

Number 110

March/April 2018

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



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Editor's Notes

Tony Bubb



It's a wet and windy day as I start the first Village Voice of 2018. It doesn't seem all that long ago that we started this millennium. We had a friend staying with us then who was big in IT and as midnight approached he was readying himself for the stream of calls he expected as a result of the "Millennium Bug". As I expected, nothing happened. So the year can only get better with the imminent arrival of spring and those plants in my garden, who foolishly thought it had already arrived and started flowering, will be out of step. I often wonder how plants brought back by early plant hunters from the southern hemisphere on the decks of ships coped with the fact that, as the trip could take around 5 months, they were arriving here out of step with our seasons.

I was delighted to have been invited to the unveiling of a picture of the twin chapels that were built in the Hardwick Road Cemetery. South Lynn had already anticipated the town's need for a cemetery when, towards the end of 1849, the parish of All Saints' acquired a plot of ten acres on the north side of Hardwick Road as a place for burials. All Saints' Cemetery was transferred to the Borough Council of King's Lynn by Order in Council dated 1st May 1855 at which time the town's churchyards were closed to further burial. On 14th July 1855 the King's Lynn Burial Board



asked Aickin & Capes of London to provide designs for two new chapels – one for Anglicans the other for dissenters – together with a mortuary, bier-house, lodge, carriageways and paths. Lynn was one of the first authorities to create a municipal cemetery. These chapels were painted by Lynn artist Henry Baines and were sadly demolished in the early seventies. However the picture was traced to Boston in the USA and after some negotiation it was acquired for the King's Lynn museum. It is now on display so do go along and have a look.

We are having some compatibility issues with e-mail addresses at the moment so please note that the only address you should use for contacting Village Voice is - editor@dersingham.org.uk. Anything else probably won't find its way to us. It would be enormously helpful as well if attachments were titled with reference to their content and not just "VV report" or "April article". Similarly pictures would be better with a few clues in the title. You would be amazed just how many photos we get showing ladies with cakes.

And so to this edition where you will find, amongst the usual suspects, articles on the new Centre, the Kellogg House, butterflies and art workshops. Plenty to read then. Looking ahead, the next edition covers three bank holidays (couldn't one be moved to the autumn?) so please make sure that anything you are involved with, that needs a crowd, is flagged up with a piece or poster for us to publish.

That's all from me, so happy reading.□



Dear Village Voice



Since Christmas Day, there have regularly been one or two moorhens in our garden in KINGSCROFT.

Now I thought moorhens were a river bird. I didn't think the weather had been THAT wet !!

Does anybody have an explanation?

Joy Pearce

Manor Road Memories

Dick Melton recently wrote about his memories of Manor Road. These were very interesting to me because I was born in 1934 at "Kingswood", the house attached to the butcher's shop on the corner of Manor Road and Heath Road. This was referred to by Dick; it was my home for 12 years.

The master butcher was Douglas Terrington, brother of Reg Terrington the grocer in Manor road. My mother Maisie Linford, nee Terrington, was also in the business which traded when I knew it as "D and M Terrington Family Butchers".

It should have been D and P, not D and M. The P is for Percy my mother's brother who was 5 years older. However, Percy in the evening of 27th July 1922 went out for a ride on his motor cycle with a friend. On Ken Hill Snettisham he lost control, fell off and suffered fatal injuries. My mother immediately abandoned her studies at Lynn High School to join the business.

This tragic accident must have caused great grief and sadness to my mother, grandparents and others who knew him. Needless to say, that I realised that I should never ever mention a desire to own a motor bike.

In September 1939 WW2 started, and wartime regulations meant that for rationing purposes butchers had to get meat allocations from a controlled central source. I believe this was Helsdon's of Snettisham for my grandfather. I also remember other wartime sources: Canterbury lamb from New Zealand, and big tins of corned beef from Argentina.

Grandfather had always kept chickens and grown a lot of vegetables and fruit as part of the business. He grew much more during the war. One interesting new crop was maize to help keep the chickens fed.

Mention of Reg Houchen, motor engineer, has occurred from time to time in VV. I think it is less well known that he was an important part of the butcher's business, both before and during the war. His motor engineering skill was certainly invaluable for keeping the two temperamental delivery vans running. During the war it was only possible to keep one van going by taking parts from the other.

Another member of the team I remember well was Jack Howard of Pleasant Place. He was the bike delivery boy and general assistant. I used to like "helping" him with his jobs. Fortunately, he was very tolerant. When war came Jack joined up as a private in the Royal Norfolks. He came to visit us in uniform just before being sent to help defend

Singapore from invasion by Japan. I was very impressed and still remember soldier Jack's visit very well.

Jack lost his life on active service in Singapore on the 6th of February 1942 aged 24. His grave may be found in Kranji cemetery, Singapore. I always think of Jack on 11th November.

After the war Reg needed to revive and expand his motor business, so his involvement with D and M Terrington came to an end. Does anyone remember Houchen's coach holidays to Dunoon? Fortunately, his brother Fred was able to take his place until it was time for grandfather to retire. The business was then sold in 1946, and the Linford family moved from "Kingswood" to "Glebe House" the house attached to "Linford's Corner Stores".

During my time as resident of Manor Road I was a regular customer of George King's barber's shop. George sold cigarettes and tobacco, and a lot of tobacco was smoked by customers waiting their turn. It was therefore very smoky in those days. Hair cut for a boy if I remember was nine pence (about 4 pence in today's pennies). My grandfather always used to greet George as "your majesty".

"Wellswill" school (not Wellswell) was not just for girls. I was a pupil until 1942. I was then eight years old and boys had to move on. My sister Anne was also there, and one of my class mates was Dick Stanton. The Principal was Miss Hough and Miss Wragge, her deputy, lived in "Greengates" the house next door. I am not sure when Miss Hough retired and the school closed, but I think it was not many years after I left. The Scotts (shop Lynn High street) bought the house and I think they changed the name to "Woodroyal". They kindly arranged a re-union for old pupils soon after they had moved in.

Finally, I must mention Tuck's tomatoes. My wife and I always bought some when we could. We have never tasted a tomato with a better flavour. My school friend Peter Hooks, "Holmfirth" Lynn Road, next to the Twites, also agrees. He thinks that Mr Tuck made his own tomato feed, and that sheep were essential for its preparation. Perhaps Bernie can help us with more information?

Pat (Patrick) Linford, Old Dersinghamite

Lost Keys

To the person or person who found a set of keys in Dersingham and handed them into King's Lynn Police station on Saturday 25/11/17. A very grateful thanks. The cost of replacing them all and the worry of security can be very stressful. I am not able to thank you as the police officer who returned the keys said that they had no details. Once again thank you. It is comforting to know that Dersingham is a nice place to live and the people are honest and helpful.

Mr G Bhagat

I wonder if anyone can help me find the location of a house I stayed in as a child in 1972 in Dersingham called Snoring Lodge?

I can quite clearly remember there was a garage to the left of the house at the end of a driveway and there was a large ? front room downstairs that I and my sister slept in which had one of those pianos that have the metal reels inside which plays by pressing the foot pedals! And think there was a garden at the front with a hedge screening the road?

I have just relocated from Bedfordshire to near King's Lynn (I am now in my 50s!) and I came across a photo of me and my brother and Mum standing in the driveway with its garage behind us and the house to the left! On the back my Mum had written ' Dersingham 1972 ' and now realise I live not far away!
Look forward to hearing if anyone knows any information about this.

Bridget Higginson

VV will forward any replies to Bridget. □

In Canada, the term “snowbird” refers to retirees who winter in the southern USA to escape the snow and cold. My husband and I are a different sort of “snowbird”: like the pink-footed geese, we come to Norfolk - to Dersingham, precisely – for the winter.

Village residents with good memories may remember seeing us around the last couple of winters: a tall, grey-bearded man and a shorter, plumper woman with North American accents. Usually we have binoculars around our necks. Starting in early January, we shop at the Co-op and Thatcher's (sic) and Priors; and you might see us walking out to Snettisham or Dersingham Bog, or up Fern Hill to the old allotment grounds, and then, in the last week of March, we disappear. What brings us to Dersingham?

The binoculars are a clue: we are birders. Where better to be in the winter months than Norfolk? With Snettisham and Sandringham and Dersingham Bog, Life wood and the commons, we can do a lot of birding on foot. Easy driving takes us to Abbey Farm at Flitcham, or to Titchwell or Holme. We also love to walk, ten to twelve miles at a time, and there is so much good walking in West Norfolk, from Roydon Common to the Coast Path, and all the circular routes off the Peddars Way.

But what brought us here in the first was this: I grew up, in Canada in the 1960's, knowing about the Drift and Snettisham and the Feathers Hotel; these places were real to me before I could even read. My father's grandfather, Joseph Rainbow, lived at what was then called The Retreat, the red-brick house behind Rossiters, on Heath Road. When Joseph Rainbow's wife died, his youngest daughter left her husband behind in Bedford to fend for himself during the week, and returned to her childhood home to take care of her father. She brought her two children – my father and his sister – with her. So, from the age 6 to 13, from 1922 to 1929, my father grew up in Dersingham. There was a cottage out on the shingle at Snettisham, too, so I grew up on stories of him going along the Drift and across marshes to the beach; running across the common to his grandfather's office in Sandringham, where he was *tapissier* (in charge of the furnishings and pictures). Dad went to school at the bottom of Doddshill for his primary schooling, and laughed about running along past the Feathers and banging on the window. Then it was bicycling out to Wolferton to catch the train into Lynn and King Edward's Grammar, and bird nesting on the way.

Joseph Rainbow- my great-grandfather – had come to Dersingham as a cabinet maker, to work at Sandringham. He lodged at the Dun Cow, then in the hands of the Smith family, and fell in love with their daughter, Mary Ann. So, the Dun Cow was part of the stories too, and Mary Ann Smith's mother Catherine was a Grimes from West Newton, another place that I knew about long before I ever saw it.

Brian and I have been coming to Norfolk for thirty years now, at first for a day or so as part of a longer trip, then for a week at a time...and then for a month in the summer or two weeks at Christmas...and now we're retired. Dersingham has become our second home; we read the Village Voice all year, as well as the Lynn News and EDP 24, follow the Canaries' fortunes and that of the new village hall, and keep a close eye on the birding news. It was past time to say thank you for the friendly welcome we've always received. We're looking forward to being back!

Marian Thorpe & Brian Rennie, Geulph, ON, Canada

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



Council

We now have a full complement of Councillors following the December meeting. Councillor details including photographs are being collated to put on the website.

Village Centre

Construction is well underway and slightly ahead of schedule. We meet regularly with the contractor to assess progress and spend and are always looking to achieve savings where possible. Bookings are already being taken for events from October onwards. For more information visit the Parish Council website (details below), and also the Dersingham Village Centre Association website: www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk

Village Events

We are looking to set up an Events group, which would be supported by the Parish Council. Please let the Clerk know if you would like to help.

The Christmas Lights Switch-On took place on Sunday November 19th, on the Recreation Ground. We are grateful to Keith Blackwell and his family for organising the event.

The Village Community Day, including Fun Dog Show, will take place on Sunday June 10th at the Sports Ground, Manor Road. If you would like to help, do some fundraising for charity, or run an activity, please contact the Clerk.

Parking

We occasionally receive queries and complaints about inconsiderate car parking. The Parish Council has no powers in this respect.

The ownership of cars has increased considerably while space for car parking has not, and we all expect to be able to park outside or as near as possible to our homes or somewhere we are visiting.

The highway is public land and, generally, anyone can park anywhere on a road providing there is not a residents' parking scheme in place, no yellow or white lines, a dropped kerb, bus stop, disabled parking bay, which should be kept clear. The road outside your home is not exclusively yours for parking your car. However, car drivers should be considerate about where they leave their car.

If a car has been parked so it is blocking access to /egress from your property, try and find out who and where the owner is and politely ask them to move.

For more information, contact the Borough Council's Parking Operations Team which manages car parking. Contact details- Tel: 01553 616222; email : parking.operations@west-norfolk.gov.uk.

If it is an obstruction (car parked on/across a pavement, affecting safety of other road users, pedestrians, wheelchair users etc), call the Police on 101.

Precept 2018/19

Committees set their budgets prior to the changes outlined below and these will be discussed and agreed at the January meetings.

Parish Council Meetings

At the time of writing, the Council is trialling a change to its meetings structure, and has suspended all committees except Village Centre, Communications and Staffing. Full Council meetings are now held twice monthly on the second and fourth Mondays in the month. Details can be found in the office window and on the website.

Please contact the Clerk for more information on meetings and advice about Parish matters.

Tel: 01485 541465; email: clerk@dersingham.org.uk

Visit the Parish website: www.dersingham.org.uk □



A very Happy, Healthy and Holy New Year to you all. Both churches looked beautiful at Christmas, thanks to all the flower arrangers and other volunteers.

We recently had a celebration at St Cecilia's for the 90th birthday of one of our regular parishioners Bert Whittaker. Although the social calendar has not yet been finalised at the time of writing, there is always a pancake supper on the evening of Shrove Tuesday at St Cecilia's, which this year is 13th February.

This year's 'Women's world day of prayer' will be held on 2nd March and is led by the Christian women of Suriname. The topic of this year's service is 'All God's Creation is Very Good'. Further details will be available shortly regarding this year's local venue. You can search the website www.wwdp.org.uk to find lots of information and resources.

Foodbank supplies are still required, items can be left in the porches of both churches. Please ensure that all items are well in date. Thank you for your continued support..

There is a *Fair Trade Stall* at St Cecilia's after the 9am

Mass on the first Sunday of every month. Please support

this very worthwhile cause by buying fairly traded goods to support families abroad trying to earn a living. For more information please contact Caroline Brooks on 01553 673069.

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

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

Sunday Masses are **9am** at St Cecilia's, Mountbatten

Road, Dersingham and **11am** at the Parish Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmunds, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

If you require a Priest urgently please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email; parishpriest763@gmail.com

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Progress on the Dersingham Village Centre From Chris Davey

After being awarded the Big Lottery Grant of £550,000 towards the total building contract cost of £850,050 the Parish Council had sufficient funds available through its reserves and a public works loan to allow it to sign a contract for the construction of our new



Dersingham Village Centre in October 2017. Observant parishioners will have seen some activities starting on site during October when the clearing of the old Church Hall was completed and the contractor cleared an area behind the hall to gain access to the site.

The 21st November 2017 was a

momentous day for our Dersingham Village Centre. That was the day that the excavator on site started



to dig the first trench for the foundations of the Centre. We were fortunate that nothing of value was discovered in the trenches, and so pouring concrete for the foundations of the walls and pillars could continue without any delays, and this was all completed on 24th November.



Already the Dersingham Centre was taking shape, and the increase in the overall size of our new building became clearer when the initial concrete base for the floor was poured. We could see that the overall intention to provide a centre large enough for most village activities and social occasions was happening.

Work on site has gathered pace since the New Year, and already any observers should now see the new steel columns and beams which form the roof of the new Centre.

When will it open? The question everyone is asking. We all expect that the completed new Dersingham Village Centre will be handed over to the Parish Council by mid-September 2018. So, if you are planning a big party at the end of the year, now is a good time to make a reservation.□





Christmas Competition Winner

Our Christmas Bauble Competition was won by Maggie Speed seen here receiving her prize at the Sandringham Sawmill shop from Manager Peter Bournier. Maggie guessed correctly 27 Red Baubles.□

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The Dersingham Walking Group



By the time you read this, Christmas and New Year celebrations will be but a distant memory, although it may just be possible that the effects of turkey and mince pies still linger around your waistline. What better remedy can there be than to get out for some good country walking, to work off a few pounds and get some bracing fresh air!

Our first few walks of 2018 are all very much locally based and it's really surprising how varied the landscape is within just a mile or two of Dersingham. Whoever said that Norfolk was flat has obviously never puffed up the hill to Sandringham or taken in the marvellous view across the Wash that can be seen from Chalk Pit Road.

I've noticed lately that there are quite a few new walkers among the regulars who appear on most walks. Often these are folk who are new to the village of Dersingham, having moved here from another part of the country, perhaps because they came here on holiday and liked it! 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.

Before I close, just a reminder that we would still like to recruit one or two more walks leaders - could you be one of them? If you've done a reasonable bit of country walking or perhaps walked with the Ramblers you might be an ideal Dersingham Walking Group leader. You won't have to lead more than a few walks a year and we can provide full training, so if you'd like to join us please do get in touch with me. My contact details are at the end of this article.

Finally, don't forget that the days are starting to lengthen now, so our walks have reverted to their more usual start time of 2pm, which will continue until, many months from now, the clocks go back in October.

Stephen Martyn

Our next few walks

Wednesday 14th February 2.00pm

Meet at Dersingham war memorial for a circular walk of Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe, including the fine views from the heights of Chalk Pit Rd. 4 miles. Leaders: Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138. Start point grid ref: TF 686 309.

Wednesday 14th March 2.00pm

Starting at the Village Sign we will explore the heath and woodland known as Dersingham Bog, which is a wonderful nature reserve. 4 miles. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638. Start point grid ref: TF 685 296.

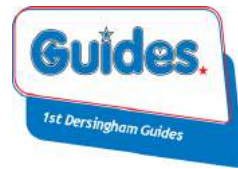
Wednesday 28th March 2.00pm

We will meet at All Saints Church Fring on the road from Fring to Sedgeford for this enjoyable circuit of some fine country footpaths. 4.5 miles. Leader: Elizabeth Fiddick 01485 540940. Start point grid ref: TF 735 348.

Wednesday 11th April 2.00pm

A Snettisham walk starting from the Ken Hill car park just off Beach Rd. 4.5 miles. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638. Start point grid ref: TF 671 335.

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. As Alfred Wainwright said "watch where you put your feet!" Group coordinator: **Stephen Martyn** Tel: 01485 541333 Email: stephenmartyn@gmail.com



1st Dersingham Guides take on Parliament



The 1st Dersingham Guides took part in activities as part of UK Parliament Week 2017, an annual festival which gives people the chance to Engage with and Explore Parliament and Empower them to get involved. The activities the Guides have completed have been themed around "Women in Parliament" and were created by Girlguiding Anglia in partnership with UK Parliament Week. Over two meetings the Guides have found out about the Suffragettes - creating placards and rosettes in their colours before staging a protest march, explored what they think MPs do, before finally inviting their local MP, Sir Henry Bellingham to a Guide Meeting. Sir Henry told the girls all about Parliament and what MPs do before holding a Question and Answer session during which the Guides asked a variety of questions. All the girls who took part will receive a unique badge.□



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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Well the festive season seems to have been and gone in a flash, but the memories of some fantastic Nativity plays, carol service, Christmas Fair and Christmas carousel crafts, keep us in a positive frame of mind.

January always sees an influx of new parents and children at the Early Years site and we would like to warmly welcome them all into our learning family. The children have returned to school with renewed enthusiasm for the New Year and the learning opportunities it will bring. This term the children in Reception and Nursery have shown an interest in penguins and polar bears, so they will be learning about the Polar Regions.



The children have impressed us already with their facts about penguins and have even created mini fact boards from home! They will be visiting the library to research the topic and have a very special visit planned from a penguin expert! The preschool children have been really interested in mathematics. They have been reading the story of Goldilocks, measuring and counting as they make porridge and talking about size as they match the three bear's bowls and spoons! A busy half term already!

Year 1 are blasting off into outer space to investigate the solar system and beyond. They have already completed some amazing rocket homework and are looking forward to further exploration!

Castle adventures will be captivating the Year 2's this half term, with a visit to Norwich Castle at the end of the half term.

They have already been on a knight's quest and helped the castle magician sort out a problem for the prince. They are looking forward to listening to a range of stories and having a go at their own creative writing.

Year 3 have left the Savage Stone Age behind, and the New Year sees them becoming Urban Pioneers! They have begun by comparing villages, towns and cities, which they will investigate further. The focus will be on famous landmarks around the world, researching a city of choice, and creating artwork and 3D models of city buildings. They will investigate the use of light in cities and learn how shadows form, experiment with graffiti and discuss its pros and cons.

Year 4 are taking a walk on the wild side, learning about food chains and teeth, leading to dissecting owl pellets. This will be alongside their class text 'The Wolf's Footprint' leading to wonderful opportunities for writing in character. The text is set in the Middle Ages, so we will finish the term galloping through the dark and deadly 14th Century Britain, sword and shield at the ready, pledging allegiance to king and country!

Year 5 were lucky enough to spend a day at Smithdon High School in order to participate in a COSMOS science event, which was organised in partnership





with Cambridge University. Children not only had the opportunity to partake in practical workshops that explored the senses, but were also exposed to working scientifically within a high school laboratory.

Year 6 have begun a new type of topic, following the Power of Reading scheme and basing their learning on *The Rise of Wolves* by Kerr Thompson. They continue to work hard at their maths and literacy skills as the end-of-year assessments draw closer.

An ice rink created a stir at the beginning of the term, with children and their families

getting a great workout as well as being fantastic fun!

Last half term saw success from our KS1 and KS2 Sports Hall Athletics teams as well as swimmers and cross country runners progressing to the County finals. We wish them all the best of luck!

The multi-cultural week proved to be a creative, innovative and exciting time, with children experiencing music, dance and food from all walks of life. This type of hands on, live experience, enhances the children's learning and makes the lessons buzz!

Finally, we would like to wish Mr Williamson lots of luck as he embarks on married life...I don't think he'll stop being the life and soul of any fun and frivolity though!□



Nar Valley Ornithological Society—(NarVOS)

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



An Evening with Chris Knights- Tuesday 27th February,
7.30pm

We look forward with eager anticipation to this presentation from Chris Knights – on whatever wildlife subjects and locations he chooses. Chris is well known as a farmer, conservationist, award winning photographer and film maker. Whatever topic Chris chooses, it is bound to be enthralling, entertaining and informative with superb photography.

**A Bird Photographer's Diary – the stories behind the pictures
with David Tipling—**Tuesday 27th March, 7.30pm

Holt-based David Tipling is one of the world's most widely published wildlife photographers, renowned for his artistic images of birds. His many accolades include the coveted European Nature Photographer of the Year Award. You may have seen David's photography on TV, in books and in the Eastern Daily Press. We are delighted to welcome David to NarVOS for what must be a photographic treat.

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

2017 started with a new committee of 12 members including 1 new member Jackie Scott. Peg Hunter was announced as our new President for the year. Thanks were given to all those who had helped make 2016 a most successful year.

We again participated in the annual Christmas Tree Festival held in St Nicholas Church with members decorating card jam jars, the theme for them 'What W.I. means to You'. Our Christmas party was enjoyed by all with entertainment by West End Waiters and once again the members provided more than enough food.

We started our 2017 monthly meetings with a talk by local man Walter Blaney on the topic of 'Ten Days in Arabia' and throughout the year we have had a diverse, mixed programme ranging from 'Women of the North End, Flower Arranging, Hearing Dogs and a visit from Queen Victoria herself(courtesy of Rachel Duffield).

Our birthday meet in April had St George as its theme and members participated in dressing in red/white with the President Peg dressed as St George himself complete with baby dragon(stuffed). The competition for the night was for each table to complete a 100 pc jigsaw in the fastest time.

During the year we have continued having quizzes, raffles, bookstall and various sales tables all well supported by the members. This year we introduced a new fun competition over 4 meets. This involved each member bringing an object on a given night beginning with D, E, W, and I (Dersingham Evening W.I.).

We have continued with our successful monthly coffee mornings at various members' homes, with the usual raffle/plant/cake sales. A brilliant chance for members old and new to have a good chat .We also had a lovely coffee morning just for new members so they could meet each other plus the committee members in a smaller setting.

Our regular groups continue to be well supported. The walking group completing walks of varying length both local and further afield but still with the necessary coffee or lunch at the end of it.

Day outings have been varied from, once again History walk around Dersingham (always popular) to Fakenham Races Ladies Day. The theatre visits have ranged this year from Peter Pan on Ice to the Opera Boys and have been enjoyed by all who attended. Our Fit 'n' Dancin group continues and this year has grown to 2 groups who are put through their paces by Peg.

The craft group flourishes with another session starting in January 2018 and our MAD group which has also extended continues to support the various charities through Norfolk Knitters and at some local Fairs. In July a craft day run by Alby Stained Glass was organised for 12 members at Maggie Guest's home. This was funded by a Bursary given in remembrance of a past member.

Following a talk earlier in the year by our ACWW Representative we are also continuing to support this with our donations at coffee time.

In August we held an Afternoon Tea in the lovely garden of member Diane Neeve, which was enjoyed by about 30 members, with the sun shining, chat and competitions. Members attended both Federation Annual meetings and Peg attended National meet in Liverpool to vote on our behalf in the Resolutions, voting for both Plastic Soup and Alleviating Loneliness. We have since started a group to see how we as a W.I group can take these forward within the community and beyond.

We continue to support various local charities and village activities. For example we held a Tombola at the Village Fun day and will also have one at the Village Christmas Lights switch on day. Our members continue to support the village in various ways, Help at the

Day centre for Elderly, Hand bell Ringing group and involvement with local churches through coffee mornings and festivals.

We have welcomed 7 new members this year and now have a membership of 51 members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for all their hard work this year and especially the members for their support and help over the past year so that 2017 was most successful. I am sure that 2018 will be just as much fun, varied and interesting.□

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Bog News

From Tom Bolderstone



As I'm writing this article, 2018 has started in earnest and the first few days back at work are a time of planning for the year ahead whilst continuing on with the works on the heath from 2017.

The staff and volunteers have been cracking on with a good pace at clearing the scrub on the heath and the areas that have been cleared are looking a lot different to what they did in September. The scrub management works will be taking place on the heaths and mire till early to mid-February depending on the winter temperatures and the return of territorial Woodlarks to the site. In just a few weeks the first singing from the male Woodlarks could potentially be heard on site signalling the start of the 2018 breeding season. This is all weather dependent and if the weather stays mild the Woodlark will begin to think it is spring and start setting up their breeding territories. Woodlarks are very distinctive when singing and displaying, and look a little like its close relation the Skylark. However Skylarks prefer much more open areas and shorter grassed areas so anything that you may see that looks like a Skylark singing is most likely a Woodlark.



Among some of the other tasks that the staff and volunteers have been getting involved in is checking and walking much of the fence line on the site. This is quite a mammoth task and is done in sections with teams walking the sections of fence and checking for loose and broken posts and then marking them on a map. Once all sections of the fence have been checked a total of posts is calculated. Once this is done the volunteers and staff again take sections of the fence and go out and repair and replace the posts as necessary.

The volunteers and staff have also worked on some other sites in recent months and have helped remove an old board-walk from an area on the Wash National Nature Reserve. This boardwalk was surplus to requirements but the majority of it was made from recycled plastic. Instead of just removing it and disposing of the materials most of it was in a good enough condition to be reused so we have stored the vast majority of it so that it can be used and recycled for other projects or boardwalks.

In the last article I mentioned the Pink-footed goose roost surveys and over the course of the winter I have been taking part in this coordinated count on the North Norfolk coast. The site that I cover can be quite varied in its numbers of birds and has so far ranged from 597 birds leaving the roost to 12,618 on another count. There are still a couple more counts to go but by end of the winter once all the sites have submitted the data to the coordinator, a full picture of the total number Pink footed Geese in Norfolk will be able to be seen.

In a short few weeks and months there will be a transition in the weather and it will start to feel like spring. Many birds will begin setting up territories and singing their spring songs and the first returning migrants of spring will be with us in no time. As these migrants are arriving there is a crossover with the winter migrants and these will soon begin their journey back to their breeding grounds for the summer. By the time of the next village voice many of these changes will have happened and before long the Nightjars will be back on site for the summer.

Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk □

Old Map Corner by Tony Bubb

With the beginnings of organised tours, started by Thomas Cook in 1841, the need for guide books was recognised by publishers and after an initial trickle they proliferated. Helped by the fact that change was fairly slow, guides stayed “up to date” for much longer than they do now. Few were dated as that could inhibit sales of the more elderly volumes. The typical format was of a pocket sized book that contained all that the traveller could need by way of travel information - trains, stations, carriers, etc., details of hotels and inns and most importantly maps. Most started with a map of the whole area covered. These were often bought in from well known publishers like Bartholomew. Then there were close up diagrams of particular places and areas and also the bird’s eye panorama as you see opposite. This particular example is one of thirteen such treats in the 1880 guide titled imaginatively “London in 1880”. Running to some 340 pages, this comprehensive work gave great detail of its subject - ie “Astley’s Amphitheatre (now Sanger’s Theatre Royal) stands in Westminster Bridge Road, not many yards beyond the entrance to St Thomas’s Hospital.” - It goes on to tell that its original name derives from its first proprietor, Philip Astly, who was “a cavalry soldier of handsome build and an expert rider”. Such essential detail is now sadly lacking from modern guides.

This book cost one shilling but was subsidised, as were most guides, by the advertising of goods and services supposedly needed by the traveller. Below is an ad for The Grand Hotel, surprisingly still standing when this recent picture was taken. More baffling is the readers need, whilst in London, for Brown and Green’s celebrated Gem Cooking Stove or why one should suddenly need the services of The Rent Guarantee Society. More relevant, even today, might have been the St Marylebone Female Protection Society whose aim was to “seek to reclaim Young Women from all parts of the Country who have, by one false step, fallen from the path of virtue”.

One of the biggest publishers of guides was Ward Lock, whose range of Red Guides covered the whole country. They centred books on one town or resort, filling them out with published work from adjacent places and carrying many pages of adverts. There are websites devoted to all aspects of these guides so I won’t elaborate. From the sixties onwards the guide book has been increasingly generalised as features and attractions have come and gone more frequently, thus making your book rapidly out of date when Mr Blobby Land closes days after publication, leaving you with unsaleable stock. Now it’s all there on the internet but still Waterstones shelves groan with titles.□



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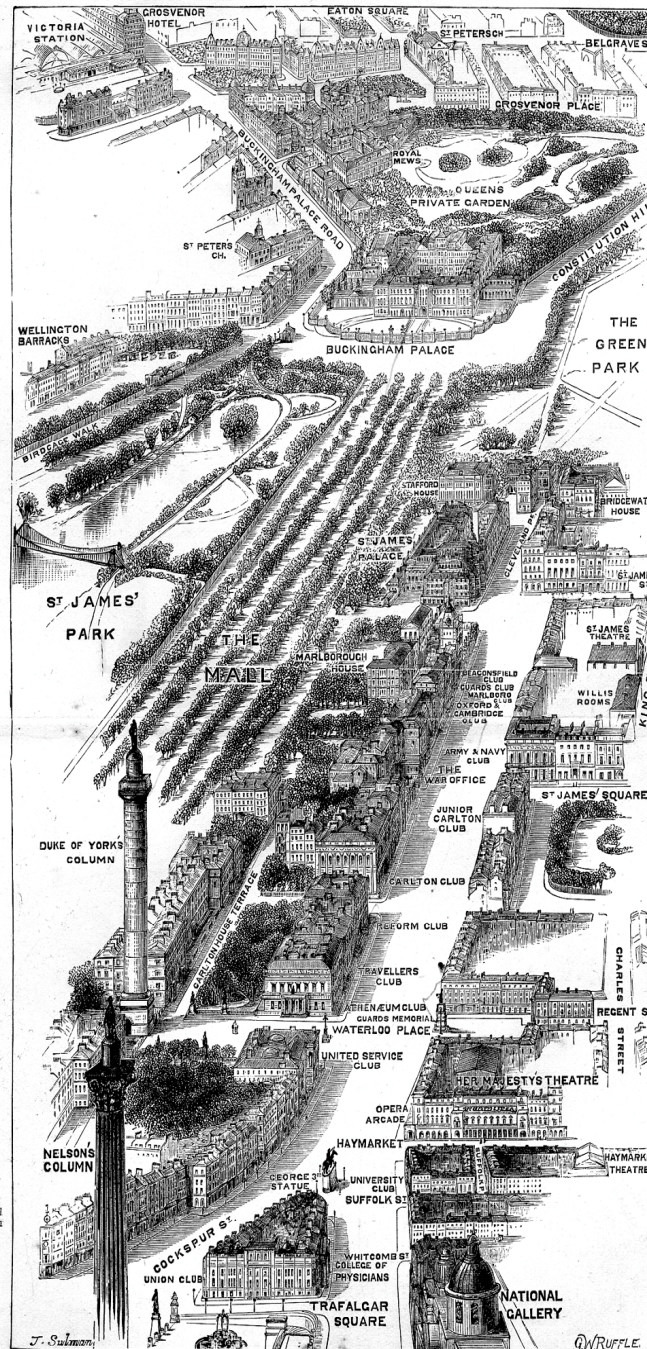
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St Nicholas Church

It's a Date



Allow me to tell of some 'dates'; not the fruit, nor a romantic date but rather double meaning dates for this year. This year there are two important dates in the church year that also fall on two well known regular dates.

The first is Ash Wednesday which for Christians marks the beginning of Lent; this year it falls on Valentine's Day (14th February). Lent is traditionally a time of fasting, giving something up and a time of prayer. It leads up to Good Friday, where we remember Jesus' death, then followed by Easter Sunday the day of his glorious Resurrection.

This year Lent may begin on a day of Romance and Love but Lent can also be a time of showing love to others through the increasingly popular initiative called 40Acts. There are 40 days of challenges of generosity during Lent including giving something or doing something daily for someone else. The joy in people's heart is great when they actively seek to bless someone else; by making them smile or feel appreciated and it doesn't need to cost anything.

Adult and children alike can join in; last year a popular challenge for many children was making cakes and giving them to neighbours. I have heard of many neighbours who enjoyed the pleasant surprise of an Act of generosity arriving at their doorstep! Why not check it out this year and enjoy being generous in Lent at www.40acts.org.uk. The date it begins is February 14th (Valentines Day).

The second double date is Easter Sunday the pinnacle of the church year. On this day Christians celebrate Jesus rising to new life for us. Easter Sunday this year falls on April Fools Day (1st). April fool's day is an opportunity to have some fun in the morning of the day trying to fool people with different jokes or pranks for a bit of fun trying to catch people out.

On the day that Jesus rose to new life, there was no fooling around; Jesus defeated death because of God's love for us. When Jesus was on the cross two criminals were crucified alongside Jesus. One of these thought that Jesus was a fool because he said: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" However the other criminal rebuked him by saying: "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23). The Resurrection is at the heart of the Christian faith. The important dates for Christians coming up may have double meanings but it may also help us all to remember and respond.

Rev Mark Capron, Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne
www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

Don't forget our Coffee Mornings are still happening on the 1st Friday of the month in Church, with lovely fresh, good coffee and lots of stalls to look around. During Lent each Friday there will be a Lent Lunch at 12.30pm in Church with light music and a retiring collection for the Norwich Diocese Lent Appeal, this year it is for Papua New Guinea. The first one is on 16th February and the last one is Friday 30th March.□



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Dersingham Day Centre From Alice Worth

On January 3rd the Dersingham Day Centre opened after the Christmas holiday and it was good to see all our members again and to catch up on their news. It seems a long time ago now that we ended 2017 with a variety of special events, and in particular our 36th Birthday Party on November 29th, and our Christmas Party on December 20th.

On the 29th of November we celebrated our 36th **Birthday**. After lunch we welcomed Brian Roy, who entertained us with some lovely songs and, of course, we couldn't let him sing alone so we all joined in with him. There is something very special about everyone singing along to songs from our younger days, and its quite reassuring to know we can still remember the words!!

Throughout the Autumn session work had been underway to make decorations for the Day Centre Christmas Tree, part of the St Nicholas' Tree Festival held each year. This year our theme was "Red and Gold". Photographs of Members were taken by Kathy Carter and hung on the tree. This year our Members also made contributions to our tree and, together with all the other trees, helped make for another lovely village event.



All that remained then was to have our Christmas Party on December 20th, our last meeting of the year. This year we decided to break with tradition and take our Members out for our Christmas Lunch. We went to our favourite restaurant in Hunstanton, the United Services Club and, as usual, we were not disappointed. We had our a warm welcome and drinks of coffee/tea before lunch and the chance to have a

good chat. Once seated for lunch we had the choice of Roast Turkey or Roast Beef with all the trimmings, followed by a choice of sweets, including Christmas pudding. Crackers were pulled, jokes read out and then everyone got on with their meal. After lunch the Christmas raffle was drawn and there was a really lovely selection of prizes. Thanks to all those who had contributed. Tables were quickly moved to form a semi-circle round the stage and we settled down to a lovely afternoon of music, played by our good friend, Leigh Murfet. There was the usual cabaret by our Volunteers, which is always good for a laugh. We sang carols and our usual oldies and before we knew it, it was time to enjoy tea and home-made mince pies, kindly donated yet again by Hazel Wolff. Thank you Hazel – they were delicious and very much appreciated as always. Christmas presents were handed out to Members and Volunteers, together with a large box of chocolates for everyone, donated anonymously to the Day Centre yet again, by one of our Members. To him our sincere thanks for a lovely gesture and one that is appreciated by us all. Finally, a very special day ended yet another successful year for the Day Centre. We were sad to hear that the three ladies who have provided so many lovely lunches for us, were leaving/retiring. They will be a hard act to follow and we will miss them.

We are now looking ahead to our future meetings and outings in 2018, but most of all we are looking forward to meeting in the warmth and comfort of our new venue. We are so grateful to the Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club for making us welcome and so comfortable in their Club Rooms; also our thanks to all those who have helped and supported us throughout the year.

If you would like to know more about joining the Day Centre, then please contact me, Alice Worth, on 01485 544673. □

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Dersingham Carpet Bowls

On 22 October the club held its annual charity Rose Bowl Competition, 12 teams from as far apart as Littleport and Mundford plus all points in between gathered at St. Georges School. Many hands make light work and all members who were able did their bit to help, arriving from 8.30 to finalise. The work done by the Saturday team ensured that everything was set up and ready to go when the first competitors arrived. Luckily the club is blessed with plenty of home bakers so all the refreshments including sausage rolls, 5 different types of cake and sandwiches were home made.



Play started at 9.30 on all three mats with a half hour break for lunch at 12.30. After the



semi-finals, play was briefly punctuated by a huge raffle with prizes donated by all players. The final then took place between Littleport and "That's all folks" with Littleport coming out on top. The booby ducks were won by Y.P.L. A very pleasant and successful day resulted in profits at around £230 which were split between club friends and Dersingham Day Centre. Special mention to Alan and helpers for keeping the scores, Judith and helpers for selling the raffle tickets and Maureen,

Rosemary and helpers for, managing catering. Extra special thanks to the caretaker Steve for all his help.

On 5th November club member Viv and her husband Doug celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, we wish them many more happy years together.

On 22nd November members, friends and family gathered at the Anvil, Congham for our pre-Christmas meal. Ably organised by Maureen, with good food and good company, a great time was had by all.

The 15th December was the last club evening of 2017 well attended by most members.

We played 2 games and then adjourned for nibbles and another large raffle with prizes provided by members. Proceeds from this plus the balance from the summer league raffles resulted in a balance of £142 for the club funds.

In case it appears that we only eat and socialise the regular range of normal club roll up evenings plus League matches at Lynnsport have continued through this period.□



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course of the weekend, with the draw at the end of the Sunday session. The unique prize is a splendid book in which the writers have all contributed, by hand, a short paragraph or two.

You are welcome to join the writers, organisers and other festival-goers for lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Full details are given at the morning events, expect a price of £12.

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The Sandringham Newsletter

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Compiled by Helen Walch

The drier weather for the last few weeks has helped the gardeners in their annual task of gathering fallen leaves. They are mulched and then spread on beds and borders to help improve the soil structure, which is otherwise very light and sandy. Gardeners have also been cutting down some of the perennial plants in borders to prevent rot over the winter, and have been thinning out some of the plantings on the rockwork around Queen Alexandra's Nest.

On the Farm, the winter wheat drilling has been completed and the sugar beet harvest is well under way. This is also the time for hedge cutting across the Estate. Sawmill staff have also been busy building up their stocks of chopped logs which are always in great demand during the winter months for domestic wood-burning stoves and open fires.

The MG Magnette and the Norfolk and Norwich Rover Owners' Club both held meets on the Vista in the Country Park. The Firefighters' Charity started their Land Rover Road Run at the Visitor Centre with over 200 Land Rovers of varying types meeting before setting off through Norfolk to finish at Holkham Hall.

The Visitor Centre has been busy in the run-up to Christmas, with the Plant Centre in particular finding many customers for handmade Christmas wreaths and table arrangements using foliage from the Estate. The Restaurant's gingerbread village was completed and displayed, complete with its model railway, and the Gift Shop was busy making up hampers, which many people and businesses find make excellent Christmas presents.

The House, Museum and Gardens reopen on March 31st with the Visitor Centre staying open all year.□



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Thursday	8am - 7pm	8am - 10am / 1 - 2pm	10am - 1pm / 2pm - 7pm
Friday	8am - 7pm	8am - 7pm	No Staff
Saturday	8am - 1pm	8am - 10am	10am - 1pm
Sunday	Closed	Closed	Closed

* During times when the library is available but not staffed, you can access the library using our Open Libraries system, as long as you are registered. This gives you self-service access to library materials, public computers and quiet, creative spaces even while the building is unstaffed. Please contact the library for more information.

 **Norfolk County Council**

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The Norfolk Coast Area celebrates 50 years as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty this April.

The official designation as a protected area – given in 1968 – enables us to take action, as well as highlighting that the area belongs, in an important way, to us all. Natural systems are under threat from global warming and other factors, and there is much to be done to safeguard heritage. In this special year, we are looking back to celebrate – and forward to a healthy future for this beautiful place.

We would love to hear from anyone who has any memories of the coast, how life was, living and working in the area in 1968. If you have any stories, photos or videos of the area that you would be happy to share, please get in touch. Call 01328 850530 or email helen.timson@norfolk.gov.uk
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Dersingham Methodist Church News

by Elizabeth Batstone

Christmas celebrations at the Methodist Church lasted for almost a month. At the beginning of the month a short carol service led by the Revd Steve Oliver was followed by an excellent festive lunch. Everyone made sure they sang well and laughed at Steve's jokes to ensure he would let us have some lunch.

We were privileged to host the carol service of Dersingham School's Year 6 in mid-December. Their singing, readings and prayers were excellent and very much enjoyed by mums and dads, grandparents and church members. The Revd Steve made sure that the audience took part in the singing and the action songs. Thank you the Year 6 for such a lovely time.

We were joined at all our church services by visitors from other churches and others staying in the area. The church decorations looked lovely and added to our sense of wonder as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour Jesus.

Our Christmas collections were for the Leprosy Mission and we wanted to raise £210 to buy a donkey and cart for a family and a latrine block for a village community. The total raised, and sent to the Leprosy Mission, is **£502**. We were able with this excellent result to purchase these gifts: a donkey and cart, two latrine blocks, two bicycles for community health workers, total cost £420, and the remaining £82 to the Leprosy Mission emergency fund to use wherever the need is. We give thanks for the generosity of all those who gave.

In 2018 we have several dates already in the diary, starting with our coffee mornings on, 24th February and 24th March. A date for your diaries is our annual Flower Festival 24th to 27th May, theme 'Journeys'. □



The West Norfolk Members Group invites you to:-

Illustrated talks:

(following a brief AGM)

NWT's Ancient Woodlands

by Senior Reserves Officer, Steve Collin

Thursday 22nd February - 7.30pm

and

Eels

by Jez Wood of the Environment Agency

Thursday 22nd March - 7.30pm

Venue: Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street

Cost: £2.50 members / £3.00 visitors

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It's a New Year and there are again some exciting events happening at our library. We hope to see more people visit the library now there are extended opening hours - Open Library gives access to Dersingham Library even while the building is unstaffed making your library available at times that are more convenient. To sign up (over 16s only) call in and speak to any staff member.

We will be back **Tidying the Garden** on **Friday 9th March** 10 am to Noon (cuppa time) – all help is very welcome. We could do with a few more plants if anyone has spare ones, please.

We have author Elly Griffiths visiting us on Friday 16th February 2.00pm. If you would like to meet her and hear about her books, tickets are £5.00 payable in advance.

Elly Griffiths is a crime writer who is well known locally for her series featuring forensic archaeologist Ruth Galloway, who lives in a remote seaside cottage overlooking the salt-marshes near here, and teaches at the University of North Norfolk. She'll be talking about the newest title in the series – The Dark Angel. Volunteer Wanted - Could you help inspire the next generation of computer coders? The library wants to run an after school **Coding Club at the Library**, using projects from the Code Club website.
Ring Alison on 01485- 540181

Are You Scam Aware? Why not drop into the next Friends Against Scam Pop Up Scams Advice Shop on Thursday 22nd February 10.00 – 14.00 and get free advice.



If anyone wishes to find out more about Dersingham Library Friends please pop into the Library and speak to any of the staff or join us at our next meeting on Thursday 1st March 2018 5.30 – 6.30□



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Ringstead Village Club

We meet once a month (except August) on the first Thursday of the month, at 2pm, in the Village Hall, High Street (next to the Gin Trap inn). You don't have to live in the village to come along to our meetings, everyone is welcome. We invite a variety of speakers throughout the year to come and give talks on a wide variety of subjects, there will be something to interest everyone. We will be playing Carpet Bowls at the 1st March meeting, why not come along and join in the fun.



SALVATION ARMY, ALMA ROAD SNETTISHAM

We would like to thank all those who made donations to our Toys and Tins Appeal.

Due to your generous donations we were able to help several families with toys and food for the festive season who would otherwise have been without.

We also say thank you to everyone who donated during our carol playing. All money collected will be used locally. **Saturday 17 February 2018**

March 2nd at 2.00 there is a Womens world day of prayer meeting at The Salvation Army, Snettisham. This is an interdenominational service to which all are welcome.

Saturday 17 February 2018 Quiz night at The Salvation Army, Snettisham at 7.00 pm.

Tickets £5.00 from 01485 541978. All welcome□



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DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

David Collingham, Chairman, Dersingham Village Centre Association

Happy New Year to all

With 2018 upon us we are very excited that the construction of the new Village Centre is well advanced and we are now expecting to be up and running by September this year.

The DVCA has applied for grants for various essential fixtures and fittings, which will include a user-friendly state-of-the-art kitchen facility.

BOOKINGS FOR THE NEW CENTRE

We hope that from September the centre will be available for hiring. There will be a large main hall with sprung flooring, a central meeting/refreshment hub, and a self-contained large Meeting Room. Hire rates are published on our website at www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk **WE ARE TAKING BOOKINGS ALREADY!**

It is simple to enquire or book – just do it on the website or phone 01485 540271.



EVENTS AND LOTTERY

Village Lottery: New members always welcome. To subscribe (£15 per quarter) please email us or download the form from the website, or call in at the Parish Council Office (Post Office Road).

Lottery winners

November	40, 26, 73
December	60, 25, 19
January	37, 35, 29

Dersingham Cinema: continues monthly at the Social Club. The next showing will be CHURCHILL on Tuesday 30th January.

Fashion Show: An elegant fashion evening is planned on Wednesday March 14th from 6.30pm at St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road. Featuring the range from Allez Chic, you can admire the clothes whilst sipping a glass of bubbly as models parade round the room.□

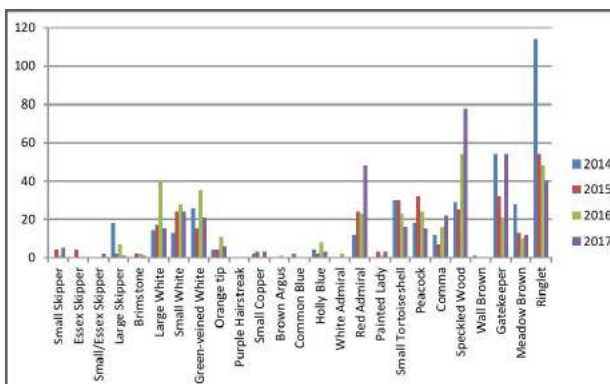


Butterfly report for 2017

By Brian Anderson

Like 2016, this past year has been a bit odd for butterflies. Related species have had widely differing fortunes. In some cases the differences are easily explained - in others there seems no ready explanation. As last year I am merging most comments from the transect (the old railway line from Ingoldsthorpe to Dersingham), the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (Sherborne and Ling House Roads and Prisoner's Belt), the Garden Butterfly Survey and casual sightings.

The transect data shows a decline in the Skippers, varied fortunes for the Whites and Aristocrats (Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady and Comma). The Blues and Coppers are present in such low numbers (with the exception of the Holly Blue) that no conclusions can be drawn regarding trends. There was also great variety in abundance changes in the Browns. The chart shows the variation over the last 4 years.



The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey is confined to just four visits a year but reflects the general form of the transect data. The Garden Butterfly Survey showed the same increase in Red Admiral and Speckled Wood numbers as the surveys above, as did the casual sightings around the parish.

Comments on selected species.

The Whites.

The Brimstone maintained its low abundance of just a few a year. The Large, Small and Green-veined Whites and Orange Tips all declined. There are probably different reasons for the Large and Small Whites declining compared with the Green-veined Whites and Orange Tip decline. The Large and Small Whites suffer greatly in bad years from parasitism - the peculiar feature here is the much greater decline in the Large White compared with the Small - it may simply be that the migratory influx of Large Whites just didn't happen. Green -veined Whites and Orange Tips seem to have suffered a poorer breeding season



The Blues.

Holly Blues had a good spring but a poor autumn, both on the transect and with other survey methods. From this I conclude that the parasitic wasp *Listrodromus nycthemerus* became abundant enough for the Holly Blue's second generation to be quite badly affected - the populations of the butterfly and its parasite vary almost in antiphase. I tentatively predict that the Holly Blue will not do well in 2018. The Small Copper did make a reappearance on the transect with three individuals being seen late in the season.



Painted Lady led to hope for a reasonable influx of migrants but it never materialised (I have copied this directly from last year's report as I suffered exactly the same false optimism!)

The Aristocrats.

Red Admirals did very well with the numbers on the transect more than doubling over any previous totals - this was the common experience from all survey methods and there was national interest in the abundance, There was some evidence of a return migration late in the season with numbers of butterflies flying out to sea The Peacock had a very poor year, as did the Small Tortoiseshell. This too may be due parasitism. Early casual sightings of the

The Browns.

The Speckled Wood did very well again, increasing its abundance on the transect by about a third over 2016 which was itself a record count. This was (as with the Red Admiral) also a common experience. They were to be seen in every patch of suitable habitat in the village. We had more in our garden than we have seen in previous years. The Gatekeeper improved substantially over 2016, about equalling its previous peak of 2014. The Meadow Brown and Ringlet did less well.

A final note about an unexpected sighting - in Snettisham, I'm afraid, rather than Dersingham. In August we did walk around Ken Hill Wood and had just reached the edge of the wood at the end of the walk when Yvonne noticed a large tan-coloured butterfly in the tree canopy. We both thought "Fritillary!". If you see a fritillary around here, it's generally a Dark Green Fritillary come a bit inland from its coastal habitat. But this didn't seem quite right - the tan colour was bit lighter, the forewings more pointed and the flight very active and swooping in and out of the canopy. It was a Silver-washed Fritillary. They do seem to be making a return to Norfolk - now perhaps resident in Holt Country Park. They have been reported in Ken Hill Wood before, although very infrequently. It rather made our day! □



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DERSINGHAM INSTITUTE BOWLS CLUB

by Jan Rawstron

Happy New Year to all our members. Although we are still in the middle of winter, our greenkeeping team are still doing necessary work to the green, ready for our opening day, weather permitting, on April 7th

Our team, led by Dickie Murrell, do a great job, and we would like to thank them wholeheartedly.

In the last issue I wrote that this coming year would be the club's centenary. However since then, it transpires, according to a leaflet left anonymously, that the club was founded in 1919, and that the green was laid in 1920. Thanks to whoever supplied this leaflet, as information regarding the early days of the club is sketchy to say the least. This does give us breathing space to get things organised for 2019/20, when the Village Centre work will have been completed, making life a lot easier.

Should anyone else have historical information re. the bowls club, it would be great to hear from you, either by phone on 01485 298419 or email jan.rawstron49@hotmail.co.uk

From your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb

After the Christmas and New Year break what could be better than to settle down to write an article for Village Voice. Problem being what to say except we hope that all readers of this publication have a happy and prosperous New Year.

The end of 2017 saw a few planning issues; we have to continually balance the needs of those wishing to make modifications to their homes with the need to preserve the living space of those around them and also to retain the integrity of the conservation area.

The modifications to the traffic lights in the village are in hand; push button control should give pedestrians more time to cross.

Open Gardens 2018 is my particular focus for the next few weeks as we endeavour to persuade gardeners in the village to be part of the event. If you would like to join in do contact Judy on 01485 540271 or jcairnscol@gmail.com - no garden too small to be ruled out! Let's build on the success of previous years to have another great couple of days of garden visiting (not to mention eating and drinking) for all those who come along.□

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In the Garden

by Anna and John Greyson



We have a westerly wind as I write but it has the bite and chill of a North Wind. Although the morning started sunny, the blue sky that does break through the blanketed cloud is steely and hints of the chance of snow. Though not a northerly wind, it reminds me of a rhyme my grandmother would sing to me as we looked out of the patio doors into the winter garden; *"The north wind doth blow, and we shall have snow, And what will poor Robin do then? Poor thing. He'll sit in a barn, and keep himself warm, and hide his head under his wing, Poor thing."* (Author Unknown).

It reminded me of the vulnerability of our wildlife at this time of the year, in particular our birds. As a business we support the RSBP (Royal Society for the Prevention of Birds) as they not only concentrate on our feathered friends, but nature conservation as a whole; our gardens and countryside play a big part in caring for nature; even the bees, bugs and slugs that are ready and waiting to attack our precious planting. Most of the hips and berries have disappeared by January, making it harder work for wildlife to find food. Now is a good time to look at your dormant garden and consider plants, shrubs, trees that you can add which will help sustain wildlife.

There are plants which will give you a display in the winter months which are on the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) Perfect for Pollinators list. Flowering bulbs such as Galanthus Nivalis (Common Snowdrops), Crocus and Eranthis Hyemalis (winter aconites). These can be purchased in the green (showing green but not flowering) at this time of year. I prefer to plant my bulbs now as you can see exactly how they will look instead of planting in the autumn when there is still foliage on other plants and it is a guessing game. Winter flowering climbers are wonderful, Clematis Cirrhosa and Lonicera x Purpusii (Honeysuckle) are good suggestions for the honey bees. Shrubs such as Mahonia, Viburnum Tinus and Sarcococca Confusa and Hookeriana (Sweet Box). Planting a Salix Aegyptiaca (Musk Willow) will provide a wonderful display of catkins in late winter with plenty of pollen! Finally do not forget the Hellebores (Christmas/Lenten Roses); most varieties provide bees with much needed succour on warm winter days.



Returning to our Robins and other feathered companions. There is no real substitute to providing food and water during the winter months but there are plants that will provide winter treats and nesting for the spring. Ivy though considered an annoyance by many gardeners is an absolute delight for wildlife. The flowers attract insects which provide food for the robins and wrens in autumn, followed by black berries which are devoured by thrushes and waxwings, finches, blackbirds and starlings in late winter. If it is allowed to ramble freely it will also provide cover and roosting for smaller birds. The shrub Viburnum Opulus (Guelder Rose) displays beautiful glossy red berries from November through to March and are loved by Mistle Thrushes and Bullfinches. Ornamental grasses such as varieties of Festucas, Cortaderia (Pampas Grass), Carex, Pennisetum and Miscanthus left over winter with their fluffy seed heads, are perfect winter cover for insects and a feast for birds!

Remember many trees and shrubs can be planted and obtained up until the end of March! They often have more established root systems and will be much cheaper than container grown varieties.

For more information please see the extended version of this column available on our facebook page, www.facebook.com/JoAnnaCottagePlants
Until next time, happy gardening.□

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Balding Moat

It was good to see a letter once again from Ivan Green. Even though like me he moved out of the village many years ago, he still has fond memories of the old place. He mentioned the Balding brothers maintaining The Drift by filling in the gruts and potholes. They also mowed the banks of the dyke and round the edge of the moat that was always known as Baldings Moat. At end of the dyke nearest to Manor Road, before it went under the Lynn Road, there was a square brick built filter built into the dyke. This was there for the old steam engines and steam rollers to fill up with water; the filter was there so as the pipe from the steam engines did not suck up weeds and muck from the dyke into the steam engines boiler. There were many of these filters set in dykes all around the countryside.

When I was a lad most people in the village had coal fires or used logs of wood. My father used to rake the old ashes out of the grate in the mornings; he would put the ashes in an old bucket and later in the day, when the ashes were cold, he would take them down The Drift and spread them in the gruts, as did others in that area.

Shooting rights

Got my Dersingham Data for 2017/18, which I always like to read from cover to cover. I always have to smile to myself when I read the page by Dersingham United Charities and the bit saying that Sandringham Estate has the shooting rights over the Open Common, the Shut-up Common and the fen. Shooting rights fetch a lot of money these days. I wonder how much the estate pays Dersingham Parish Council for these rights, even though they do not shoot over these areas.

Potholes and roadmen

I stood up the road the other day watching five men with a JCB, two trucks and a small motor driven road roller. What were they doing? Well, they were filling in a pothole about two feet square. Fifty years ago in all villages we had roadmen, or lengths men, so-called as they all had a certain length of road to look after. In Dersingham we had about four of these men. The ones I can remember were Mr Riches, Mr Sizeland and Mr Baterbee. Their transport was a large wooden wheeled, steel rimmed wheelbarrow. In the barrow would be a broom, shovel, pick axe, rammer, scythe, spade, line, some blocks of tar, a brazier and a tar pot. If they came across some potholes, next time they saw their foreman they told him about these potholes and he would drop off some road stone so they could get the potholes filled in and tarred over.

They kept the grass verges and the banks trimmed, the rain gullies free of weeds and mud and picked up any debris on the road. They would cover their area of roads and then go round again, pushing all their tools in their barrow with their bike laid across the top. The amazing thing was, when they finished work at the end of the day, they would put the barrow and tools in a gate way or behind a hedge and they would all be there next morning.

The Sandringham Buddha

Now here is another little bit about Sandringham that a lot of people might not know. If you have been to Sandringham and walked around the gardens at the north end you will have seen a Buddha. This Buddha arrived in 1870; it was a gift from Admiral Sir Henry Keppel, a close friend of the Prince of Wales. Keppel, who had commanded the China station, was greatly impressed with Peking and was determined to send home some tangible memory of it for the Prince. The Buddha was bought for £117 in Peking in 1869; it had been made in 1690 and reached Sandringham in April 1870 after a journey of some 11 months, having been dispatched from China in the battleship HMS Rodney. The statue was then brought as

far as Harwich in the frigate HMS Penelope and was finally transferred to the specially strengthened revenue cutter HMS Adder for the final journey to the Alexandra Dock at King's Lynn, where it was landed and placed on a carriage. The entire ship's company then pulled the carriage by ropes from King's Lynn to Sandringham House and the Buddha was installed on a granite pedestal beneath a long- vanished wooden pagoda made by estate carpenters. It is still today flanked by a pair of guardian lions.



Neighbourhood Plans

So the people of Dersingham have been asked once again to take part in a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a good idea and many things can be brought up and talked about. I have taken part in three of such plans in Hunstanton. The first one I took part in was in 1979; one of the things most people wanted was for the Esplanade Gardens to be made better and spruced up and this was carried out this year 2017, thirty-eight years after we first asked for it. We also asked for the old Kit-Kat slipway to be restored to make things better for people to get on to the beach. The old slipway was damaged in the 1953 flood, so in 1974 it was blown up as it was in a dangerous condition. Unfortunately, up to now there is still no slipway.

I have before me a copy of the Dersingham village appraisal that took place in May 1995. The report of this was published in booklet form in June 1997, twenty years ago. Of the 1,950 booklets (forms) delivered in May 1995, 1,306 were returned. Of those returned 104 of them were not completed at all, giving an indication that not everybody thought the appraisal was a good idea. There was a lot of things brought up about what people in the village would like. Like all these appraisals (neighbourhood plans) very few of these ideas are carried out but they bring to the surface what people want in the village. We are now having another one in Hunstanton. After we had the one in Hunstanton in 1979, which was called the Hunstanton Draft District Plan, an 84-page book was printed telling you what people wanted done in the town. If all these ideas had been carried out we would have had a new town.

Snettisham coal bonanza

Now for a tale that was told to me many years ago by a friend of mine. His name was Jack Daniels. When he was about six years old in the late nineteen-thirties he lived with his granny and granddad, Mr and Mrs Wentford, in the Red Lion public house down Station Road, Snettisham. Jack's bedroom was at the front of the house overlooking Station Road, which, like today, was also the road to the beach. One morning at about 6 30am he woke up to the sound of a lot of voices out in the road. So he got out of bed and looked out of the window and to his amazement there was many people going down the road towards the beach. Some were pushing old prams, wheelbarrows and handcarts; others were carrying bags, sacks and old tin baths. Jack got out of bed and went and told his grandfather what he saw. So his grandfather got dressed and went out in the road to see what was going on. He came back in and said to Jack, 'Get your clothes on we are going down the beach.' He had found out that a collier (coal ship) that was on its way into King's Lynn docks with a load of coal had capsized out in The Wash and its cargo of coal was being washed up on the beach at Snettisham.

So they got the old wooden wheelbarrow out of the shed and followed the other villagers down to the beach. Jack said there was over one hundred people picking up all the lumps of coal. Jack said that by the middle of the morning the beach had been cleared of coal and people who were late going to the beach trudged all the way back with empty

wheelbarrows, but a lot of people in Snettisham had some extra (free) coal in their coal shed that day.

Corrections

Now, just a correction or two. In the last issue of Village Voice I meant to say that David Buck was the youngest landlord in England at the age of 21 in 1961, and the Dun Cow was closed in the early nineteen-nineties, not the nineteen-seventies.

A chap from Dersingham, who once lived in Great Bircham, rang me up to say that the proprietor of the coaches that brought the children in from Great Bircham to St George's was a Mr Reg Rayner and not Mr Easter. Sorry Brian.

All the best to you all, just keep a troshin.□

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Dersingham Library Events in February

**For further information about events and to book please call
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Dersingham now has Open Library meaning you can access the library **between 8am and 7pm Monday to Friday**, as long as you are registered. This gives customers self-service access to library materials, public computers and quiet, creative spaces even while the building is unstaffed. Please contact the library for more information and to find out how to register for Open Libraries.

Weekly events:

Scrabble club - Mondays 1.30-3pm , **Just a cuppa** – Wednesdays 2-3pm, **Knit and natter** - Thursdays 10.30-12

Baby bounce and rhyme – Thursday term time 10-10.30am

Volunteers needed!

Could you help inspire the next generation of computer coders? We want to run an after school **Coding Club at the Library**, using projects from the Code Club website.

Could you spare some time to help tidy up the **library garden**?

Could you help develop ideas for events held at the library as a **Library Friend** and promote the library and its services within the local community?

Please contact Alison at the library on 01485 540181 if you'd like to find out more.

Micro:bit Jam at Dersingham Library – Monday 12th February 10.30-12

Explore the world of Microbits with staff and volunteers. Learn to code a micro-computer and create your own games. Suitable for children 10-12 years of age. Booking essential – please contact your library on 01485 540181

Crime Book Club - Monday 12th February 5.45-6.45pm (please note new start time)

New members always welcome! Ask staff for details of the books being discussed.

Highway Rat Storytime – Wednesday 14th February 10.30-11.30am

Come along and listen to Julia Donaldson's brilliant story and join in some colouring and a simple craft. This is a free session, but booking is essential. Please contact the library on 01485 540181.

Walk and talk group – Thursday 15th February 2.30pm

Join our volunteers for a short walk around the village and then refreshments at the library afterwards. This walk is perfect for those wanting to gently build up their walking stamina.

Coffee with Elly – Friday 16th February from 2pm

Elly Griffiths will be visiting Dersingham Library to talk about her 10th Dr Ruth Galloway book 'The Dark Angel'. Booking essential - tickets £5 (payable in advance). To book contact the library on 01485 540181. This event is in being supported by the Friends of the Library.

Book Club - Monday 19th February 5.45-6.45pm (please note new start time)

New members always welcome. Ask staff for details of the books being discussed

I-Connect – 1-2-1 tablet help with Maddie – Wednesday 21st February 2.30-6.30pm

Struggling with your tablet or smartphone? Got a new tablet/smartphone and don't know how it works?

Have you got a tablet/smartphone that needs setting up? Do you need help mastering your apps? Then why not book a session with Maddie? Charges apply - 30 Mins - £10, 1 Hour - £17.50. Booking essential. Please call 07787105581

Friends Against Scams Pop Up Advice Shop- Thursday 22nd February 10am – 2pm

Want to know more about staying safe from Scams? Why not drop in and get loads of free advice and information. Brought to you by Norfolk Trading Standards and Norfolk Library and Information Service

Need help with your computer or tablet?

Why not book a one-to-one session with library staff? Charges apply. Please ask staff for details.

Family History and Computer volunteer

You can also book one-to-one sessions with our volunteers. Just ask staff for details. □

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Dersingham Evening WI

Our Annual meeting was held in November when all officers are elected. Peg Hunter remains as President and Katrina Mundy as secretary. Some changes have taken place on the committee and we thank the retiring

members for their hard work.

A group of members went to Alby Glass at Bawdswell. They spent the day making glass Christmas objects to hang on a tree and enjoying lunch at the garden centre. Such a lot of concentration was needed to work with soldering irons, but everyone left happy with their pieces of work! Our thanks to our efficient Wendy for organising the trip and to the drivers.



We bought a tree for the Christmas Tree festival in the Church and our amazing craft lady, Babs, cut out very pretty lanterns. A group of us spent an afternoon getting them put together ready for the tree. Well done and thanks to those who came to the 'make lanterns and natter' afternoon! They looked really lovely. Katrina, Diann and Maggie decorated the tree with the lanterns, baubles and lights and were pleased with the result.

For the Christmas Lights Switch on, Peg had organised having a Tombola stall in our new gazebo to raise money for the WI funds. It was rather a long afternoon, but all the items went and a good amount of money was made. Well done to Peg and her helpers. Ingoldisthorpe WI ran a coach to Cromer with



tickets to the End of Pier Show and a group of our WI took up some spare tickets. That was a good day out with lunch and mulled wine.



The meeting just before Christmas was a party evening with food and the entertainment was by Hunstanton Community Choir. There was a happy atmosphere and the evening was enjoyed by all who are now in the festive spirit. We wish everyone a Happy New Year and do come and join us as we have people on the door to greet and look after new people.

We meet every **third Wednesday of the month** apart from August and our next

meeting is **21st February at St Cecilla's Church 7.15 pm**

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The most recent meeting of Gardening with Disabilities was due to take place at St Cecilia's Church in Dersingham on Friday 19th January at 2.00 pm. A talk by The Norfolk Hospice on "**Gardening as Therapy**" was arranged.

The February meeting on 16th February is an outing to Dobbies Garden Centre in

King's Lynn with tea at 3.00pm and a talk afterwards.

The tea costs £4.00 and Members and friends must find their own way there.

In March we are back at Park House Conservatory for the AGM at 2.00 pm. Afterwards May and Chris Davey will be describing their recent visit to Japan, where they travelled from south to north by train.

At the end of last year we had two very enjoyable meetings. In November

Yvonne Fuller from "Flowers by Yvonne" gave an excellent demonstration of Christmas floral arrangements: a decorated candle, a seasonal swag and a lovely table decoration. She gave lots of advice and hints about flower arranging. Our Members hope for a return visit with summer flowers.



In December we had our Christmas Lunch at Knight's Hill Hotel which was well attended. Some wore festive attire, as demonstrated in the photographs. We welcome new Members. The annual subscription is £12.00 and there is a charge of £2.00 at the door for tea and a raffle ticket. For information about meetings, please ring the Programme Secretary, May Davey, at 01485 544953. □



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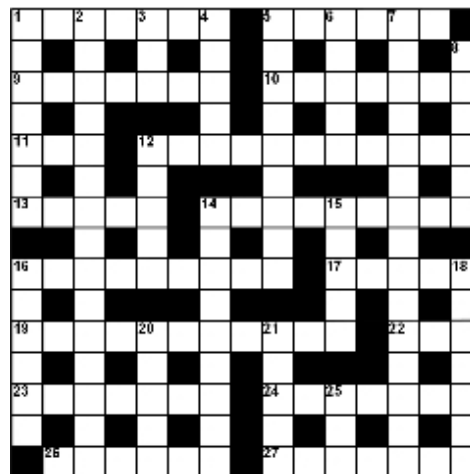
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PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword by
Philip Neal

Across

- 1 Reconditioned red van ringed in Hampshire town (7)
- 5 Controversial L.B.W. say provides local government rules (6)
- 9 Tragedy broadcast and circulated (7)
- 10 U.A.R. team training for the unskilful (7)
- 11 N.A.S.A. men left Melanesian ground to find 50 garland (3)
- 12 Criminal scandals set fortified beach houses (4,7)
- 13 Lifetime with wall of sound enclosed (5)
- 14 'Nabucco' for instance in a pigeon hut will work together (9)
- 16 Gallery where people in street make announcement (9)
- 17 Worried Ron is making small lacquer boxes (5)
- 19 Explorers examine untraversed ground (11)
- 22 We British form network trap (3)
- 23 Minced protein for gun dog (7)
- 24 All give surprisingly to fit in two (7)
- 26 Toe perhaps? Or stretch before final inscription (6)
- 27 Deanery busy in December (4-3)



Down

- 1 Beautiful cultivation in range lichen (7)
- 2 H.M.S. Reading at sea calling all readers – you must have one (10,5)
- 3 Check out doctor (3)
- 4 Busy road north to find element (5)
- 5 Diversify encounter outside livestock arm (6,3)
- 6 Storytellers on Southern Rail but travelling four wards (5)
- 7 Round, mound, pound – it helps to be well armed for this event (11,4)
- 8 Beachcomber stranded off course (6)
- 12 Small border plant (5)
- 14 Queen cheered outside but marked by fluctuations of fortune (9)
- 15 Train times as a form of release (5)
- 16 Seafood found by detective on the fiddle with tents pitched within boundary of silicone (6)
- 18 Coach reversed up incline for axil growth (7)
- 20 Inter ground to unearth saltpetre (5)
- 21 Range adjusted to explore unknown diplomat (5)
- 25 Meadow located somewhere in 24 (3)

Sudoku

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



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WORD WALL BY Philip Neal

Sort the following into 4 groups of connected words

BATTLE	BOWMAN	SKIRMISH	LINE
AGE	BETROTHAL	HOLIDAY	EXPEDITION
STUMBLE	JOURNEY	RUNNER	AFFRAY
SAGITTARIUS	BENCH	JILL	CUPID

The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle

Well, here we are, we made it to the New Year in one piece, and thank goodness nobody asked me to a New Year's Party as I hate the things, where everybody seems obliged to drink as much as possible and then you all join hands and sing Auld Lang Syne. I actually quite like that bit, but not when I am attached to some ridiculous drunk. The final straw, and I have probably mentioned this before, was when a fully kilted piper, old and six sheets to the wind tripped and fell onto me, felling me to the floor, where the dreadful wails of his deflated 'bag' expiring upon my stomach sounded like dying banshees and ruined my evening dress into the bargain. I probably wouldn't have minded had the piper been young, fit and muscled, but this was a silly old fool who had been let out of his care home for the night. Actually, I made that bit up, but I think that is where he should have been! Anyway, I do like the thought of a New Year, with new beginnings, new projects, and resolutions (don't make anything too elaborate, or you will fail).



My resolution is to get fitter. I have been doing gentle ballet classes once a week with Peggy Hunter, but have decided to go to her keep fit with dance classes on a Monday in the village - the more you do, the fitter you get, and when you are getting almost over the hill, you do need as much exercise as possible otherwise you end up in one of those granny throw-you-out chairs. Having been tied to one of those for a couple of years when I could barely walk at all, I decided that I really must exercise. I can't do anything like leap frog, or indeed anything that involves one foot off the floor, but little things like rotating your head makes all the difference, especially when one needs to reverse the car!

We still have the worst month to get through, which to my mind is February, when I am always at my lowest ebb. This year I doubt that I will notice it much, as I now have the new puppy, who was going to be Violet (Violent Violet) but ended up being Rosie. Florence, who is no longer Frightful, has been amazingly maternal to her, and babysits and plays with her, so I have to do very little, except in the mop and bucket department - but then, I am well used to that now.... I am looking forward to the nice weather when my lawn, currently a quagmire, dries up and no longer is traipsed back into the house by my four-legged girlies, covering the flagstones as well as the sofas in mire.

Then, there will be the cat. I am collecting him early January, so might have him by the time this magazine is delivered to your door, but at the moment I am just getting ready for him with a tower with beds and hideholes, feathers on a stick and a peekaboo canvas play house. This all because of a dream, which I think I mentioned in a past issue, so won't mention it again except, perhaps, in the next issue...

Quite often I wake up at 3 a.m. feeling wide awake and waggy tailed, so after emptying the dishwasher and doing any other necessary work in the kitchen, I head back to bed with a cup of coffee and indulge in the luxury of watching the tv as I prop myself up on the pillows in my cosy bed. Of course, there isn't much on as Sky doesn't extend to my bedroom, so the only thing of interest has been programs on Extra Terrestrials. Well, I have long believed in them, especially after following a space craft along to Hunstanton Cliffs one night, with my teenage children. It began to descend, and we were all excited, then I remembered the stories of abductions, operations, sex with 'greys' and consequent 'farmed' foetuses so on and so forth, so I started up the car - wouldn't start, I had read about that too, but it did cough into life and off we sped. I have often wondered if we should have stayed to see what happened, but think on the whole it was better we left....

Anyway, last night I was watching away at the programme, and it was showing a lot of photos of cave paintings from way, way back, showing the similarity to our present day space men with helmets....and it is the belief of many that these DO represent drawings of men who had 'come down from the sky'. All very interesting and plausible to my mind. Then they showed large, elongated skulls that had been unearthed. Then photos of the ancient Egyptian paintings of men with elongated heads as well as headwear.

Now that interested me. I've mentioned I do Reiki healing, and apart from the well-being of those who have received it, I often have visions when I am doing it. Sometimes my clients do as well. On one occasion, I could feel I was growing taller in stature and that my head was elongating higher and higher. No it's not frightening. I have grown very used to 'strange things' happening to me and just wait with interest to see what it is all about. I knew I wasn't growing in reality, but nevertheless, the feeling was very real. I carried on the treatment wondering what that was all about, and when it was finished, my client said, "Wow, that was interesting. I had a kind of vision that you were a tall Egyptian healer with one of those tall hats on that you see on the Egyptian friezes.

Oh, that made sense to me. I had thought at the time that I had mistaken the shape of my head, whereas it was just one of those tall, strange hats I had been wearing.

But now, after seeing the photos of the skulls, and viewed the photos of more of the Egyptian art work of kings with elongated heads, and the tall hats to cover them, it makes me wonder now if that feeling of a long head was actually real. Either I was being 'helped' by a healer of old (from another planet????) getting the feeling of him somehow, or maybe in a past life I was one of those fellas. In the program it was explained that it is believed that these beings came to our planet, interbred, hence the long heads and tall heights. They taught the resident humans many things (including how to build pyramids and other wonders of the world that have perplexed us for so long) and then disappeared again. Well, who knows?

I can only conjecture, but nevertheless find it all very fascinating. I do believe all things are possible - I have to after some of the strange things that have happened to me - so now, when I can't sleep, I know which programs to look at. The only thing is that makes me ponder - most of the people who are talking about these things on the programme look completely bonkers, and the bloke narrating the story sounds as mad as a hatter. Maybe that's how people perceive me too. Oh, I can't help that! I am who I am and my beliefs and ponderings may be different to others because of the unusual experiences I have had. Maybe my sixth sense is a bit more attuned to things of the past and the future than others, but I can't do it to order. I'm not a medium, who can interact with those who have passed over and relay messages. I have philosophised since I was very small and distinctly remember being in my bedroom with my dad, looking out at the moon when I asked him, "Will man ever land on the moon?" This was quite a radical question for a little girl 73 years ago. Equally radically my Dad replied, "Oh definitely, but not in *our* lifetime." My dad knew everything - or so I believed - so I was satisfied with that answer, though of course, men did reach the moon while we were both still alive.

Did you see Strictly Come Dancing? I love watching it, and because of my small steps into the world of dance, I know how difficult it is to learn dance routines (I'm rubbish at it) so really appreciate how the contestants manage such intricate manoeuvres. It's not easy, and I certainly couldn't do what the contestants do on Strictly. I didn't know who should win. I really like Alexandra - she looks a lovely person and her dancing was supreme, but then Debbie McGee was also brilliant and you had to take your hat off to her considering she is bordering on sixty. So, while I thought Joe had done well, I hadn't considered him as the winner. However, whilst they were waiting for the result I thought

to myself. Okay, clear your head and see if your sixth sense can predict the winner. "Joe" flashed into my head and I immediately thought, no, it won't be him. But then, to my surprise, he did win. He deserved it too - they all did. What on earth am I going to do with weekend evenings now? Go back to the books I suppose.

I was reading a newspaper article about handbags and why people buy them as an investment. As I read on I just couldn't believe my eyes. The cost of some of them is exorbitant in the first place, but now they auction them off to treble the price. I wouldn't take one of them if they were handed to me free. I just don't understand women wanting any of the ugly things shown in the article. They only buy them, I am sure, as a status symbol, to show how much money they have spent and therefore this makes them a woman to be envied. The Emperor and his New Clothes always springs to mind where fashion is concerned.

I thought of how, when I was a girl, all squashed like a sardine into a train to travel to London for my secretarial job. We girls in the office were very keen on fashion and every lunch hour would pour over the dress making patterns in Dickens and Jones, and once we had chosen what we wanted to make, we would scour the shops for materials, invariably ending up in Berwick Street Market, where wonderful fabrics could be bought for next to nothing. We became very adept at making beautiful outfits, and once the sewing was completed, then we had to accessorise before we went out in our creations. Handbags and shoes should match, and gloves if possible. We didn't have a lot of money, so we had to search high and low, but always found something that matched our ensemble and which suited our purses. I always bought an artificial flower to wear at my neck to match the colour scheme. We all looked a million dollars wherever we went, and our superb outfits cost us very little.

When I look at the prices of high fashion these days, I just think 'why?'; knowing roughly the cost of the fabric, and the time it would take to make. To price a gown in the thousands is just ridiculous in my view - but then it is commerce, isn't it, and the rich ladies wouldn't feel right if they weren't wearing something that cost them squillions, whereas I can run up something in a day that I think I look good in, accessorised by something inexpensive but still beautiful that I have delightedly found on Google and feel just as precious as the rich ladies - and of course, I never have to worry that someone else will be wearing the same as me.

I've been without a cleaner for some time since the Perfect Girl left to live in Spain, and at last have a new one who doesn't have the same tolerance towards my untidiness as did PG. I have spent half the morning tidying up before this new lady comes, picking up my clothes from the bedroom floor (where they are supposed to be for goodness sake) and I got the giggles, thinking it's just as well I do have a cleaner again, as she keeps me on my toes - though I did tell her not to bother for the past two weeks while Rosie was settling in here, and the place a mud bath and total tip. It would have been a total waste of her time.

Oh dear. Just had a 'young offender' selling dusters and so on. I do like to try and help people, but I had no money in my purse, and anyway, had bought some stuff from one recently which I mentioned to him. I got a mouthful of abuse from him, and also from his co-hort who was following him on. Nasty. I shan't fall for them again. I'm probably on the hit list now.

So, there we are, I've managed to keep mainly away from the topic of animals in this piece, but just to make you smile, here is the card I drew for my Christmas card, and the little ditty to go with it.□

Strictly Come Prancing
 that's himself and me
 He helps with my dance steps
 by supporting my knee.
 I've not managed a jump yet,
 too heavy for that,
 but my toe-work's impressive -
 silly old bat.



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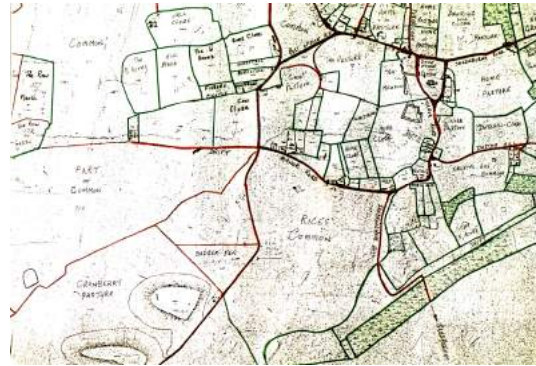
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The Kellogg House

by Elizabeth Fiddick

I love maps. I can while away a considerable amount of time studying them. The older the map is the better especially if it is of an area I know well today. There is something infinitely satisfying in noting the changes, the old roadways, the place names that have gone out of use, and indeed the structures or buildings that no longer exist. There is a wealth of information that can be gleaned from just a short perusal of an old map. One map that I am constantly referring to is the 1839 Tithe map of our village. In the 1830s there were just 600-700 people living here in their carrstone cottages for the most part along what we now know as Manor Road and Chapel Road. There were groups of homes up Doddshill and Fern Hill and a cluster about Dun Cow farm, the site of the present supermarket. It is not difficult to see that village in your mind's eye today if you remove all the modern estates and houses that have been built, particularly since the 1960s, and restore the arable fields, the pasture land in the centre of the village, the common land and the acres of wild marshland that use to stretch right to the waters of The Wash.



In 1839 if you entered our village from Lynn along the old turnpike road you would have passed Cranberry Pasture and the sand pits on your left with the attractive carrstone cottage of Charles Frary. (The cottage still stands today by the modern roundabout.) As the road took a very sharp left hand bend into the village to your left was Badger Fen and over to your right the expanse of open heath we now call the Open Common and the Shut up Common but known then as Rice's Common. It was one large area as Heath Road did not exist at this time and the land on both left and right was not covered in trees as it is today but was an open expanse of gorse, heathers and grass down to the coast line. Here the villagers had the right to graze their animals and to collect whins for fuel. It was also a well established custom to gather cranberries from the pasture of that name.

(When I first came to the village the road from Lynn as it entered the village by Heath Road still took a very sharp left hand bend. After a fatal road accident here this bend was reduced and if you look carefully you can still see the line on the road where the new surface was added outlining the original line of the curve).

However some twenty years after the 1839 map was produced the possibility of constructing a railway to connect Lynn to Hunstanton was almost a certainty. The company to oversee its construction had been formed so the land over which the line was to travel had to be established and suitable compensation agreed with the landowners and the several villagers who would lose property as a result. (The uproar that ensued in the village when it was known that part of Cranberry Pasture was to be enclosed and the villagers right to gather cranberries there challenged will need an article to itself at a later date). On the 12th February 1859 Parliament passed the Act that enclosed several acres of common land in the village. This land lay on the Lynn side of Manor Road which was part of Rice's Common, and a further enclosure made alongside the track called the Drift opposite Manor Road. The enclosed land was divided into plots which were awarded to villagers who lost land to the proposed railway.

Plot 90 which stood at the top of the present Heath Road as it descends to Manor Road was awarded to George Mann and it was there that he built his fine new farmhouse



and barn. He called it Butterfly Hall but today we know it as Heath House and it is still a striking house today with its chequerboard effect. His barn still stands and is well used. (I have written extensively about George, his family and the building of his farm in previous editions of Village Voice.) So the first buildings were completed and with further cottages and houses being constructed over the next few years Heath Road as we now know it was gradually established in the village.

Opposite Heath House a fine cottage now called Heath View was constructed.

This was the home at one time of Frederick Ralph the photographer to whom we owe a great debt for all the photographs he took of the village which allow us to see into our past. The cottage was first called Victoria Cottage and the present owner has preserved the terracotta plaque that once adorned the front with the head of Queen Victoria outlined on it in relief. It is cleverly incorporated into the wall of the new porch.

Further down at number 13 is Cromarty House which was once owned by Mr. Oscar Humphrey the former chauffeur to Queen Mary (1868-1953). The house had been given to him by the Queen and after he had taken early retirement local villagers told me that Queen Mary would often stop by and enjoy a cup of tea. It was not unknown for the royal children to be seen playing in the garden.

Next to Cromarty House is No. 15 Brackenside which stands out even today as being very different to all the other houses in the road. It is of a very modernist design and when I first came to the village and asked about it I was told that it was won as a prize in a competition run by the Kellogg's company. This was most intriguing and I determined one day to investigate further. Time has passed since then but a recent conversation with the present owner revived my interest and with her help and that of a previous owner I can now tell the story.

We must journey back to the late 1950s. Britain was then recovering from years of economic depression and war time austerity. The whole nation had watched the coronation of the young queen in 1953 which marked the beginning of the new Elizabethan Age. It was an age of optimism and new beginnings so certain companies were very keen to exploit this new spirit and establish themselves as leaders in their field.

It was during July 1959 that the popular magazine "Ideal Home" launched its "Small House Scheme." This was an architectural competition launched by the magazine in conjunction with The Royal Institute of British Architects to design a small "ideal" house that reflected all the new ideas in design and technology. Competitors had to be corporate members of the R.I.B.A. and no design submitted was to exceed the top building cost limit of £4,500. The maximum size for any house was 1,100 square feet excluding garage and outbuildings.

1500 designs were submitted from which thirty were chosen as winners. These winning designs were published in a book which could be bought for 15s and the full working drawings could be obtained for a further £15.

During 1959/60 seventeen of these show houses were built around the country. Each house was given a talented interior designer and furnished by retailers in the region with the latest styles. During an eight week period in July/August they were open to be viewed by the public. This was deemed a great success by the magazine which reported, "They converged from all parts of the country, -prospective house owners, architects, builders and interior designers (curious and critical), family men with their bank balance in mind, eager housewives lavish with praise. There were engaged couples without a bean

or hope but happily clutching hands; there were romantic teenagers and nosey kids. Even babies at the crawl stage came, to be impressed by the electric floor heating.” All were considered potential buyers even the babies!

As this promotion was an obvious success and caught the imagination of the public another company took the opportunity to use it to raise their profile. The Kellogg's company ran a competition throughout 1959/60 which offered competitors the chance to own one of the thirty houses featured in the scheme for themselves.

Over the next months all thirty designs were featured on their packets of cornflakes. They also ran an advert on TV which can be viewed online. (Search Kellogg's Competition 1959/60 Win a House with Kellogg's or Utube 60s adverts)

The very well dressed and beautifully spoken presenter (Jeremy Hawk) shows the viewer a model of one of the houses and points out all its modern conveniences, the spacious bedroom with built in wardrobes, the elegant kitchen with lots of work surfaces, storage and stainless steel sink. He points out the house and the land could be won by one lucky person in this £10,000 competition run by Kellogg's with all the details to be found on the packets of cornflakes. **WIN YOUR IDEAL HOME** . Here's Kellogg's greatest competition ever, The headlines on the packets proclaimed, Under the heading *What to do* it stated,

Here is a list of twelve features of a typical modern house. Select the six that contribute the most towards the comfort and efficiency of a new house to be occupied by an average family, (mother, father, and two schoolchildren) and number them in order of your preference. Then add an extra one of your choice. (NOT ONE INCLUDED IN THE LIST BELOW) and your reason for choosing it.

The twelve features were, 1. Built-in electric or gas fires in the bedroom, 2. Covered fuel store, 3. Spare room-Playroom-Guest room, Workroom. 4. Immersion heater 5. Insulated loft 6. Washing Machine, 7. Built-in Wardrobes 8. Hall Cloakroom. 9. Refrigerator 10. Toilet & bathroom separate, 11. Central heating . 12. Your extra item. The winner could choose their ideal home from the thirty prize winning designs and the site where it was to be built. The Kellogg Company would pay all the costs to the value of £5000 which they said was an ample amount for the house and site. In conjunction with the Ideal Home Magazine they would provide full working drawings, help with the selection of a builder and with the architect advice on any details of planning, siting or equipment.

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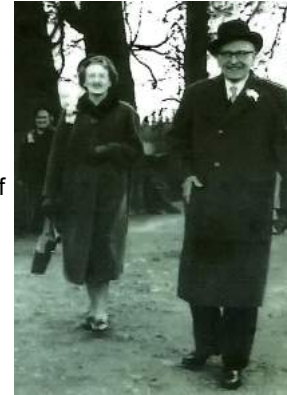
There were 5 grand second prizes. A complete new outfit of furniture for your present home to the value of £500. Also if you wished Diana Pollock, Furnishing Editor of The Ideal Home magazine would work out a furnishing scheme with you to suit your home. OR accept £500 cash. As a third prize there were fifty 17" Marconi Table Model TV sets or £50 in cash.

Now we must return to Dersingham. It was in 1959, while this exciting promotion was



running, that Mr. Humphrey sold part of his very large garden at the side of Cromarty House to a Mr. Harry Howard Read. Harry Howard Read was born in 1894 in Plaistow West Ham. His father had been a commercial traveller and Harry followed in his footsteps working for Brettles, a company specialising in ladies lingerie. In 1952 he married his second wife, Phoebe, who owned a ladies fashion shop and they lived in a 1930s style house known as Stockbroker Tudor in Fetcham Surrey. Now Phoebe had connections to Norfolk and even hinted to her friends at a distant link to the Royal family which is probably the reason they decided to move here from Surrey. On the 13th April 1959 he applied to Docking Rural District Council for planning permission to construct his new home in Heath Road.

The house was designed by John Ellis Middleton, an architect with a practice at 1 Norfolk Street King's Lynn, and he was greatly influenced by the work of the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright developed a great love of the countryside and nature living in his grandfather's prairie farmhouse. At the start of the twentieth century what became known as "Prairie Houses" were developed. They were independent family houses embracing simplicity and functionalism of design. The houses were designed around a central chimney and hearth being at the heart of the house with free flowing space. Ellis Middleton was well known in the area and it was he who had designed the flat roofed houses you can see on the left as you drive from Knights Hill down to the traffic lights by Castle Rising Road.



The house he designed to be built at No. 15 Heath Road was considered by the villagers here as very "foreign" looking due probably to the asymmetrical roof and the walls of yellow render. Anyone invited inside would have seen a cantilevered open rise staircase in concrete, a double height open plan living room overlooked by a first floor interior balcony creating a mezzanine seating area and an exposed brick chimney dominating the centre of the house. All this with the large windows on all but the north wall would have amazed them. There was nothing like it anywhere in the village. Even the Duchess of Kent and Princess Marina called unexpectedly one day to have a look round much to the consternation of the Reads. The Royal ladies had noticed this house being built and were very curious about it.



Why the Reads decided on this most modern of designs after living in their 1930s Stockbroker Tudor house is not known but a photo taken inside when they were living there shows it was still furnished in the old style to which they were accustomed. The Reads lived in the house for many years and Phoebe became a member of the West Newton W.I. Harry died in Gorselands a nursing home in Hunstanton in 1972. I am sure there must be villagers here or in West Newton who would remember them.

So was Brackenside a Kelloggs House and was it won as a prize?

The house was certainly not won as a prize in the competition. It was commissioned by and built for the Reads. While it is true that Ellis Middleton, the architect, did win awards for some of his designs I have not found any evidence that his design for Brackenside was one of the thirty featured in the competition. Helen Roll the previous owner who has researched this has seen the thirty designs but

none matched her house. There were many new modern houses built at this time all over the country so that it is not surprising that some were wrongly attributed to the event. If you research the internet site I mentioned previously there are several entries from people asking about possible Kelloggs houses in their area. If you walk from the church in Ingoldisthorpe there are two very modernist houses close by built about the same time as the event. I have also been told there is a house at Middleton near the Fair Green turning that is considered a Kelloggs house.



So I unfortunately must conclude that, however attractive the idea Brackenside was nothing to do with the Kelloggs event. True it was a very modern house built at the same time, following the same new ideas as the houses in the competition and no doubt resembling some of those designs. But it would appear it was wrongly attributed to the event. Unless of course, you know something different? I am more than ready to be convinced otherwise.

Grateful thanks to Helen Roll, the previous owner, for allowing me to use her research and for all her assistance. Also thanks to Jill Ilett the present owner for reviving my interest and putting me in contact with Helen.□

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Just a thought.....

It seems no sooner have we concentrated on the birth of Christ than we begin to look at the period leading up to his death. Lent is an important time for us all, where we can begin to reflect on not only the life of Christ but on our lives and the sacrifice that was undertaken for us. But it is too easy to only see the dark side of Lent; the betrayal, the agony of Gethsemane, the trial and the beatings. There is also the looking forward, the words that Christ gave us that satisfy our every being, and of course the joy of the resurrection, being brought out of the darkness into the light.

For me, Lent is like a railway tunnel. We enter into the darkness, our eyes trying to focus on the blackness before us. Then as we get further into that tunnel flashes of light appear; lamps have been lit, or light bulbs glow from the walls. These lights remind me of the words of Jesus; I am the light of the world; I am the good shepherd; I am the resurrection and the life; I am the true vine. Here are pointers to what will be, the message of Jesus shining out to us, telling us not to be afraid as the darkness will end and new life will begin.

But as we continue our journey the darkness of that tunnel seems never ending, and for Jesus the agony of what he was about to do must have seemed interminable. Yet He knew, He knew that it would end and the light would once again be seen across the whole world.

And we too, in that tunnel, will eventually see the light. It may seem very distant at first, but we know that eventually we will be engulfed by the safety of the light as we rush on to our destination.

And so it is with Lent, we can see in the distance the hope and the joy of Easter day, but until that moment comes we must concentrate on what Jesus did for us, and why He died for us.

So yes, let us reflect on the humiliation, the betrayal, the pain and the grief that Jesus bore in the last months and weeks of his life, but let us not forget the chinks of light which allow us, during our journey through Lent, a glimpse of the glory to come:

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die"

A message of light during our moments of darkness. AMEN□

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Crossword Answers

Across

1.ANDOVER 5.BYLAWS 9.GYRATED 10.AMATEUR 11.LEI 12.SAND CASTLES
13.CAGED 14.COOPERATE 16.STATEMENT 17.INROS 19.ADVENTURERS 22.WEB
23.POINTER 24.VILLAGE 26.LEGEND 27.YEAR-END

Down

1.ANGELIC 2.DERSINGHAM VOICE
3.VET 4.RADON 5.BRANCH OUT 6.LIARS
7.WHEELBARROW RACE 8.CRUSOE
12.SEDGE 14.CHEQUERED 15.EMITS
16.SCAMPI 18.SUBTEND 20.NITRE
21.ENVOY 25.LEA

Word Wall Answers

Archers: Sagittarius, Bowen, Jil (radio), Cupid
Engagement: Battle, Skirmish, Betrothal, Affray
Front: Age, Bench, Runner, Line
Trip: Expedition, Holiday, Journey, Stumble

Sudoku Answers

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



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Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
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No 112 (June/July 18)	Tuesday 1st May 2018	Monday 21 May 2018
No 113 (Aug/Sept 18)	Tuesday 9 July 2018	Monday 30 July 2018

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