success of the UK's vaccination programme, which in Norfolk and Waveney has seen 94% of adults 18+ receive at least one dose of the lifesaving vaccine, the government has confirmed that the restrictions on public life will be eased, as vaccines continue to form our main line of defence against the disease.

It has been announced that from 24 February, Covid will begin to be treated like other infectious diseases, such as the flu.

Health and care leaders across Norfolk and Waveney are urging all patients and visitors to continue to follow the infection prevention practices that have been shared during the pandemic which will help minimise the risk of transmission of infectious diseases, including:

- ** Washing your hands every time you come indoors, and use alcohol hand gels to clean your hands when you're out in public.
- ** Wearing a face covering in all healthcare settings. The requirement to wear these in local healthcare settings is not being lifted following the government announcement. If patients are exempt from wearing a mask, a face shield may be offered as an alternative.
- ** Continuing to wear a face covering in crowded or enclosed spaces, such as public transport.
- ** Letting in fresh air when meeting indoors. Aim to open doors or windows every hour, even for just a few minutes, to help fresh air to circulate.

COVID-19 hasn't gone away, and the risk of future variants that aren't as mild as Omicron remains. That's why it's important we continue to follow public health advice and following best-practice infection prevention behaviours. □

Snettisham Gardening Club

Our April meeting will be on Wednesday 27th at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham, when Michael Croot will be demonstrating how to make up hanging baskets and containers and will be bringing along plants for members to buy.

All meetings will be subject to any Covid restrictions that may be applicable at the time.

Any further information can be obtained from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754 □

Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron

With a bit of luck, spring will be with us by the time this issue is published, bringing warmer days and lighter evenings, ready for our opening day on April 9th. Our President, Bob Meredith, will bowl the first woods to open the green, to be followed by a roll-up and finger buffet, weather permitting. It will be lovely to see our old friends again, and hopefully we will have a busy season of bowls this year.

We have lots planned, including roll-ups every Saturday, The Dickie Murrell Internal League competition each Wednesday from the beginning of May, knockout competitions, and external leagues. Also available again will be the hour-long free practice sessions during the week. To take advantage of these you will need to book with our Fixtures Secretary, Brenda. Our first friendly match of the season will be at home to Cliff Parade Bowls Club on May 15th, the return leg in August.

The new shed is finished, so our efforts are now concentrated on preparing the green and doing any other maintenance around the club in readiness for opening day. With that in mind, there will be a working party from 9am on Saturday April 2nd.

We are a friendly bunch at Dersingham Bowls Club and would love to see new members enjoying our sport. So, we are holding an Open Day at the club, on Sunday April 24th, where non-members can come along and try lawn bowls, perhaps for the first time. We have a resident qualified coach and experienced members to give guidance, and all equipment will be provided. We just ask that flat-soled shoes are worn to avoid damage to our green. The Open Day is free of charge and will be between 10am and 3pm, and complementary tea/coffee/soft drinks and cake will be available. So, if you would like to come along for an hour or so, you would be most welcome. Bowls is a sport for all ages, but we would recommend that any children are accompanied by an adult.

I look forward to the next issue, when our season will be in full flow, and I can report on competitions and league fixtures. But meanwhile, stay safe everyone. □

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Help our Hedgehogs

Ann Watkins

There will be snuffling and sniffing in our hedgerows about now, as our favourite prickly friends will be dusting off winter and coming out of hibernation and a helping hand would get them off to a good start for the year. Many may not make it out of hibernation. If they were underweight or an autumn juvenile, the chances are they may have perished. So, how can we help? Well, there are many things we can do, and small gestures can lead to a reciprocal relationship in our gardens and beyond.

Firstly, hedgehogs like to roam and can cover in excess of a mile a night foraging for food and a mate. It is important that they can move in and out of your garden and therefore a hole or scrape under a fence or gate measuring approximately 13cm x 13cm will enable this. Create a wild corner with leaves, twigs, a log pile, so they have somewhere to sleep. Hedgehog houses are widely available to purchase, or if you have DIY skills there are many 'How to' clips online, or you can obtain free instructions from The British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

Secondly, how should we feed hedgehogs? Some of us like to feed hedgehogs and they will never say no to a little extra help. A small dish of hedgehog food, or meaty cat food (not fish) is always welcome, and, very importantly, a shallow bowl of water - they are very thirsty creatures. There are some items that should not be given such as bread, milk (hedgehogs are lactose intolerant), mealworms and peanuts. They love them and can be seen rummaging around under the bird feeders looking for tasty morsels, but they should be avoided. Similar to us eating cream cakes! If you feed the birds, calciworms are a good alternative. Also, if you buy hedgehog food, just take a moment to look at the ingredients - some contain items they would never come across in their natural habitat such as banana! Some cat biscuits contain lactose, so just check. Kitten biscuits are a good supplement to give them.

As spring approaches and the garden comes to life, you may start to weed, mow and trim, but spare a thought for our prickly friends, as they may still be sleeping or having a nap. Gently move heaps of leaves or debris to one side before commencing work as many injuries to hedgehogs happen with garden forks, strimmers and mowers. Also, have a rummage in bonfire piles before lighting. If using netting, make sure the hogs can't get caught up in them by raising them up to 30cm above ground.

As we move into summer, bugs and slugs may start to munch your fruit, flowers and veg. Instead of slug pellets, pesticides and insecticides, which are no good for us either, there are many organic alternatives that can be purchased at garden centres, or there are Grow Organic websites for tips, and Wildlife Trusts have a wealth of free information.

If you find a hedgehog out in the day, it is probably not well, unless it is a mother getting extra food for her babies in the summer months; otherwise they may need rescuing.

Hedgehogs do have fleas unique to them, so you cannot catch them, but they can suffer from ticks and parasites that may need to be treated by an expert.



Emma's Hedgehog Hotel at Terrington St Clements (Tel: 07847 464904) is a wonderful non-profit hedgehog rescue organisation. Being a veterinary nurse, she knows her stuff and has recently become a registered charity (No. 1197437). You can see regular posts on Facebook and Instagram (@emmashedgehoghotel). She is always looking for fosterers and I am in the process of sorting out a space to become one myself. Emma has a group of drivers who will collect a hog in

distress from you and take it to the Hotel where the hog will be assessed, medicated (if necessary), looked after and hopefully released back into the wild once back to good health.

Please give a thought for these wonderful creatures that give so much in return for so little. When they have gone, they have gone, and the delicate balance of the food chain is destroyed. After all, without them how would Beatrix Potter have ever written Mrs Tiggly-Winkle?□

British Cactus and Succulent Society **Noel Mellish**

Did you know that a cactus and succulent club flourishes in Dersingham, affiliated to the national organisation, the BCSS? After a long break because of Covid-19 we have restarted our meetings on the first Tuesday of the month from 2.00pm to 4.30pm.

Most meetings have a guest speaker and slide show covering many of the cacti and succulent species. It is also an excellent opportunity to share growing experiences with other members.

For more information on our meetings and the location, please contact me on 07745 242896.□

St Nicholas Friendship Group **(Formerly St Nicholas Men's Group)**

The meeting style is relaxed and informal, designed to provide friendship through monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. St Nicholas Friendship Group's next meeting is on Wednesday 13th April at 10.30 am in the Orchard Close Meeting Room. The talk will be on ***Climate Change / Cloud Photography*** by Mr Chris Bell, the TV Weather Forecaster.

At our recent AGM it was agreed that we would welcome guests or non-members for a small charge (£4) for anyone who would like to hear a particular speaker or join a special group activity. So please feel welcome to join us.

Advance Notices

Wed 11th May: Rev Dave Cossey, Curate at St Nicholas

Wed 8th June: Dr Paul Richards leads a Historic Tour of Kings Lynn.

For further information please contact any of the committee:

Chair:	John Oughtibridge	01485 543951
Secretary:	Erich Dreibholz	01485 541278
Treasurer:	Rob Churchill	01485 543229

Sandringham News

Since our last update plans have now been unveiled around celebrations at Sandringham for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

A special exhibition inside the Ballroom at Sandringham House will go on display from 9th April to 13th October, with formal commemorative planting in the Gardens from May and events taking place over the extended June Bank Holiday weekend.



"Her Majesty The Queen at Sandringham: An Exemplary Reign and a Unique Country House", is this year's special exhibition at Sandringham and will showcase The Queen and the Royal Family's affection for the much-loved country retreat. Highlights of the exhibition include objects and photographs relating to The Queen's love of animals, horses and the great outdoors, as well as a special audio-visual display focusing on the very first Christmas Day speech broadcast from 1957, recorded by The Queen at Sandringham House.

Over the extended June Bank Holiday weekend, beginning on 2nd June, events will commence with the traditional lighting of the Jubilee Beacon in the Royal Parkland (*now sold out*).

Katherine Jenkins OBE will be joined by The Military Wives to perform a very special live outdoor music concert on Friday 3rd June, and a live screening of the "Platinum Party at the Palace" will be shown on a big screen in the Royal

Parkland on Saturday 4th June. The weekend will culminate with a Pageant on the Estate showcasing a decade of motoring, accompanied by live music and aerial displays.

A range of limited-edition commemorative pieces unique to the Sandringham Estate Shop will be introduced in the coming months, to include a Sandringham Platinum Jubilee Pink Gin, a Platinum Jubilee Pale Ale, Sandringham celebratory own blend tea and a special preserve made from local Norfolk fruit. A very special Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea will also be available either to sit in the Restaurant and enjoy or a take-away version to "Picnic in the Park".

In other news, the Gardens have been open at weekends in March, over a month earlier than in previous years so visitors could enjoy early spring planting with snowdrops, crocus, daffodils and early rhododendrons blooming.

There are lots of things happening this year and we look forward to celebrating with you.

Tickets and full details on all the events and how to book can be found on the website www.sandringhamestate.co.uk



Photo: Trish Meldrum-Clegg

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Sandringham Parish Council

Chairman Tony Bubb

The Council meets every other month, and at the March meeting there were no members of the public present. This is not unusual but is a little disappointing. The main areas of discussion were the two Councillor vacancies that we have, together with the need for a clerk. We really need to be up to full strength to best serve the parish.

The police report highlighted the possible problems posed by drivers of plain vans ostensibly delivering to houses, which could be a cover for those up to no good. So, the message was, be vigilant.

Once again, the problems of visitor parking had been raised at our last meeting, but after a question to County Highways came back with an answer that did not include highway marking with yellow lines or anything else helpful, it was decided to hold a watching brief for the time being.

If you have anything that you feel we should be able to help with, please get in touch or even come along to our next meeting which is in the Wolferton Club at 7.00 pm on May 11th. □

Phobbies - a hobbies club for those with and without physical difficulties

OPEN DAY and SALE: Thursday April 7th – 11am to 1pm
at Dersingham Social Club, opposite the Co-op

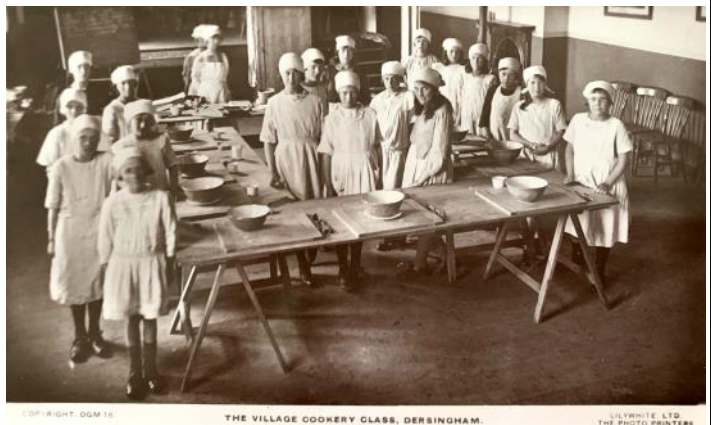
Come and have a free cup of tea or coffee and see what we do. We would love to have a few new regular members, so come and see if this is something you would like to be involved with. Everyone is welcome; currently we have equal numbers of men and women.

FOR SALE: a variety of handmade items: cards, rugs, hats, scarves, gloves, children's jumpers and toys etc .

For more information contact **Maggie** on **01485 544865** or **07967 799816** □

Dersingham Cookery Class

Kathy Carter has sent us this vintage postcard of a Dersingham cookery class, taken around 1925. From old family photos, do you recognise anyone from this era?!! □



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THE VILLAGE COOKERY CLASS, DERSINGHAM.

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Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Lynne Wheeler (on behalf of all Dersingham Guide Leaders)

The first ten weeks of 2022 have been full of a variety of activities for the Dersingham Guide Units.

The Rainbows have earned their Fruit & Veg Interest badge. They taste-tested fruit smoothies (banana won!), identified different fruits and vegetables and found out about food groups. They also completed their Feel Good Stage Skills Builder and many other activities to earn their Be Well Theme Award.



Rainbows around the world

The two Brownie Units have been very busy: Chinese New Year has been celebrated and lots of badges have been gained. The Tuesday Brownies have completed the Grow your Own badge. They planted seeds, designed a

dream garden and made leek and potato soup from local produce.



The Guides held a first aid evening, had a "mocktail" week, as well as enjoying many silly games. This meant they also completed the Be Well theme award.

The February half-term provided the opportunity for the Guides to enjoy a Valentine's themed sleepover. The Tuesday Brownies ended the half-term with a winter-themed sleepover.

The 1st and 2nd Brownies are now looking forward to their first

Pack Holiday since 2019 in the Easter holidays - a three-day adventure full of fun and excitement.

The completion of Theme Awards has meant girls achieving either their Bronze, Silver or Gold awards in Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. These badges are very special as the girls are required to complete



Brownies with their badges



Emelia Collison, Sarah Bradley, Alexa Tuddenham

specific badges and so many minutes of other activities.

February 22nd is an important date for Guiding, when girls across the world celebrate that they are part of the International Guiding Family. This year the 22nd was a school day, enabling the girls to wear their uniform to school. Later that week the girls celebrated international Guiding within their weekly meetings.

Pancake day also gave all the Units the chance to make and enjoy delicious pancakes at their meetings.

It has been lovely to welcome new girls into the Units to share the adventure. If someone you know would like to start their Guiding Adventure, visit <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk> to register your interest.□

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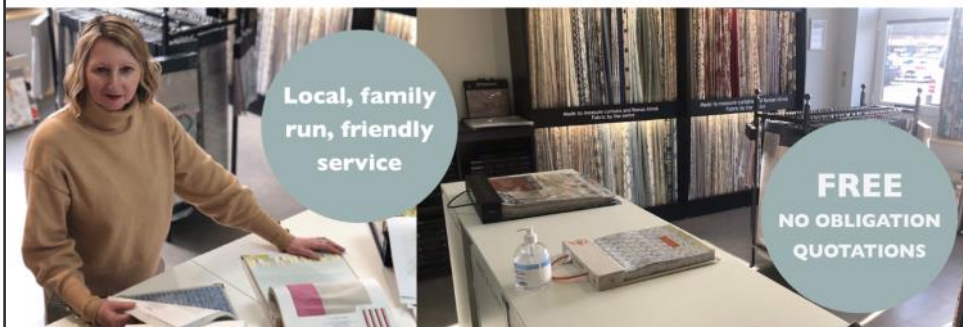
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Tomatoes grow better in the Greenhouse!

Rev Mark Capron

Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne



It is the time to sow seeds outside, for the brave if frosts have yet to pass, or in a greenhouse. Tomatoes are one of the most popular fruits (salad vegetables) to grow. We can all have a go at growing them, whether we have a garden, balcony, terrace, windowsill or even a greenhouse.



The advantages of a greenhouse offer many benefits for the tomatoes in particular, extending the growing season and boosting the resulting harvest. I have grown tomatoes outside over the last few years and have had some fruit, but the weather conditions have resulted in average growth of the vines and fruit. I have also seen the fruit from tomato plants that others have grown in greenhouses. They are great because they have a better growing environment which offers continual care for the plants through consistent temperature, light and nutritional support, especially when hydroponics are used. The benefit for the tomato plant is that it provides an environment in which the plant is able to establish, grow and be nurtured with much more support and guidance than if left to the elements and storms of life outside.

On that note, some people say to me, "I don't need to go to church to be a Christian." My response is, "Tomatoes grow better in a greenhouse." What do I mean? Believers who are not in a supporting church (greenhouse) do not have the encouragement, teaching, prayer support and, importantly, fellowship of being together. I am fortunate to see people grow when they are in the fellowship of the church, they grow in their faith, change positively as people and they benefit from the support of others.

There are many opportunities to be a part of the churches here through different services or prayer meetings, Bible study groups, baby and toddler group, youth group, knit and natter, to name but a few. Come along to the church greenhouse!

Easter Special Visitor

We will be pleased to welcome the Bishop of Norwich, Rt Rev Graham Usher, to lead the special Easter Day service with confirmation on Sunday 17th April at 10:00 am at St Nicholas, Dersingham. This will be followed by the Easter egg hunt for the children - any donations of Easter eggs welcome. The special service will be for all the parishes, with the only other service on Easter Day being the popular early morning sunrise service starting at 5:45 am at Shernborne (set your alarms, it is worth it!) The week before there will be a Palm Sunday combined service at Dersingham Parish Church at 10:00 am, hopefully with a donkey to assist us!

Looking further ahead, a special celebration service for Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be on Sunday June 5th at 10:00 am. Finally, in the next issue we hope to share much more insight into the exciting new café church called 'The Well'.

www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk **YouTube Channel:** 'Dersingham Online Worship'

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Snettisham Art Group - 2022 Easter Exhibition

We will be holding an exhibition of works in the British Legion Hall, Church Road over Easter from Friday 15th April to Monday 18th, opening each day from 10.00 am until 5.30 pm with free entry. Donations for the British Legion are appreciated. We look forward to welcoming you.



We meet in the hall on Tuesday and Thursday of each week from 9.30 am until 12 noon and welcome anyone with an interest in painting at any level on either or both mornings. We pay membership quarterly and have demonstrations and workshops from time to time for a small further contribution, depending on numbers joining.

For further information please call Les on 01485 572370. □



Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb

As I write the countryside is showing definite signs of spring and barring any repeats of a beast from the east, or any other cardinal, there should be much to admire on our walks. It is good that we are seeing yet more new walkers at our gatherings, but fresh faces and old friends are always welcome. Whatever the weather, the leader will always be at the start of the walk, even if it has been cancelled due to inclement weather or some other problem but if in doubt do ring the leader for the latest information.

Wednesday April 13th 2pm. An angular tour of the paths and lanes around Fring, with a pump house to go past – sorry sewage farm fans, none this time. About 4.5 miles. Start at Fring Church TF735348.

Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday April 27th 2 pm. A figure of eight circular walk along peaceful paths and lanes, including the ruins of Coxford Abbey and the old East Rudham railway station. Start from near Manor Farm, Old Fakenham Road, Coxford, just off the A148 TF 847294. About 4.5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday May 11th 2pm. One of our fairly regular visits to the delightful field-edge footpaths of Courtyard Farm, Ringstead. There should be plenty of wildflowers, including the famous cowslips. Start from the car park on the left of the Ringstead to Burnham road about 0.7 miles east of Ringstead TF722405.

Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 451333.

Wednesday May 25th 2pm. A four-mile circular trip around Hudson's Fen and Pott Row, including a bit of the old railway track for extra interest. Start point is the Hudson's Fen car park TF701228. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday June 8th 6pm. During the summer we have occasional evening walks, and this is one of them. A tour of our own village, exploring both streets and footpaths. Starting from the bottom of Station Rd, Dersingham by the old railway station buildings TF 680308. About 4 miles. 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 4 and 5 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 their 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 □

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Dersingham Gardening Tips

Jane Jestice

I always welcome March as the beginning of waking up in the garden, and it gives me the same feeling as cleaning my glasses does! The colours at this time of year seem so vibrant as we come out of winter. I always think they must be brighter and fresher than the last year's, although I know they aren't. This is also the time of year where I take a quick walk round my garden almost every day to see what new shoot has appeared, or new bud opened, and I'm never disappointed.

If you remember, I have got my hanging baskets lower down now so they can be viewed from above. This is the first time that I have planted them with spring flowers (miniature daffs, violas and Anemone blanda) and they look like tiny hanging gardens, as I have included an upturned oyster shell for water for the bees and surrounded it all with moss. I thoroughly recommend looking at hanging baskets from above!



As we all know, gardening is not an exact science! If you listen to Gardeners Question Time you will have heard how the panel of experts so often have wildly differing views and opinions. Of course, the weather doesn't stay consistent and neither do our lives. Over the winter and into spring last year, as we were dealing with lockdowns, I had a lot of success with planting seeds in my greenhouse. This year I have not!! By now my sweet pea seedlings were well on their way. This year none has germinated. It is totally my fault as I have been busy and not had the time to make sure the heater was on and they were properly watered. I have learnt a lesson as I shall miss the phenomenal harvest of flowers I had last year. It is definitely true that our gardens need care and attention regularly.

This is a great time to get going on weeding, as the wet soil makes it easy to dig them out and there is not too much growing around them to make it difficult. Also, give the shrubs and roses in the garden a feed so they have a good start for the growing season. It's also a good time to put supports in place for perennials so they grow through the support.

One thing that I heard from a gardener that has stayed with me is that plants do not live forever, so do not be afraid to get rid of any that are coming to the end of their lives and plant something new and vibrant in their place.□

Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club

Tuesday afternoon roll up sessions continue successfully, with an average of thirty members attending for an afternoon of gentle exercise, competition and fun. Sadly, the pre-Covid series of league and interclub matches have failed to materialise. Hopefully, the winter leagues will be reinstated this year.



On Sunday 27th February a group of around thirty members, friends and family gathered at The Anvil for a delicious carvery meal. A choice of beef, turkey or chicken, with all the usual trimmings, were efficiently served.

Happy birthday was sung to a guest who was celebrating on that day and he was duly presented with a candle on his dessert to blow out. Many thanks to Maureen for organising a very successful event.□

VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on
Tuesday May 31st at 7:30pm

THE FATHER (12A)

Starring Anthony Hopkins, Olivia Colman, Mark Gatiss

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From Your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



At the time of writing, the news from Eastern Europe is grim; but the response from the UK has been generous - sending funds and clothing for Ukrainian refugees, whilst saluting the bravery of those who have remained behind to defend their country.

We make mention of this just to remind ourselves how fortunate we are to live where we do, in a part of the UK which feels safe and secure, where our immediate preoccupations are around our local services and cost of living increases. These are worthy of concern; unfortunately, events that are unfolding internationally will only increase the cost of energy. Our hope must be for more peaceful times to come and for good decisions to be taken nationally to support greater fuel self-sufficiency.

On a brighter note, spring has arrived, and various initiatives are underway to improve our towns. A recent visitor to King's Lynn remarked how clean and well presented the town appeared to her (as well as appreciating the historic buildings and bright waterfront). We should take pride in the diverse nature of our towns and continue to ensure they are well cared for. Leader of the Council has pointed out, in response to criticisms of car parking and other increased charges, that the Borough Council provides all its services for a small percentage of the tax take. We are reliant on Government funding in the form of the Town's Fund and the Levelling Up monies to effect major improvements, and we would urge all stakeholders who are asked their views on various projects to contribute robustly and honestly.

The new housing development at Parkway has been approved by the planning committee but now has to go to the Secretary of State for approval or otherwise. It will deliver 226 homes built with environmental considerations in mind, including some which will have electric vehicle charging points. These specifications are only possible because it is the Borough who is financing the build, with the aim of delivering future proof homes at a reasonable cost.

The Councillor Community Grants Fund has now agreed to fund a printer for the new Dersingham Choral Society, new bridges over the streams on the common and help with bringing Wi-Fi to the church/village hall in Ingoldisthorpe, with possibly other claims yet to come before the end of March. Hopefully this scheme will be renewed in the next financial year.

As we look forward to the summer, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is very present in our thinking and planning. In this issue you will have plenty of information of what is upcoming, and we look forward to seeing many Ward members during this time of celebration in early June.

With heartfelt wishes for calmer times to come.□

T.M.

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TONY MORGAN

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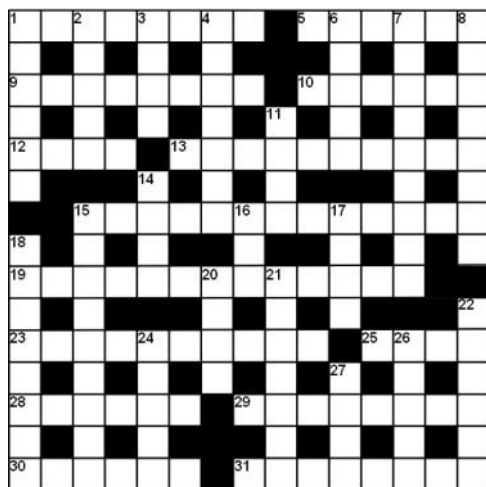
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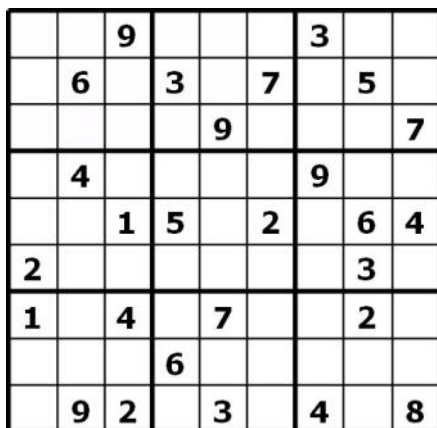
- 1 Hypothetical star act complex entertains Bishop (8)
- 5 Bubbly bistro from bone set aside for castes (6)
- 9 Unusual naval female apprentice (8)
- 10 Joking about disturbance in Barnet (6)
- 12 Consumer arranges a ruse (4)
- 13 Morning separates Flipper and victim becomes a bloodsucker (3, 7)
- 15 Somehow you'd need more ash if you recall (2,3,8)
- 19 Short month as Eve misbehaved on trial while living apart (8,5)
- 23 It's foolish to carry provision by diverted rail (10)
- 25 Old volunteers team up with thirty to provide transport (4)
- 28 A copper crew delivers judgement (6)
- 29 Lily circumvented old phase surreptitiously (8)
- 30 Side two short for baker's team (6)
- 31 Laughs when horse caught in tangled reins on Saturday (8)



Down

- 1 We took a taxi back to the counter (6)
- 2 As incorporated in Kent for example (5)
- 3 It's uncommon to see combined regiments (4)
- 4 Vineyard where you can talk to the water (7)
- 6 Actual millions in the world (5)
- 7 Batchelor takes pulse in English school towelling (9)
- 8 Sunday churchgoers showers (8)
- 11 Stick to the luge recklessly (4)
- 14 Unknown caught by colour reversing stainer (4)
- 15 Leaving branch in earls somewhat impolite retirement (9)
- 16 Regret twelve carelessly lost shilling in Parisian street (3)
- 17 Flock of pheasants disturbed by viscounts resentment (4)
- 18 Tailor ties friend to rough calculation (8)
- 20 Pip races wearing spectacles either way (4)
- 21 I sail on refitted connection (7)
- 22 Sale is busy in the passageways (6)
- 24 Note to collect border motif (5)
- 26 Confuse dead learner (5)
- 27 Belonging to the sixth ugly lout (4)

Sudoku



Answers on page 73

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The Pope's prayer intention for April 2022: We pray for **health care workers** who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

The Pope's prayer intention for May 2022: **Faith-Filled Young People** - We pray for all young people called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depths of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Lenten Alms boxes are in the porches of both churches and this year the donations will be divided between the St Francis Leprosy Guild and Aid to the Church in Need. Lent Fast Day donations go to CAFOD who support long term projects and any emergencies that occur.

Our pancake evening at St Cecilia's was back this year, thankfully, and was very well attended. The raffle raised money which will go to the Norfolk Hospice, thanks to a sponsored walk by parishioner Eric Rhodes in memory of his wife Penny, an active member of our parish, who died recently.

The World Day of Prayer service at St Mary's Parish Church, Heacham on 4th March was very well attended. This year's service had been prepared by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland with the theme 'I know the plans I have for you'. At the start of the service a prayer was said for peace in Ukraine. Many thanks to all involved.

The Sisters at St Theresa's Convent, Sandringham Road, are now offering daily Mass at 12 noon. Please confirm with them if you intend to be present. Contact 01485 532837.

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. Wearing masks when coming to church is still advisable, and hand sanitiser is still provided. We now have communal singing of hymns at our Sunday Masses.

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Sandringham Road, Hunstanton.

Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

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

Dersingham Bog News

Natural England

NATURAL
ENGLAND

As spring approaches, we are back with another update on Dersingham Bog. February is now behind us, as well as, hopefully, some of the worst of the weather which the month brought with it. Scrub work continued to be carried out on the Bog in the first half of the month, mainly through contractors, and that scrub has now been chipped to reduce disturbance on the heath as early as possible. Due to the recent storm events towards the end of the month, especially after storms Eunice and Franklin, it is crucial that we carry out tree and infrastructure checks on the reserve. These are mainly to keep the public safe, but also to prevent the livestock on the reserve from being able to get out. Luckily, we found that the damage caused was not as bad as we had anticipated, but a small amount of damage to the perimeter fence was sustained which then needed to be repaired. Of trees and branches that had fallen away from footpaths and fences, we have tried to leave as much of this on the floor as possible, because dead wood is key to woodland biodiversity and provides a habitat for many invertebrates, fungi, etc.

New signs have been put out across the reserve and on the exterior gates asking for people to keep to paths and keep dogs on a short lead. This is even more crucial now as we enter the breeding season, with ground nesting birds such as woodlarks starting to nest. Dersingham Bog is home to as many as fourteen Red List species of breeding birds, so it is crucial that we all do our bit to protect these.



February is usually a particularly slow month for bird sightings, but a few scarce birds have started to be seen on the reserve. It has been a great month for raptors with eight species noted but no kestrel seen – they remain uncommon. The male hen harrier was seen at least twice on the reserve, most recently on the 23rd, and a ringtail at the start of the month. Alongside this, a big female goshawk was over the

north end of the reserve on the 28th and a merlin appeared on the 21st, which was also the first of the year. Red kites have been observed with nesting material and an increase in raven sightings has also been notable. A short-eared owl was noted only on the 21st as well as the first barn owl sighting of the month a day later. Spring has certainly begun, with the sounds of singing birds starting to fill the air throughout the reserve. In the woodlands the distinctive sounds of nuthatch, goldcrest and marsh tit have been heard as well as an increase in treecreeper sightings and the first singing chiffchaff. On the heaths the first woodlarks of the season were heard singing by the scissors car park and this sound should only increase in the coming month. More stonechats are now on the Bog and are pairing up throughout the reserve. Many of these will be returning breeders, but this will also include some migrants, as stonechats are some of the first birds to be on the move.

Many of our pink-footed geese have now vacated Norfolk and these will soon be

followed by winter thrushes and wildfowl as they make their journeys back to their northern Europe breeding grounds. Looking forward to March, we should expect the return of our hirundines, with the hope of breeding sand martins again, as well as the warblers such as willow warbler, blackcaps and many others. Survey season is due to begin soon, with the annual common bird census that will start to take place from mid to late March, as well as many other ecological surveys that will follow on the Bog.

Here at Dersingham Bog we are currently looking for more volunteers to join our team in carrying out a variety of tasks across the site, helping to monitor and protect this vital landscape. For more information or to register your interest, please contact Senior Reserve Manager, Thomas Bolderstone, at thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk

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Word Wall by Philip Neal
Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 73

BROWN	TRACK	GRACIOUS	COAL
SOPHISTICATED	SOLAR	SWIM	MAPLE
BOILER	GAS	CANE	GENTEEL
REFINED	ELEGANT	OIL	SPACE



Making Gardening Easier May Davey

On Friday 21st January at Dersingham Village Centre we welcomed Richard Ernst, Head Gardener at Houghton Hall, who showed us some excellent photographs and described how he has spent the past three years restoring the walled gardens, the Italian pond, and the greenhouses.

His wife Rosie operated the PowerPoint equipment and commented from time to time on how she had helped with the garden. The gardens will be well worth visiting when the season begins again at Easter. The meeting was very well supported, and we had a nice tea afterwards.



Richard and Rosie Ernst



Members at DVC

There were such fierce winds on Friday 18th February that Gloria Pantling had to telephone everyone to ask them not to come. Chris and I took tea to the hub in case anyone didn't get the message and



**Lesley, Cherie and May
sheltering from the wind**

were glad we had as two members (Cherie and Lesley) joined us there. Oliver Locke from Fakenham Garden Centre had to cancel because he was fearful of driving a high-sided vehicle in such winds. However, we hope to have him join us later in the year.

We expect to have lots of our members and friends for our outing to West Acre Garden and tea on Friday 22nd April. Please telephone our Secretary, Gloria Pantling, (01553-671912) if you would like to join us. We will be leaving by Eagles coach from Dersingham, outside St Cecilia's Catholic Church, at 1.00 pm and should be back by 5.00 pm. The outing will cost £14.00 for members and non-members.

New members are always welcome. We meet at 2.00 pm on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, except when an outing has been arranged. Entrance costs £3.00 for tea and a raffle ticket. The annual subscription is £12.00, payable in January 2022.

Our provisional programme for 2022 is as follows:

April 22nd - Visit by coach to West Acre Garden with tea.

May 20th - NAFAS arranger Joanne Randall will give a demonstration and talk on plants for flower arranging.

June 17th - Our annual Flower Show.

July 15th - Visit to a member's garden.

August 19th - A talk on tulips by Jo Munson.

September 16th - Visit to Barnsdale Gardens, Oakham, by coach.

October 21st - TBC

November 18th - Bamboo expert, Lou Dyer

December 16th - Christmas Lunch at Knights Hotel

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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Abstract. 5 Tribes. 9 Abnormal. 10 Banter. 12 User. 13 Sea lamprey. 15 Do you remember. 19 Separate lives. 23 Irrational. 25 Taxi. 28 Acumen. 29 Asphodel. 30 Eleven. 31 Sniggers.

Down

1 Abacus. 2 Since. 3 Rare. 4 Chateau.
6 Realm. 7 Bathrobes. 8 Sprayers. 11 Glue.
14 Dyer. 15 Departure. 16 Rue. 17 Envy.
18 Estimate. 20 Toot. 21 Liaison. 22 Aisles.
24 Theme. 26 Addle. 27 Thug.

Word Wall Answers

Suits: Boiler, Track, Swim, Space.

Edible sugars: Brown, Cane, Maple, Refined

Cultured: Sophisticated, Elegant, Gracious, Genteel.

Forms of heating: Coal, Oil, Gas, Solar.

Sudoku Answers

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

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 136 (June/July 22)	Mon 25th April 2022	Mon 16th May 2022
No 137 (Aug/Sept 22)	Mon 4th July 2022	Mon 25th July 2022
No 138 (Oct/Nov 22)	Mon 5th Sept 2022	Mon 26th Sept 2022

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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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Directory of Advertisers

Accountants

Ewing Accounts Services *p.29*
Kathryn Gigg *p.25*
Norfolk Accountants *p.51*

Arts

The Arts Society *p.19*

Bed & Breakfast

Tall Trees, Dersingham *p.34*

Builders

Mann Made Developments *p.28*
Smart Brickwork Services *p.30*

Butcher

EH Priors & Sons *p.13*

Carpets & Flooring

Gary Rushmore *p.31*
Supreme Carpets *p.66*

Chimney Sweep

D Thompson Chimneys *p.68*

Chiropody

Jennie Brooks *p.17*
Peter Stanley *p.51*
The Surefoot Clinic *p.73*

Computers

CJB Computing *p.30*
Gary Kite *p.13*
Glen Piggott web design *p.59*

Cycles

AE Wallis *p.68*

Dog Grooming

Hoochy Pooch Parlour *p.23*

Domestic Appliances

Fix up my Appliance *p.34*
DK Appliances *p.68*

Dry Cleaners

Clock Clean *p.62*

Electrical

Gelder Electrical & Building
Maintenance *p.13*
SW Electrical *p.20*
TM Electrical *p.65*

Estate Agent

Geoffrey Collings & Co *p.62*

Fabrics, curtains, blinds

Christyana *p.54*

Financial Management

Allen Tomas & Co *p.11*

Florist

Flowers by Yvonne *p.47*

Garden Centre

Thaxters *p.2*

Garden Maintenance

The Conifers *p.71*

Hairdressing

Anna, Kelly & McShane *p.26*

Holiday Lets

Norfolk Holiday Homes *p.17*
Sky View, Dersingham *p.30*

Home Care

Extra Hands *p.61*
Home Instead *p.38*
KH Homecare *p.51*

Home Improvements and Maintenance (decorating, cleaning, handyman)

C.L Services *p.51*
Glenn Stephenson *p.20*
Kevin Mayor *p.72*
Neill's Guttering *p.73*
Norfolk Pro Clean *p.33*

Legal Services

Christina Thain *p.23*

Mowers

R. & B. Mower Mend *p.56*

Opticians

Wigram & Ware *p.56*

Photography & Restoration

Jo Halpin Jones *p.6*

Plumbing & Heating

Foreman & Son *p.15*

Printing

Clanpress *p.42*

Pub

King William IV *p.33*

Roofing

Noble Roofing *p.59*
Worzels Roofing *p.13*

Sewing Machine Repairs

Stitchers *p.73*

Tea Room

Petals *p.68*

Therapies

Nicky Mansfield – massage *p.29*
Point'z of Interest Therapie'z *p.56*
The Wright Hands *p.61*

Timber Products

Sandringham Estate Sawmill *p.66*

Vehicle servicing and sales

AJD *p.42*
Red Pumps Garage *p.59*
Station Road, Heacham *p.61*
Waltersons *p.20*

Veterinary services

Millhouse *p.54*
Dersingham Veterinary Clinic *p.34*

Windows

Sandringham Windows *p.11*
The Window Repair Man *p.19*

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday April 12th

Howard Carter

The man

and his work

by Sue Gattuso



Howard Carter did not just discover the tomb of Tutankhamun. He was an archaeologist of considerable renown from an artisan background, working in a gentleman's world.

His life, as he battled with politics, the press, tourists, authority and his own personality, tells a fascinating story



Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Road,
Dersingham 7.30 pm Admission £6.00
includes refreshments & raffle

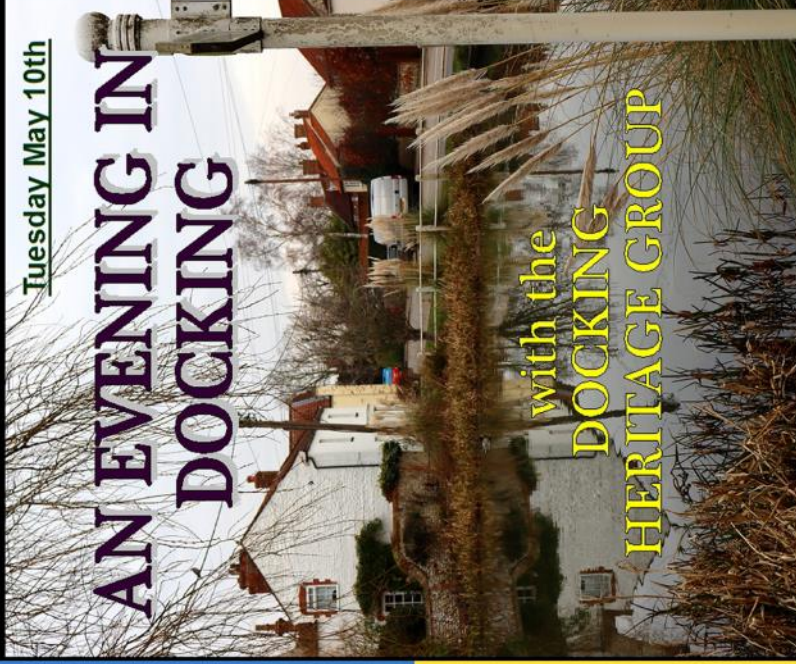


VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday May 10th

**AN EVENING IN
DOCKING**

**with the
DOCKING
HERITAGE GROUP**



Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Road,
Dersingham 7.30 pm Admission £6.00
includes refreshments & raffle

