

Number 139

December/January 2022/23

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



Several contributors have written of nights drawing in, leaves falling, temperatures dropping, fingers reaching for the on button on the central heating – so I won't repeat all that. Nor the observation that figs are still ripening on the tree, flowers are still frantically blossoming, and lawns are requiring yet another cut..... Strange times.

We hope you enjoy this packed Christmas edition of the magazine. Our regular contributors bring us up to date with their activities and plans for the festive season. Dick Melton tells the story of a young Dersingham man's Second World War experiences, and also continues his article on the Zeppelin raids locally. We learn more about why it is important to cut down the trees on Dersingham Fen, contrary to encouragement to be planting more! We get details of the Christmas Tree Festival in St Nicholas Church, which runs throughout December and includes a variety of activities. Elizabeth Fiddick gives us the history of the Dersingham Working Men's Club – now the Social Club. A local hedgehog was interviewed and he/she (?) answered many of our questions about their lives and how we can help them to survive. Jane Jestice fills us in on the effects of the hurricane in Florida, which just before her arrival devastated the area where she partly lives. Tony Bubb encourages us to visit King's Lynn Museum where a new exhibition of local archaeological finds is on display, including the Dersingham Hoard. The CPRE explains to us how important hedges are. And finally, Lorna has written a wonderful poem appreciating our new King.

In the centre of the magazine you will find a pull-out section for you to put aside. It contains a variety of data:

- Information about the Parish Council responsibilities and how to make contact, and a list of the Dersingham Parish Councillors
- Details of the village's groups and organisations
- Contact information re the Borough and County Councils
- Reminders for newcomers of other village services such as the churches, library, surgery, school and the locality of all the publicly situated defibrillators.

It is a couple of years since we have produced *Dersingham Data* because of Covid putting a stop to so many activities. We believe it is current as of November 2022, but things are always changing. Do let us know of any inaccuracies, changes or additions by emailing villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk or contacting the Parish Council office.

By the time you get your copy of *Village Voice* we shall no doubt be bombarded with the commercial reminders of the season – actually, I think that is already well under way! But however you like to celebrate the festive season, whether very simply or with a house festooned with glorious decorations, we at your village magazine wish you the very best for Christmas and the New Year.□





Dear Village Voice



Royal British Legion

It seems that the Dersingham RBL is currently inactive in Dersingham. I would love to see the RBL having a strong active branch. Next year is the celebration of the RBL's centennial, plus the obvious connection with the royalty.

Should there be anyone so like-minded as me, please contact me on colin.toule@gmail.com or on 01485 570170 / 07785 930590.

Thank you.

Colin Toule

Dersingham Pillboxes

Brian Anderson's article (VV137) about the pillbox on Broadlands Close, and the one at grid ref. TF 7154 3127, intrigued me. I was aware of the Broadlands Close structure, but I did not realise, until a visit in early October, that it was entirely enclosed by a ring of conifers – the pillbox is not visible. Because of the uniformity of the size and shape of the enclosure, the trees must have been planted there and did not grow 'naturally'.

The question is, why?

Did the residents of Broadlands Close not like to be reminded of WW2?

Did the residents/local authority consider the pillbox to be a blot on the landscape?

The pillbox is as much a part of the history of Dersingham village as the church, the tithe barn and all the other old buildings in the parish – we would never consider hiding them behind a screen of trees, why hide the pillbox?

If the pillbox has to remain hidden, the least the Parish Council can do is to erect an appropriate sign indicating its location, and its role as part of the Norfolk coastal defences of WW2. If English Heritage had listed the pillbox, as requested by Mr. Anderson, then perhaps it would not be obscured as it is now.

The pillbox visible from the track linking the Ling House and Shernborne roads is listed as a FW3/Type22c on the Norfolk Heritage Explorer website. Unfortunately, the NHE information contains no clues as to the immediate use of the pillbox in 1940, and Mr. Anderson is right to question its strategic purpose and location. This type of pillbox, (and also the one on Broadlands Close) was intended to be occupied by riflemen and would be ineffective in an anti-aircraft role. The reference in the NHE information to possible searchlight positions is also puzzling.



The above picture, of what appears to be a pillbox in the location referred to in the previous paragraph, was taken in early

October, using a 200mm lens, and contrasts sharply with Mr. Anderson's picture which shows just one tree adjacent to the pillbox. The latter is now bordered on the north side by large bushes and a line of trees and is located on the edge of a field which forms part of an extensive pig farm; it is private property and is therefore inaccessible from the track.

As Mr. Anderson writes in his VV137 article, it would be of interest to know more about the purpose of this pillbox and why it was built in that particular location.

Roger W. Jackson

Dersingham Parish Council

Coral Shepherd, Chairman



I am saddened to announce that Councillor George Billard has recently passed away. He was our “senior” Councillor, being our oldest serving member. He joined the Parish Council in 2015 and served on the Dersingham Centre, Finance and Administration, and Planning Committees. The latter was especially important to him - he was a champion of good design and the use of traditional materials. He was a Dersingham “lad” through and through, having attended the village school when it was based at the bottom of Doddshill Road, and he had a memory of almost everywhere and everyone in the village. He could recall the floods of 1952 and remembered when the Mountbatten Estate was open fields. He was a builder all his working life, but he was never content to sit in a chair and was at his happiest when working. We will all miss him as a man, Councillor and above all, a friend.

Turning to other Parish Council business, we have appointed a new member of staff to be our Business Manager - Karen Orgill. She spent five years as Clerk at Syderstone and is now busy getting to grips with everything we do at Dersingham. We have also taken the opportunity to promote our Communications Officer, Geraldine Scanlon, to be the Assistant Business Manager. They can be contacted in our office in the Village Centre on 01485 541465. The office is open to the public on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10.00am and 1.00pm.

A reminder that our meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. You can raise important issues to the village with us or simply attend to see how local democracy works. The next Full Council Meeting is on Monday 28th November at 7.00pm in the Garden Room at the Village Centre. We also have several Committees: Finance and Administration, Environment and Recreation, Communications, and Planning. The meetings are all publicised on our website www.dersingham.org.uk. You will also find minutes of our meetings there.

Over the next few weeks in the run up to Christmas we will be busy setting our budgets for the next financial year. This will be a particularly difficult process this year, at a time of increasing costs and awareness of the impact of this on parishioners. Once we have set our budgets, we will then be in a position to set the precept which will be included, together with amounts from the Borough and County Councils, and Police and Crime Commissioner, in the Council Tax bill for us all. We will try our best to keep any increase from the Parish Council to a minimum.

On a more cheerful note, I have just learnt that there will be an additional Bank Holiday on Monday, May 8th 2023 to commemorate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Following on from the successful events to celebrate Her Late Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we will be looking for fresh ideas for events. Please watch this space! □





News from Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne, DVCA Chairman

Activities & Events

Christmas Carols

Our annual sing-along event with mince pies and mulled wine will be on Tuesday 20th December, starting at 5.00pm.

Sunday Socials

We started these just before the pandemic hit and are keen to offer something for those who would like some company on the last Sunday each month. The first session will be on January 29th, 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Games and cards will be available, or you can just come and have a cuppa and chat. We hope that over time more activities will be on offer. If transport is an issue, please call Judy on 01485 540271.

King Charles III Coronation

The Coronation of the King on Saturday May 6th may be a 'low-key' event, compared to the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth, but the occasion is still something we should celebrate. Trustees are already making plans and look forward to working with local groups to ensure Dersingham has a great weekend.

Coffee Shop

We love catching up with our regular customers and extend a warm welcome to visitors on Thursday mornings when you can enjoy home-cooked quiche and cake. The Tapping House team are in charge on December 8th and January 5th, when proceeds go to support the excellent work carried out by the hospice. On Friday mornings the Coffee Shop will be open to offer a warm space to everyone.

Friendship Lunches

On December 6th, we will be serving a Christmas Lunch, hopefully roast chicken with all the trimmings. The first lunch of the New Year will be on January 3rd. Booking is required, so please call 01485 540644 by noon on the Friday beforehand and also advise us of any dietary needs.

Village Cinema

The Cinema takes a break in December and returns in January with *Fishermen's Friends: One and All*.

Village Centre Lottery

October winners were numbers 52, 12 and 48, November's 72, 11 and 28, winning £24.75, £16.50, and £8.25 respectively. If you are interested in joining, please check our website for information and an application form.

Christmas/New Year Closure

The Centre will close on Saturday 24th December and re-open on Tuesday January 3rd. Please check with individual group leaders regarding arrangements.

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

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26th September 2022

Dear Residents

May I through the Village Voice express my thanks to all local residents for their patience and understanding during recent road closures and police use of the Village Hall. These were of course as a result of the significant policing operation around Sandringham following the sad passing of Her Late Majesty The Queen.

The road closures were a vital part of the policing operation in order to keep people safe as they came to pay tribute to her Late Majesty at the Norwich Gates. However, I do not underestimate the inconvenience that this will have caused some, especially those living close by.

Throughout the operation I saw first-hand the friendly interactions between local residents and the police officers tasked with the road closures, with many expressing the view that this was very much a community response to this sad event, with all having a close affinity with events.

On behalf of myself and the Norfolk Constabulary please accept our thanks for the part you have played in ensuring the success of the security operation.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Clarke LVD
Head of Royalty & VIP Protection

A warm welcome in Rev Dave Cossey



By the time you read these words, it is very likely that the mercury has dropped to a level prompting most of us to want to turn up the heating. Pressure has increased on us all in this season to try and stay warm, yet doing so amidst the soaring cost of living has created quite a challenge for many.

Jesus' family understood that lack of basic provision on a very profound level. For them, it went beyond considering the heating, as they struggled to find even four walls and a roof to reside under. They became refugees as they fled for their lives, and they struggled to find a safe space for their soon to be new-born son to be cared for. In Luke 2 we read: *'...she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.'*

This humbling entrance into the world was the very precursor to the miraculous hope that Jesus' arrival would bring. There was little welcome by our world, but great celebrations in heaven. From this we can see that God was no stranger to enduring hardship in order that the gift of forgiveness could, for the first time, be offered to the whole world.

In Ingoldisthorpe we have sought to be part of the government initiative to create 'warm spaces.' We have created a space where people can be welcomed in to relax, feel safe, and now importantly, also warm up. The Well Café is now in full swing, and operates Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8.30am to 12pm at Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall. The heating is on, the coffee is freshly brewed, and snacks are available. Please do come along, as we seek to welcome everyone into a place that is warm and inviting.

As per usual, we have a busy December ahead of us with many different services and events – see the poster below for details. The special December services are as follows:

9th December: 4.00pm **Christingle Service**
12th December: 4.00pm **Tea and Carols**
18th December: 6.30pm **Lessons and Carols**
24th December: 4.00pm **Crib Service**
11.30pm: **Midnight Communion**
25th December: 10.00am **Christmas Day Family Service**

You are most welcome to join us as much as you wish across this special season of the year. □

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Diocese of Norwich

Annual Christmas Tree Festival

OPENING WEEKEND

2 ND DEC 10AM-4PM	TREES, STALLS
3 RD DEC 10AM-4PM	& REFRESHMENTS
6-30PM	BILTON SILVER BAND
4 TH DEC 2-4PM	VIEW THE TREES
4PM	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

MIDDLE WEEKEND

9 TH DEC 6-9PM	TREES BY CANDLELIGHT (FRIDAY!)
11 TH DEC 2-4PM	VIEW THE TREES
4PM	TEA & CAROLS

FINAL WEEKEND

17 TH DEC 10AM-4PM	"SANTA STOP HERE" - TREES, STALLS, REFRESHMENTS & FATHER CHRISTMAS!
18 TH DEC 2-4PM	VIEW THE TREES
6-30PM	DERINGHAM LESSONS & CAROLS

St. Nicholas Church
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Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Munday

October started as a busy month for the Group as on the 1st we held our, what is becoming, an annual Autumn Fair. We welcomed stalls from New Hunstanton W.I. and North Wootton W.I., as well as Greyhounds - Dianne's stall with her lovely homemade Christmas decorations. The two W.I. stalls varied - one of them having a lovely array of homemade jams, marmalades and chutney (I have now got my Boxing Day chutney sorted) and the other stall having some lovely clothes and crafts. (I now own a new winter jumper.) A big thank you to the members who made and donated cakes for the refreshments. Football was quite low compared to other years, but we were pleased to make £57 on the raffle in aid of Cancer UK.

Friday October 7th saw a group of thirty-three members on a trip to Blickling Hall. This group was made up of members from Dersingham, Hunstanton, Snettisham, Ingoldsthorpe and North Wootton W.I.s. Luckily the weather behaved and they all had a lovely day. I think we forget sometimes what lovely historical buildings are really not far from us. (I am sorry I missed it.) I hear even ice creams were on the menu for the day. Many thanks to Carters Coaches, especially for all the changes made to the date and then a late change to the size of the coach.



On October 9th we were chosen by Norfolk Federation to host their Autumn Norfolk Federation meet at St Cecilia's. Many events organised by Norfolk Federation are held near or in Norwich, so this was an event to have it in the west of the county. After hearing from our Trustees and Federation Chairwoman Margaret Collingwood, there followed two talks: *Anxiety - We all live with it*, by the Wellbeing Service in Norfolk and Waveney; and then *Learning about Cheese* from

a cheese sommelier, which also included cheese tasting. (How come I always miss the best things.) This was a lovely opportunity for us to show off our side of the county and it is hoped that this will be the first of many events to be held over here.

Our Dining Group enjoyed a lovely meal at the White Swan in South Wootton and many thanks to Diann for organising this. We hope to have our next dining group in January 2023.

Our planned October speaker Jenny Beake unfortunately contracted Covid, so Susan Parry stood in at short notice and gave a talk on the gruesome



Murder at the Red Barn. I had never heard about this until I looked it up whilst looking for images for the newsletter; it was at the time quite a big news event. This was well attended and members found it most interesting, especially the twist at the end of the talk when Susan revealed she was in fact a relative of the murderer. This was an open meeting and thanks go to those members of the other local W.I.s who came along. (Not sure if the tea and cake is an incentive for this, but it is lovely to meet together.)

We had a stall selling our leftover wares from the Autumn Fair which did very well. The knitted baby garments will be donated to Baby Basics.

November's meeting talk was *Amusing experiences during dog training* by Coral Leggett, which caused much laughter and those of us who are dog owners could definitely relate to them. We all think our dogs have perfect behaviours (ha-ha.)

On Friday 18th November a group of our members joined other W.I. members from all over Norfolk for a coach trip to the Christmas market at Ely Cathedral. This had started as an organised trip by Norfolk Federation of one coach which then had to quickly change to four coaches and different pickup spots as the uptake, especially in this area, was great. A lovely chance was had by all to get some early Christmas presents bought and to wander this magnificent Cathedral. (Another trip I had to miss – convalescence is boring, but I will have to persuade my husband to have a day out.)

Our coffee mornings/afternoons continue, and I actually won in the raffle this time. On December 14th we will hold our Christmas coffee morning of sherry and mince pies at Maggie's lovely home and many thanks to her for opening it to us.

Our December meeting is our Xmas party and this year we will be entertained by "The Banjo Man" Sean Moyses; a great singalong evening it will be, as well as enjoying the food and drink.

We have also started our decorations for the tree we will have at St Nicholas' Christmas Tree Festival and our craft groups have also started Christmas crafts.

The committee are now starting to plan the 2023 calendar of speakers for our evening meets and our first one of 2023 will be Mike Simmons from Maldon Chocolates at Snettisham. We hope for samples, although by then we may be sick of chocolate, depending on how much we indulge in at Christmas.

Our speakers' talks in 2023 range from volunteering in Africa, and stories of a lorry driver and removal man, to patisserie (hopefully including samples) and in February having author Ellie Griffiths speaking to us about her new book. This will have to be a ticketed event (just so we know how many to expect) and will also be our first open evening for the other local W.I.s.

We also have a couple of ideas for outings, but it is intended to hold an open meeting one morning in early 2023 for our members on a Saturday to ask for their ideas re outings, events and workshops they would like to do. Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month in St Cecilia's Church in Dersingham at 7.15pm and are open to all ladies. Posters advertising these are usually up around the village.



If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening W.I. please contact Katrina on 01485 544773 or Lyn on 01485 541257. □





Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

The children have returned to school after a long hot summer, ready to learn in their new tree-themed classes. With Mrs Warren returning to the helm as our Interim Head of School and Mr Tuckwood as Interim Executive Head, the school is primed for an exciting term. We also welcome Mrs Neal, our new Family Support Worker, Mr Williamson to Year 5 and Mrs Parton to Year 3.

In their woodland classroom, Nursery Saplings have been bringing the outside in, exploring the natural world. The children have been on autumn hunts looking for and collecting leaves, conkers, acorns and seed heads, using their bounty to make faces and create recipes in their mud kitchen.



Year R Willow Class have been learning about their emotions and how to express them successfully. They have been looking at the story *The Colour Monster*, which has helped to develop appropriate responses when feeling scared, upset or even angry.



Year 1 Oak Class enjoyed a visit to WILDlings, where they saw BBC's Autumnwatch being set up. They learned about the different bugs living in the woods, spotted deciduous and evergreen trees, and of course had fun around the campfire. As part of their topic, they made Bog Babies and mythical creatures from clay, allowing their imaginations to run riot!

Year 2 Birch Class had a great start to the year with a Wizard of Oz topic, creating opportunities to learn about continents and map skills, different materials to build a city, and exploring old toys that Dorothy might have played with. The children had great fun playing with them too! The children studied Rosa Parks and found out about her incredible achievements. Down in Forest School, the children enjoyed using tools for various challenges, playing in the trees, and having treats around the campfire.



In Year 3 Maple Class, the children have been learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. They began by thinking about the role of an archaeologist, locating historical periods on a timeline, then spent time exploring topics such as houses, farming, weapons and daily life. They created a wonderful display for the corridor.



In Year 4 Rowan Class, this half term the children have been learning about food chains. Dissecting an owl pellet to see what animals had been devoured was very interesting! The highlight was leading the school's Harvest Festival in St. Nicholas' Church, where the children performed to a packed audience of children and family members.

Year 5 Cypress Class have been delving into the depths of World War I and will be using this knowledge to help support the Poppy Appeal within school at the beginning of November.

Year 6 Elm Class have spent the first half-term looking at all things Tudor. Using a variety of primary and secondary sources in history, the children have studied everything from the personalities of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, to the defeat of the Spanish in 1588. The class text has been *Treason* by Berlie Doherty. It is a story about a young boy who is promoted into the court of Henry VIII. This book has informed all the literacy work, including writing letters, descriptive story settings and diary entries.

The sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II gave the children time to reflect and pay their respects by laying flowers at the Norwich Gates. Each class had the opportunity to go and leave pictures, messages, and homemade and real flowers. It was particularly poignant, as the children had enjoyed celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last term.



The School Council, Eco-Council and Sports Councils are now up and running. The children voted a boy and a girl from each class to act as representatives and they are



now busy planning exciting events and initiatives for the coming year. There have already been several successful sporting events. The Year 4 hockey team came fourth at the Quick Sticks festival at Lynnsport, and two mixed Year 5 and 6 teams

represented the school at the Croydon Cup football tournament, winning the Champions' League and coming second in the Premiership.

Donations came flooding in for the food bank at our Harvest Festival at St Nicholas' Church, where Year 4 did a fantastic job leading the service with prayers, songs and readings. Our Macmillan coffee morning was a huge success, with a wide range of cakes being enjoyed by parents and children, raising funds for this very worthy cause.

As we move into shorter days and longer nights, the children are looking forward to all the festivities the autumn and winter months have in store. □



Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron



With the nights drawing in, and the temperatures gradually dropping, the heatwaves of the summer are becoming a distant memory, as is the 2022 bowling season. We held our last roll-up on Saturday, September 17th, which was very well attended. All participants contributed to the wonderful finger buffet and enjoyed one last afternoon of bowls for this season. The final scores were added to the previous roll-up scores, resulting in the winner of the Tom Ward Cup for the highest men's overall score

being Terry Nice, with Albert Chamberlain as runner-up. The Ladies' Institute Trophy was won by Ros Letts, with Shirley Hare as runner-up. Well done to all.



We really do miss the company of our members during the off season, so our weekly Winter Warmers, which began on Wednesday, October 12th, are a good way to keep in touch. We play bingo and darts and have refreshments halfway through. Needless to say, there is also a lot of chat and banter. All good fun!

We held our presentation lunch on Friday, October 14th at The Mariner in Old Hunstanton, where over forty of our members were treated to an excellent meal. Thanks to Karen and her team for making it such an enjoyable experience. The food was very good, and HOT. Following the meal, the trophies for all the club internal competitions were presented. Well done to all who not only won, but who took part in these competitions. In addition to the competition winners, who are too many to list here, congratulations must go to Laurance O'Dea, who won the trophy for the most improved player this year, a well-deserved winner. The afternoon was rounded off with a raffle which raised £106.00. Thanks to all who brought prizes, and so generously bought tickets.

It is our intention to hold a tabletop sale at the Bowls Club on November 20th, so hopefully by the time this article reaches you that will have happened.

Finally, we will be holding our A.G.M. in the Village Centre at 2.00pm on Sunday, November 27th, when our new committee will be voted in, and any matters which members feel need addressing will be discussed.

We at Dersingham Institute Bowls Club wish all Village Voice readers a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year. □

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Dick Melton of Sunny Hunny

I am going to start with a story about a young man from Dersingham who served in the Second World War that I have permission to write for the *Village Voice*.



Bob Flegg's war

Private Robert Flegg endured seventeen months of hell at the hands of the Gestapo when he was held in a German concentration camp. Such was the extent of his ill-treatment that he received compensation under an Anglo-German agreement made in 1994. His amazing wartime exploits only came slowly to life many years later. For a long time he didn't speak about them to his wife or family.

Subsequently, Rodney and Pauline Ling of Dersingham put together a short account of Bob's wartime years from letters, postcards, newspapers articles and extensive research. Pauline was related to the Flegg family through marriage and always called him 'Uncle Bob'. One of her proud possessions is a cigarette lighter which he made in captivity. By coincidence Bob's father had been held captive by the Germans during the First World War.

As a driver in the Sandringham Company of the 7th Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment, Bob Flegg set sail for France in January 1940, part of the British Expeditionary Force. He was not to return until May 1945. During the Dunkirk evacuation between 26th May and 3rd June 1940, when more than 300,000 Allied soldiers were rescued, the 7th Battalion was part of the 51st Highland Division under heavy fire a few miles away at the coastal town of St Valery. Nine days after the last troops had been rescued from the beaches of Dunkirk, the rearguard action of the Norfolk and other British troops came to an end. With no boats, ammunition or food they had to surrender to the German army.

Pte Flegg became separated from colleagues when he was taken to hospital with dysentery, before being transported to Stalag VIIIB near Lamsdorfin in Poland. His number was 16519 and he is known to have escaped twice from this camp and been recaptured. The Germans then sent him to E75, a coal mining camp at Knurów near Katowice where he was made to work for long hours of the day and night. It was from this camp that he made his third and final escape attempt in 1943. During an Allied air raid on a nearby oil depot, he and another prisoner used a metal roofing sheet to get over the perimeter fence and away from the camp and, using the coal trucks and walking cross-country they got within twenty-two miles of the Swiss border and safety. After spending one night in a haystack, they were caught and handed over to the local Gestapo.

On the route back to Knurów they were redirected to the concentration camp and ghetto at Theresienstadt, now the Czech town of Terezin. This was a camp for political prisoners as well as a transit camp for European Jews en route to Auschwitz. It was designed to hold a maximum of 7,000 but almost 60,000 were there. Pte Flegg was one of only a few British servicemen held there and shared accommodation with half a dozen other soldiers. Although not faced with the prospect of being taken to Auschwitz, the contingent was treated no better than any others. Inmate food was pitiful, disease rife and the allocated space per person was two square yards.

Early in 1944 the Nazis made significant improvements to the camp for the benefit of a visiting team from the Danish Red Cross. A route was planned which was enhanced by green turf flowers and benches with a playground, sports and even a monument added. To make the camp look less crowded, some 7,500 people were sent to Auschwitz and a propaganda film was made for German cinema. The charade evidently worked as the

Red Cross issued a bland report on the camp conditions. In the ghetto itself tens of thousands of people died, mostly from disease or starvation. In 1942 the death rate was so high that the Germans built a crematorium capable of handling almost 200 bodies a day. Of approximately 140,000 Jews in Theresienstadt nearly 90,000 were deported to points further east and almost certain death. Roughly 33,000 died in Theresienstadt itself.

Release for Pte Flegg and other Allied prisoners came when the camp was placed under the protection of the Red Cross on 3rd May 1945 and Russian troops liberated it five days later. In a brief report on 29th May the *Lynn News and Advertiser* reported on fourteen Dersingham men who had returned home or were back in the country, including Pte Flegg. More details of his incarceration were given in newspaper reports in the mid-1960s, by which time he was married to Betty (nee Ringer) and they were living at 4 Sandringham Terrace. He was working as an agricultural gang master and was treasurer of the Dersingham branch of the British Legion.

Pte Flegg told the reporter, 'I suppose it was a nightmare; half the time you realised what was happening, half the time you didn't. You thought, "This is some dreadful dream"; there were times when we were forced to witness atrocities. We were pushed around but we escaped the brutality meted out to the political prisoners. There were seven of us in a small concrete cell and we all had to take it in turns to crouch down for a little relief. One or two could perhaps lie down at one time, but the others couldn't. They would take us out of the cell in the mornings for cleaning up and sometimes in the afternoon for recreation, which was to watch what they were doing to other people.'

Pte Flegg said they had nothing but the clothes they stood up in and only occasionally had a wash in a horse trough. Among the nauseating tasks they had to carry out was to take bodies, mere skeletons, as many as twenty at a time, in barrows for burial in big graves. On his return back home memories of the concentration camp would keep him awake at night. He said, 'You always had the fear that it was not over, but thank goodness I have got over that now.' Pte Bob Flegg died at the young age of 49 from a brain haemorrhage and was cremated at Horsham St Faith and his ashes left at the crematorium.

After Bob returned to Dersingham he was referred to a few times in local papers, including the *Lynn News and Advertiser*, where he was mentioned in the *Dersingham Notes* by a well-known local man who wrote under the pen name *Drifter*. I am sure a lot of Dersingham people will remember him well and know his real name.

Local shops

Now back to the shops and businesses I wrote about two months ago. I had a friend of mine ring me to say I had missed two shops. One was George Kings, the barber's, that was situated in an old wooden hut on the left side of Manor Road, just past Brooke Road. As a lad a haircut cost me sixpence. When George passed on, the hut was taken down and a new brick building erected. It remained a barber's until it was turned into a flower shop, which I think it still is today. The other shop was Ewers, which first sold sheet music and, later on, wool cards and a mixture of other things. At one time there was a butcher's shop and then a fish and chip shop. Since Ewers moved out it has been a number of things and I do not know what it is now.

Other villages

A chap also rang me up to say that when I wrote about other villages and hamlets, I missed out Bircham. Well, as most of you know, there are three Birchams: Great Bircham, Bircham Tofts and Bircham Newton. As they are all close to each other I, like many other people, class them as one village when, in fact, they are three separate

villages, Great Bircham being the largest. Part of it is on the Houghton estate and another part on the Sandringham estate. In the *Eastern Daily Press* book, *How to find over 700 Norfolk villages*, Great Bircham is down as one village.

Cigarettes

I was having a chat the other day with a mate of mine about all the different brands of cigarettes we could buy when we were lads in the sixties: Woodbines (the most popular), John Player No1, Senior Service Turf, du Maurier red and blue (they came in a flat box with a lid), Player's Weights, Three Castles, Park Drive and many more. When the Yanks were here, we would buy cheap fags off them like Pall Mall, Camel and Lucky Strike. You could also buy a box of King Edward cigars for a fiver. As the price of cigarettes and tobacco went up, people like my dad would grow their own tobacco plants in the garden or on their allotments. When the tobacco leaves were fully grown they would be laid out or hung out to dry, after which they would be put in an old biscuit tin, some molasses poured over them and bricks put on the lid to keep it tight. After the tobacco leaves had been in their tins for about two months my father would take them out, chop them up very fine, then put them in his pipe to smoke, therefore saving himself a lot of money. You were allowed to grow and smoke this home-grown tobacco as long as you did not sell it.

Seasonal food

There has been some very good samphire about this summer. It is a pity it does not last a bit longer, of course. You can pickle it, but it does not taste the same as when it is first pulled up off the marshes, cleaned, boiled and eaten the same day. It will soon be time for some nice fat mussels and the crabs have been good.

Well, that's your lot for now. I have an interesting story in the pipeline, but it will take a month or two to sort it out. Well, all the very best, keep on a troshin' and don't forget some chestnuts from Dersingham woods to eat beside the fire in the winter months. □

Dersingham Grave Spaces

Neil Adams and Thomas Wheeler, Churchwardens

For some time now the Rector and Churchwardens have been engaged in looking for extra land for use as future burial space for the parish of Dersingham. As visitors to the churchyard will have noticed, there are very few spaces left (only ten at the time of writing this article). We have contacted the Diocesan office, the Parish Council, the Borough Council and local landowners and tenants, but so far have not been able to secure additional land. Of course, burials in double-depth graves, where the remaining partner is to be interred, is not affected by this situation. Also, space required for the interment of ashes after a cremation is not under the same pressure. Unfortunately, the application to reserve a grave space for the future is no longer an option.

If anyone in the parish is aware of any available land for an extension to the churchyard, it would be appreciated if they could contact the Church through the website at secretary@stnicholaschurchdersingham.org.uk, or by post to The Rectory, 11a Shernborne Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE31 6JA. □



Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone

Just to bring you up to date with two past events:

Our September coffee morning raised £366.58 for Macmillan Cancer Support. The morning was very busy, and it was lovely to see so many people sitting chatting and visiting the stalls.

October's coffee morning raised £300.31 for Toilet Twinning and Church funds. This was the first time we have supported this charity. For £60 you are able to twin with a toilet in another country; donations help communities to build lifechanging latrines. We decided to fund three toilets, one in each of these countries - Malawi, South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo.

A few days after sending the money we received details of the communities supported, followed by certificates with further information and photos of the latrines we have sponsored. The certificates will be displayed in our toilets. We are delighted to have been able to support other communities and also to give thanks for our own facilities. The Toilet Twinning charity organisation gives information for twinning taps, toilet blocks and larders.

Our Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 26th November, 10.00am to 11.30am. Funds raised are for King's Lynn Night Shelter. As we give thanks for comfortable homes, family and friends, we are conscious of many who need a place like the Night Shelter.

The Advent wreath and candles will be in Church for the first Sunday in Advent – Sunday 27th November - and each week we light the candles as markers on our Advent journey.

May we all travel hopefully, faithfully, expectantly and joyfully, to arrive at Christmas with wonder to welcome God's Son.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas services:

The **Carols by Candlelight service is on Sunday 18th December at 4.00 p.m.** led by Revd Dr Richman Ncube. The **Christmas Day service is at 10.30am.**

May you find hope, joy and peace as you celebrate this Christmas. □



NHS – Norfolk and Waveney

Help to prevent ill health this winter by being prepared

Local health and care leaders in the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System are urging people to take extra steps to help prevent illnesses this winter.

Be prepared for winter by:

- Getting COVID-19 and flu vaccinations to protect yourself and others from seasonal viruses.
- Stocking up on essential medicines and food in case you can't get out of the house during periods of extreme cold weather.
- Making sure your home is ready for winter by checking your heating and cooking appliances are safe and that you're taking up the support you're eligible for to heat your home.
- Checking in on older and vulnerable neighbours, friends, and family members to help them prepare for winter.

Keeping warm over the winter months is important as it can help to prevent colds, flu and more serious health problems such as heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia and depression from developing. Taking steps early to prevent poor health will also help to ease additional pressures on health and social care services during this time of year.

Find more tips and resources to help you and your family prepare for winter at www.winterwellnorfolkwaveney.co.uk



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We are a generation that will never come back

Antje Franke

A generation that walked to school and then walked back.

A generation that did their homework alone to get out asap to play in the street.

A generation that spent all their free time in the streets with their friends.

A generation that played hide and seek when dark.

A generation that made mud cakes.

A generation that collected sports cards.

A generation that found, collected, washed and returned empty bottles to the local grocery store for a few pennies and then bought sweets with the money.

A generation that made paper toys with their bare hands.

A generation who bought vinyl albums to play on record players.

A generation that played board games and cards on rainy days.

A generation whose TV went off at midnight after playing the National Anthem.

A generation that had parents who were there.

A generation that read or listened to the radio under the covers in bed, so parents didn't know we were still awake.

A generation that is passing, and unfortunately it will never return, no matter how hard we try.

I loved growing up when I did - it was the best of times.

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Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmund Hunstanton with St Cecilia's, Dersingham



We Have a new Bishop. The Holy Father, Pope Francis has appointed Rev Canon Peter Collins, a priest of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, as the fifth Bishop of East Anglia. The Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-Elect Peter Collins will take place at the Cathedral church of St John the Baptist in Norwich on December 14th 2022, at 11.30am. Bishop Alan Hopes is retiring after nine years of dedicated service as our Bishop. You can listen to the announcement on the Cathedral's website or through YouTube.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2.00pm. And there is also a Mothers' Prayer group which meets at 2.30pm on Mondays fortnightly at OLSE. There is a Fair Trade stall at St Cecilia's on the first Sunday of each month.

The Pope's prayer intention for **December 2022: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organisations** - We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international co-operation.

A few members of the parish have been getting together to discuss ways to enliven the life of the parish. The dates of the meetings are published on the website and in the weekly church bulletins and anyone interested in contributing in any way is more than welcome to attend or pass on ideas.

Sr Danuta is guiding a regular parish study/discussion group at the Convent every Tuesday, 4.00pm - 5.00pm, looking in more depth at the readings for the following Sundays. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come along to any of the meetings and take part.

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

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

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11am at OLSE Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org **Email:** hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk **(please note that this is a new email address, please add it to your address list)**

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 □



The Working Men's Club

Elizabeth Fiddick



In May 1912 there was a buzz of excitement in the village as at long last, after several years of discussion and fund raising, the new Church Institute Hall was about to be formally opened for the benefit of the whole Parish. Then the Trustees stated that

Any man no matter whether he attends Church or Chapel, whether he is Unionist or Socialist, whether he is black or white if he behaves himself decently will be welcome as a member.

However, most of the working men in the village were not convinced it was the place for them. The late Doctor James Bellamy of Ingoldisthorpe Manor had been willing to give assistance in providing an Institute for village use, but his views on the character and management of such a club did not appeal to the working men. His sister Mrs. Tylden wished to honour her late brother's wishes and so had attached further conditions to her generous donation. The new Institute was to be run by a permanent Board of Trustees to include members such as the Vicar and Churchwardens. No intoxicants were to be allowed on the premises. The fact it was referred to as The Church Institute seemed to suggest to the working men that it was for one sect and not the whole parish.

The majority of men in the village were agricultural workers, many employed by the Sandringham Estate. Their proposal was for a club that was open all day and managed like the other Sandringham Estate Working Men's Clubs at Wolferton or Anmer, whose facilities were shared. Then, if a Wolferton man was working in Dersingham, he would find a comfortable room in which to enjoy his midday meal instead of sitting on a dyke brink. Fine on a warm summer's day, but another matter in the depth of winter. He could also enjoy a relaxing drink at the end of the day before returning home.

Thus, a scheme was proposed to provide a small, limited liability company to acquire a site and erect a building. Dersingham Working Men's Club Limited was formed and registered. Five-shilling shares were taken up by prospective working men members and others which raised £200.

It was a great boost to morale when His Majesty granted a lease of ninety-nine years to the Company of a site near The Dun Cow (now the Co-op supermarket) for the erection of the club at the nominal rent of ten shillings a year. His Majesty also promised a donation of £100 if and when the capital actually subscribed reached £300. This condition was easily met and the £100 was duly paid. It was supplemented by donations of £5 from Sir Dighton Probyn and £3 from Frank Beck, the agent of Sandringham Estate. The committee anticipated that more shares would be taken up and they arranged to raise the balance of the cost of construction and furnishing by a loan. To their delight, His Majesty also agreed to become the club's patron.

Work began to build the Dersingham Working Men's Club. It was designed by Mr. C.F. Prince who was the Chief Engineer at Sandringham. The local Dersingham builders Messrs G. Riches & Son started work constructing the Club of Snettisham carrstone and Heacham and Peterborough bricks. There would be a main hall, some forty-four feet long, a committee room, bar, store room, lobby and offices.

The building went up very quickly, but how was it to be furnished inside with this being the early twentieth century? There was no mains water or mains electricity here. In their millennium interviews, the older Dersingham residents remembered their cottages were heated by coal fires and would have had a black lead range or coal oven in the kitchen

for cooking. The school had a large open fire with a big black guard around it and many remembered that you would burn your legs if you stood too close. There were two coal and coke merchants in the village in 1912 - Coller & Sons and D. Reynolds. Water had to be fetched in from wells, of which there were many in the village. Some cottages had their own, whilst others were shared by several properties. Some people would have to use a bucket to haul the water up, whilst others were more fortunate and had pumps.

Some of the old pumps can still be seen about the village.



Every house would have had a large copper to heat water to do the washing. Eric Cross remembered walking to school and passing the washhouses next to Westhall Manor in Manor Road, where a Mrs. Sears and her daughter did laundry work, and seeing the steam from their large copper rising through the roof tiles. He said they did all the washing by hand in large tin

baths. The water came from the stream that ran alongside Manor Road before passing under the Main Road and out to The Wash.

At ten o'clock at night the honey cart would come regularly to empty cess pits. Mains water did not arrive in the village until the late 1930s and early 1940s. There is an entry in the old school logbook for 1942 that reads in capitals WATER LAID ON. So, what were the arrangements for the Club?

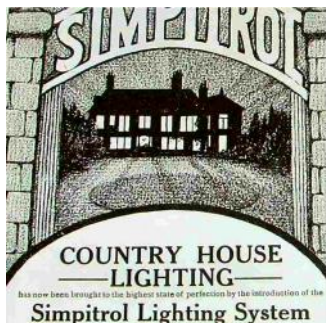
We are told it was well ventilated and two large open grates provided the heating. Water would be supplied via a large rainwater tank, but it was intended to sink a well should the available soft water not be sufficient.

The next question was lighting. Eric Cross recalled the use of oil lamps and before that, candles. Mains electricity was not laid on until about 1936. Many villagers, however, viewed it with great suspicion and one, nicknamed Donkey Daw, stood up at the village meeting called to discuss the installation and declared what was good enough for his grandfather was good enough for him. They did not want the electricity and, "*We ant having it!*"

Lighting in the Club was provided by the Simpitol Lighting System installed by Mr. Seuter for £40. The following advert explains.

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So, water, light and heating was provided. A drive was constructed from the Main Road and a bowling green and quoit beds would be laid out the following summer. A full-sized billiard table was purchased for the main room.

The Working Men's Club met for the first time on Monday, November 4th, 1912. Mr. Sidney Lines was elected president and appointed to formally open the club at 6.00pm. on Saturday, November 9th, after which there would be a dinner followed by "a smoking concert!"

All the members gathered outside the Club on that Saturday night to hear the new President say that it was a great pleasure to see their Club ready and to know they had a place to meet and talk. He felt sure the Club would keep its good reputation (loud cheers) and hoped they would all live long to enjoy its benefits. (More cheers.) Mr. Lines then turned the key and said, "I declare this Club open." The National Anthem was played and the President led the way into dinner.



The new Club showing the sunken bowling green

The Hall looked bright and cheerful with all the pot flowers lent by Mr. Jannoch from his lily nursery at Dersingham Hall. He and his wife had also given the framed portraits of King Edward VII and King George V that adorned the walls. The curtains, given by Mrs. F.V.Wilson, completed the welcoming feeling. One hundred and sixty members sat down to enjoy the sumptuous meal. A telegram was sent to the King at Sandringham in which the members of the Club *"respectfully salute Your Majesty and thank you for your munificent gift of £100 and take the liberty to inform you that the membership roll now totals 202."* The King duly replied with his thanks and wished all prosperity to the Club. After this was read out to loud cheers a loyal toast was proposed. Captain Fausset then proposed, "To the Navy, Army, and Auxiliary Forces." Frank Beck in reply proposed, "Success to the Club." Everyone joined in with great enthusiasm and cheered loudly when Mr. C.E.Prince, the Honorary Architect of the Club, was presented with a silver cigarette case. In the concert that followed, a section of the band of The Sandringham Company of the 5th Battalion Norfolk Regiment played selections, followed by a cornet

solo, a euphonium solo, and a selection of songs performed by five members. It was a very convivial and enjoyable evening to set the Club on its way.



The building still serves the village as a Social Club, but the sunken bowling green, a sign of the different times we now live in, has been filled in to make way for car parking.□

The Working Men's Club Bowls team 1924



The Norfolk Hospice launches their new festive fundraiser

The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House has officially launched their brand-new festive fundraiser, the Rudolph Run, geared toward schoolchildren in West Norfolk.

The independent charity, which is based in the village of Hillington, is asking primary schools and nurseries to sign up and take part in the fundraiser. The schools and nurseries are free to choose any venue and any date between November and January for their challenge. Whether they choose a brisk walk or a gentle jog, all children will be asked to collect sponsorship and to wear their antlers when they take part, which will be supplied free of charge for each participant. Rudolph will be stopping by each school to deliver the antlers and a certificate for each child that takes part.

All sponsorship raised will go directly to The Norfolk Hospice, who provide end of life care at their inpatient unit and through their hospice at home service. They also provide day therapy classes and family and bereavement support services. All of their services are delivered completely free of charge.

Victoria Rush, Community Fundraiser at The Norfolk Hospice, said, "This is our very first Rudolph Run fundraiser and we are hoping to engage with a whole new audience. It is very important to us that the challenge is as accessible as possible, which is why the schools and nurseries have full control over what their Rudolph Run will look like.

We are excited to work with the wonderful schools and nurseries in our area and this is a great opportunity for them to support a local charity and to learn about hospice care – all whilst having some festive fun!"

To register your school or nursery and to find out more about the Rudolph Run, please visit: www.norfolkhospice.org.uk/rudolph-run. □

Coastal Group Stroke Association

Bob Wyllie

On Tuesday 18th October the ladies of Hunstanton and District Ladies Luncheon Club presented a cheque to the value of £250.00 to the Hunstanton Coastal Group of the Stroke Association.

The presentation was made by Mrs Carol Commer and Mrs Val Alterbury at the regular Tuesday meeting of the group.

Stroke survivors and their carers meet and take part in various activities and the donation will assist with the funding of these activities



For further information please contact Bob Wyllie at bobwyllie10@yahoo.co.uk □



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Christmas Memories

Sheila Davies



The first Christmas I can remember with any clarity was when I was around five years old. We were a big family - my mother had nine babies in eleven years - so you can imagine life was rather hectic at times. My father was a

farm labourer, and we lived in a variety of tied cottages throughout my childhood, depending on whether Dad got restless and changed farms, which happened with regularity. The pay wasn't very good and with all our mouths to feed times were often hard. To quote Mother, she often said, "What little we have goes in your belly and not on your back." We did lack in material possessions, but I can honestly say it didn't seem to matter, as there was no shortage of love and laughter in the home.

That Christmas stands out because, apart from the usual fruit and colouring book, I actually received what I considered to be a real present. I think Dad must have managed to get a bit of overtime or had a little windfall from somewhere - I had my first ever doll!! She wasn't very big and had no hair apart from the moulded plastic markings on her head, but, joy of joys, she had two front teeth! Well, she had two front teeth for a couple of hours, that was until my elder brother got hold of her, and promptly pushed the front teeth inwards. It was just as well we had no near neighbours, as my howls of despair could be heard far and wide. My father tried his best, bless him, muttering "give it 'ere, I'll fix it." I waited with bated breath as he sat studying my precious doll for a minute. Then he turned her upside down and started shaking her. This resulted in a distinct rattling of the teeth somewhere deep in her nether regions.

It soon became obvious the teeth were not going to be released via the only opening, her mouth. He pondered on this for a while, looking at my face as I was limbering up for another howl, then gave an enlightened "Ah" and decided to create another opening, and pulled quite forcibly on her leg. The leg was now separated from the doll but, lo and behold, out came the teeth! I was reasonably content with this, until I saw Dad struggling to put the leg back on. The doll had an intricate design of elastic bands inside to secure it, and there was no way my dolly would be whole again.

He then tried to get the teeth back in, but the mouth was far too small to accommodate them. That was it! I looked at my one-legged doll with no teeth and off I went again, howling for England! Mother quickly intervened and to shut me up said I would have the privilege of pulling the wishbone this year. This was indeed an honour! My opponent was to be my brother, the same one who sabotaged my doll, and was bigger and stronger than me. Big mistake! Clutching a doll's leg and front teeth in one hand, I hooked my little finger of the other hand around the bone and pulled as hard as I could. There was a snap, and I looked in my hand to see a scrawny little bit of bone. My brother triumphantly held up the large wishing piece. My cries rang out again. Realising nothing short of a miracle would stop me really going for it, my brother thrust the bigger bone at me, hissing "Here. Take it. Now shut up and wish." I obediently shut my eyes and wished really hard. I opened my eyes; they were all looking at me expectantly and said, "Well what did you wish for?" I couldn't understand why they all burst out laughing when I confessed I had "wished it was next Christmas." I wonder why? The trauma eventually left me..... □



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Meeting the Hedgehog

LM Williams

How old are you? Some of us live 6+ years, but our actuarial age is 2–3 years because of the risks. We're on the Red List of British mammals vulnerable to extinction.

What sort of risks? Human foibles, traffic, slug pellets, chemicals, netting, barbed wire, plastic bags, bonfires, loss of habitat. Even some forms of tidiness – strimming and fencing, for instance.

I heard that slug pellets have been banned. Yes, on 1 April 2022 (and it wasn't an April Fool!) It's great news for hedgehogs, other wildlife and pets. It's also good for gardeners: we'll sniff out the slugs and dispose of them for you. We have an amazing sense of smell.

What's up with tidiness? I like my garden to be tidy. For us, it's less a matter of aesthetics and more one of survival. Obviously, anything whizzing around at hedgehog height could take us out, but apart from the mechanical danger there's the loss of tall grass and weeds. These plants house tiny insects, moths and beetles. They also create cover and shade. If you leave a small patch of grass to grow uncut, or a previously weeded flower bed to grow wild, you'll be helping us find food and shelter.

OK, what do I need to know about fencing? Fencing stops us from having a good night out. Did you know that some of us rootle up to a mile a night in search of food and a mate? Imagine you've been doing that successfully for a couple of years: you've got your favourite routes memorised and a hedgehog sweetheart in a garden on the other side of the village. Then one night you bang your nose on a gravel board and you can't get through. You snuffle along only to find that this new fence meets another fence, and another and another. The technical name for this is habitat fragmentation, but in human terms it would be like being in an isolation chamber and having no phone, WhatsApp or even an email to get in touch.



That's no fun. You could go extinct! But what about the human need for boundaries and privacy? I'm glad you asked. Many companies now offer hedgehog-approved gravel boards that have a space built into them to let us through. If you're putting up a new fence, ask your contractor to install a couple of these hedgehog boards. Or just leave a small gap – the size of a cd – between base boards in a few places.

What are your thoughts on hedges? We love a hedge. These living, permeable boundaries attract birds and insects and us! We would like you to keep the hedges you have and plant more. Please.

What do you think of Dersingham's hedgehog road signs? Very nice, but sad to find some of us squashed just yards from the signs on Chapel Road and Sandringham Hill.

I'm not sure that drivers are noticing or slowing down. Because hedgehogs have bad eyesight, we don't see the cars, and because hedgehogs don't wear fluorescent vests, the drivers don't always see us. Also, when we sense the rumble of traffic, we stop moving – this is our defence mechanism. It works in the wild against predators but not on the A149 or B1440. If you could try a little harder not to hit us, that would be perfect.

OK, I think we can manage that. What's your schedule like? Usually, we hibernate from around November until mid-March. Before that, we need to eat enough food in spring and summer to fatten ourselves up for the winter. Mostly, we breed during May and June, and sometimes as late as September – but a late birth doesn't give hoglets much time to get fat enough to hibernate.

Tell me more about hibernation. We find a hidden spot with a steady temperature. Somewhere dark and quiet: a pile of logs or leaves, a thick hedge, or maybe under your shed. We curl up and drop our body temperature to match our surroundings. It takes a lot of energy to get through the winter and we conserve it by 'sleeping away' the cold months when food is scarce. If you happen to find us, leave us alone. Occasionally, if the weather turns mild, we might wake up and forage for food. If you see us moving about, you can leave a shallow dish of fresh water and meaty dog food for us – but take it in later so that you won't attract vermin. (At a pinch, you can use cat food but not the fishy kind. And no milk or bread either – we can't digest it.)

How can we help you? How can we coexist? Thanks for caring ... my top tips are (1) make your garden accessible and friendly to us and work with your neighbours to prevent habitat fragmentation. (2) Drive with us in mind, not under your tyres. Your children and my children will thank you years from now. □



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The Friends of St Nicholas Church

Patricia Connell, Treasurer



The Friends of St Nicholas Church, Dersingham Charity was formed in 1995 and registered with the Charity Commission at that time. The objectives and aims of the

Charity are for the maintenance, repair, restoration, preservation and improvement of the Church of St Nicholas, Dersingham and to beautify and reconstruct for the benefit of the



public the fabric of the Church, its monuments, fixtures, fittings, furniture, stained glass, ornaments and other chattels and its churchyard. The Charity has paid for many things over the years for the benefit of our historic and beautiful Church, including the heating for everyone's comfort, and more recently contributed £10,000.00 towards the chancel roof repairs. There are currently plans under review for more improvements and the Friends of St Nicholas will be party to those discussions to contribute towards specific projects.

You can help the Charity in its efforts by making a donation, either direct to the bank account of the Charity, the details of which are below, or by cheque via the Treasurer of the Charity at 11 Woodside Close, Dersingham PE31 6QD. Please advise if you require a receipt for your cheque. Please also provide your full name, address and postcode.

If you would like to become a member of The Friends of St Nicholas Church, Dersingham and make a regular donation towards the Charity's aims, please request an application form for membership from the Treasurer - Patricia Connell - on telephone number 01485 543513. Donations can be made direct to the Charity's bank account as detailed below. Alternatively, make cheques payable to The Friends of St Nicholas Church, Dersingham and send them to the Treasurer.

If you have any questions or wish to Gift Aid your donation(s) please contact the Treasurer on the above number. Donations can be made as follows:

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Online: NatWest, Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn

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Your support for the Charity's aims is very welcome. Thank you.□



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The Dersingham Hoard

Tony Bubb

From time to time we hear of hoards of treasure being found by people either looking for treasure, by accident when they are digging foundations or soakaways, or just because they like digging. Back in 1984, Terry Grover was filling in some pipe trenches, in preparation for the building of the Old Hall Estate, when he found some metal in the ground. He found a silver cup containing 128 silver shillings. The next day David Mallon found another coin bringing the total to 129.

The coins date from between 1554 and about 1640 and were probably buried in 1643 during the siege of King's Lynn.



The coins and the finds from many other hoards include the Ingoldisthorpe hoard of bronzes found on Warren Farm by Jim Wilson, plus the Snettisham, Fincham and Boot's hoards, which now form the basis of a fascinating exhibition in Lynn Museum which was opened at the end of October by Lesley Bambridge, the current Mayor and one time resident of Dersingham. Entry is free over the winter months and, of course, there is much else to interest the visitor in the museum. Well worth a visit.



I wonder if any of the gentlemen who found them are still around?

□



Dersingham Carpet Bowls

Suzanne Eastmure

Our AGM was held on 18th October and a new Chairperson and Secretary were voted onto the Committee. The Committee agreed that a donation of £200 should be made to the Baby Basics group.

Members who are competing in various competitions now taking place are enjoying themselves, with mixed results.

We meet at the Village Centre every Tuesday at 2.30pm. Anyone that wishes to join us will have a warm welcome. Don't worry if you have never played as tuition is always available!□

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The Chorus will also be joined by a wonderful line-up of soloists: Bethany Seymour, Luthien Brackett, Jonathan Hanley, and Geoff Clapham. Ben Horden will be the Conductor.

The dramatic oratorio portrays Jesus Christ as 'Messiah', from the prophecies of Isaiah through Incarnation, Passion, Resurrection, and to His ultimate glory-seat in Heaven.

A fond favourite of audiences and musicians alike, no Christmas season is complete without it.

Tickets £15, under 16s free. Available from the Box Office 01553 764864. [kingslynncornexchange.co.uk](https://www.kingslynncornexchange.co.uk) □



Dersingham Tennis Club Rosie Russell

We have had a lovely season, with the relaxing of Covid restrictions enabling a lot more play. We have social tennis Sundays, relaxed coaching on Wednesday mornings, and again some new members.



We also play in the leagues for members who wish to do so.

The Men's A team came third in the league, only one point behind first and second places, so a very tight season. Just one set more on one of our drawn matches would have put us joint first or in second place.

The Men's B team did exceptionally well and won the league, remaining unbeaten for the season. Next year they will be promoted, giving us two teams in the first division.

The Ladies A team came second in League 1 in a very close league.

The Mixed A team came second in League 1 and the Mixed B came fifth in League 2.

We look forward to welcoming new players again at any time – just visit Dersingham Tennis Club website and come along to play at any level. □



Sandringham Parish Council News



The Parish Council meets at Wolferton Social Club every third month, starting in May with the Annual General Meeting, then August, November and February. The Parish Council covers the villages of West Newton and Wolferton and the hamlets of Babingley and Sandringham. All residents are very welcome to attend and raise parish matters of concern to them. Check the Parish Council website for specific meeting dates and times.

The Council has four Councillors: Stephen Thompson (Chairman), Simon Hickling (Vice Chairman), Tony Bubb and Robert Frost. It is entitled to have up to seven, so anybody interested in joining should contact Stephen on 07956 638313 for more information.

Butlers Cross

The Parish Council has been keen to have the area around Butlers Cross tidied up and the railings surrounding the ancient monument itself renewed. It has now secured the necessary funding and discussions are under way with Norfolk County Council as to how the work is to be done and what traffic restrictions may be necessary to ensure it can be done safely.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Whether we like it or not, a lot of new houses are destined to be built in the area over the coming few years. Nearest to us will be 600 at Knights Hill, and a similar number further through South Wootton into King's Lynn and then up to 4,000 in West Winch. Norfolk County Council is confident that the road system is adequate to take all the extra traffic, but that aside, one of the benefits of new development is that the Borough Council can put a levy on developers, so that, for every house they build, they pay a sum of money towards community projects. The more houses, the more funds for such projects. Tony Bubb is investigating whether Sandringham parish may be eligible for a slice of the fund and if so, the Parish Council will need to decide what projects they would want to undertake.

Future meeting dates

Future meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays 8th February and 10th May, but it is best to check the Council's website nearer the dates for certainty.□



West Newton Carpet Bowls

Meetings take place on Tuesday evenings. Arrive at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start. The first two visits are free, and thereafter it is £2.50 per evening.

New members are very welcome to join this friendly bunch of bowlers.

For further information contact Trevor Riches (Chairman) on 01485 543706, or Ian Jenkins (Secretary) on 01485 542432.□

Wolferton Village News

Social Club

The Social Club was packed on Friday 28th October for what we hope will return to being the annual Harvest Supper and Quiz. Chilli and coleslaw followed by apple pie was served to all and we even had three different strengths of chilli as well as a vegetarian one. It was all rather excellent. The quiz was hosted by Simon Hickling, with Simon Scott as the arbiter in the event of any disputes. The money raised is for the Sandringham Group of Churches and the raffle raised over £200 for Wolferton Church. Well done and thanks to all involved.

Looking forward, much will be happening over the Christmas and New Year period. Please check the club's website to check for any changes, but here is what we've got in store:

Prize Bingo:

Tuesday 20th December. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm.

There will be no prize bingo in January; it will resume again in February.

Cash Bingo:

Sunday 4th December. Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 8.00pm.

Sunday 8th January. Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 8.00pm.

Christmas draw:

Friday 23rd December 8.00pm.

Christmas opening hours:

Christmas Eve 8.00pm - 11.00pm

Christmas Day lunchtime 11.30am - 2.30pm

New Year's Eve:

Disco 8.00pm until late.

For more information check our website or email us at

enquiries@wolfertonsocialclub.co.uk

St Peter's Church

18th December: *Carols by Candlelight* at 4pm, followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

The cash collection will be donated to the Purfleet Trust.

21st December: *Carols around the village* at 6pm - meet at the Social Club. Wrap up well and bring torches! Proceeds will be donated to the Children's Society.

25th December: Our usual 9.30am service followed by refreshments. All welcome from far and wide.

For more information check our website or email us

churchoffice.sandringham@gmail.com.

To everyone in Wolferton, and from us to you all outside the village, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.□



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Ingoldisthorpe Village WI

Lesley Geer, President

Let's begin by looking back:

Our enthusiastic walkers opt for what is sometimes a sedate stroll or a more energetic best foot forward. And like the pace, the location varies from local to further afield. With 11th July being a really hot day, a walk through the woods at Sandringham ending with an ice cream was ideal. In August, they ventured further for a walk round Binham Priory and village and found themselves to be just in time to listen to a cellist and violinist rehearsing for a recital in the church. After a look at the artefacts, a visit to 'The Parlour' made for a most enjoyable lunch. A change of plan for September resulted in a walk from Dersingham to Sandringham to then enjoy coffee and cake in the Courtyard.

Not having an evening meeting in August, we always look forward to going out for a meal, and The Aviator at Sculthorpe did not disappoint.

Wild Ken Hill was chosen for our outing at the end of August. Despite several members getting very wet when the heavens decided to open, it didn't detract from the enjoyment of learning about the management of the land and seeing horses, cattle, deer, buzzards, red kites and a Tamworth pig with piglets. Nothing could beat that.

Into September and we resumed our normal programme beginning with a make up demonstration from a local beautician - tips for all to suit a trip to the supermarket or partying the night away.

We catered for 40+ friends and supporters at our Harvest Lunch in September, which is one of our community events. The number of people who come and give lovely comments never fails to amaze.

October was the members' turn when we had our Dabble Day. Three craft skills were on offer to try, and the results were amazing, ranging from the most talented to my not so talented outcome. No matter, we all had a good time and that's what counts, as commented by those who attended: *Great....Excellent day with our own members..... Hope we can do it again.*

This was followed by more fun when our October entertainment unexpectedly became 'in house', so we had an 'old fashioned' quiz and games night. The only downside was calling a halt to begin clearing up!

Baytree Owl and Wildlife centre was our outing for this month, and it was a pleasure to be up close to such wonderful creatures.

Looking forward (at the time of writing):

Saturday 12th November - we have our coffee morning with pop up stalls, and our monthly meeting will be a demonstration on how to make a table decoration.

December - we hope to be strolling around taking in all the sights and sounds of Christmas at the Luminate Sandringham event.

As for our December meeting - what can I say - an evening of entertainment by Ingoldisthorpe WI Ingolstars. You have got to see us to believe it.

Then into 2023: A talk by a representative from the Baby Basics charity in January and decision time in February when we elect our new committee.

More details of what's planned to follow when I write again in January.

As a reminder, all are welcome; we meet the third Thursday of the month, 7.30pm at Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call Lesley on 01485 298645 or Jean on 01485 541462. □



Making Gardening Easier May Davey

Our 16th September outing to Barnsdale Gardens at Oakham, with thirty-nine members and friends, was blessed with beautiful weather and we had a lovely tea. The gardens were colourful and there were lots of plants to buy. Thank you to our visitors for supporting us so well. Some have already joined our club.



On 21st October there was a fascinating talk on the commercial growing of soft fruits. Jeremy Darby brought samples with him from his base at R.W. Walpole and donated them to our raffle. There were lots of questions and he stayed for tea to answer more.



Our 18th November meeting at 2.00 pm at Dersingham Village Centre was a talk on bamboos by Lewis Dyer.

The Christmas lunch on Friday 16th December will be at Knight's Hill as usual. If you'd like to join us, please contact Gloria Pantling, our Secretary on 01553 671912. Members pay £20.00 and guests £22.00. Get out those bright seasonal jumpers!

An excellent programme has been arranged by Sue Neil for 2023, with outings and interesting speakers. The first talk on 20th January will be about hedgehogs.

We meet at 2.00pm on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has been arranged. Entrance costs £3.00 for tea and a raffle ticket. *Do come and join us!* □





From your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



At the time of writing, the weather is finally beginning to cool down and surely fingers must be twitching nervously towards the on button for the central heating. We are all trying so hard not only to economize but also have in mind that the less energy we use the better it is for the

environment.

Boots: We had thought to report an improvement, but only today a random cancellation meant that those who had booked flu jabs were disappointed. Once again, we will be lobbying MPs, Government, Boots and anyone else to give us some certainty over the issue of pharmacy opening.

Hot Spots: Or places where folk might find a warm place during the day. The Village Centre offers coffee mornings and lunches, so watch out for those, and we are thinking of running a social afternoon on Sundays, including card and board games or just a get together for tea and cake. More information to follow but do call Judy on 01485 540271 to express interest.

Council matters are still wrapped up in levelling up funding as far as Judy is concerned. Disappointing though it was to receive news that our bid for Heritage Lottery Funding for the Guildhall had failed, we must not forget that some £9 million has been committed to restore this cultural asset, and over the next couple of years efforts will be made to find the extra £3 million to complete the project.

We were delighted to see that the recycled table and bench set has arrived at the Centre. This was purchased with local Councillor fund money and will, we are sure, be a great asset come spring and summer.

County Councillor funds have been spent to improve the road and trod upgrade to pavement outside the school on Admirals Way.

It was interesting to hear from Mr Johnson of Aveda in terms of the Community Centre site which they are acquiring from Sandringham. The upshot appears to be that he will submit a new planning application to include both this site and the old allotment site up Doddshill. The key to the two projects as far as Norfolk County Council is concerned will be the realignment of Doddshill Road to make access to Manor Road safer. Aveda are completing a project in Docking if anyone is interested in the style and finish on their build projects.

Once again, the Borough put on a wonderful display at Fawkes in the Walks. This is a free to view event with fairground attractions, a bonfire and of course loads of spectacular fireworks. If you have yet to sample this delight, why not put it on your calendar for next November.

We wish everyone in our Ward a happy festive season, and if money will be tight for many, the spirit of Christmas will hopefully prevail. □

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What is a hedge?

Sandra Walmsley, Vice Chair of CPRE
(The Campaign to Protect Rural England)

I have two tall boundary hedges in my garden, one of beech, the other yew. Although a few intrepid plants clamber their way through or along them - holly, ivy and next door's clematis, they are pretty uniform. There are some holes where robins, sparrows and blackbirds emerge. They poke their heads out and look from side to side before descending to pick up a titbit, then dash back. I believe hedgehogs use it as a corridor, and the squirrel, which steals from my bird feeders, certainly uses it as an escape route.

These cultivated hedgerows are of limited use in the general scheme of wildlife habitat. But what is a hedgerow? The definition used by the steering group for the *UK Biodiversity Action Plan for Hedgerows* is: "A hedgerow is defined as any boundary line of trees or shrubs over 20m long and less than 5m wide at the base, provided that at one time the trees or shrubs were more or less continuous." I have not carried out a detailed survey of this local hedge. Most research on Norfolk hedges was carried out by Prof. Tom Williamson of UEA and Gerry Barnes in their survey of Norfolk hedges in *Hedgerow History: Ecology, History and Landscape Character*. They found that more than 50% of hedges contained ash, hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, elm, roses and oak. My local hedge contains all these trees and more. There are also sycamore, hornbeam, mahonia, crab apple and hazel, which are less common.

I am still working on the history of my local hedgerow. There are some clues in the plant life in the verge, some of which show the hedge was a meadow boundary, others probably demonstrate a connection with the nearby bluebell woodland. Some hedgerow systems date back to prehistoric times, and most were well established by the Anglo-Saxon period. As permanent settlements grew and arable farming increased, living hedges provided permanent boundaries to keep stock in, although in the 12th century Richard I issued an edict that hedges should not exceed 4 foot 6 inches tall to allow free range to the royal deer, and so that he could chase them on horseback!

It is estimated that over 200,000 miles of hedge were planted between 1750 and 1850 and that this was as much as in the previous 500 years. Prof. Williamson estimates following the loss of hedges due to enclosure, and changes in keeping stock, that around 500 miles of hedgerow were grubbed out in Norfolk each year from 1946 to 1955, rising to around 2,400 miles per year by 1962, and reaching 3,500 miles over the next four years. This dropped to around 2,000 miles each year until 1970 and declined more gradually during the 1970s and 1980s. Since 1945, the UK's hedgerow network has shrunk by about 50%, with the annual net loss of hedgerows reaching over 11,000 miles each year in the early 1990s.

Like many parts of our land, we have started to understand the importance of hedgerows. They are vital to maintain the biodiversity of the country. In Devon, a single hedge surveyed on a farm was found to benefit over 2,000 species, including many that are nationally scarce and some that are under threat. Endangered mammals, such as hazel dormice and hedgehogs, need hedges to survive. Hedges have economic benefits too. More coppicing could increase the amount producing biomass if we chose. Hedges help agriculture with pollination and pest control. They help control our water quality, help to stop flooding, and improve air quality, especially in urban areas. Hedges are better than trees at filtering air pollution, they are a thicker barrier.

Hedgerows have a really important part to play in slowing climate change. Research by CPRE suggests a 40% increase in the UK's hedgerows would have a sequestration potential of 1.9 million tonnes of carbon. This is the equivalent of up to 7.1 million tonnes of CO₂. If we incorporate an average for below ground, soil carbon storage of



hedgerows into this figure, the total rises to as much as 5 million tonnes of carbon - potentially the equivalent of 18.5 million tonnes of CO₂. Despite the losses, across Britain, the Countryside Survey recorded almost 300,000 miles of 'managed' hedgerow still existing; enough to stretch round the earth 16 times. These are the hedgerows we see around much of the countryside. They are often managed by farmers, landowners and other land managers, such as in country parks.

In September last year, CPRE launched its report on hedgerows and its *40 by 50 campaign* as proposed by the Climate Change Committee. 40 = We want to see the extent of the hedgerow network increase by 40%. This number was recommended by the independent Climate Change Committee. This means we need to create at least 120,000 miles of new and restored hedges to achieve a 40% increase in their extent - which is around half the length of our national road network. 50 = This is the time frame. We need a 40% increase by 2050 at the latest. This requires adding over 4,000 miles of new and restored hedgerows each year. Even this would only take us back to the number of hedgerows we had in the 1980s. Expanding our hedgerow network would be one natural solution to the climate and nature crises by increasing the nation's capacity to absorb carbon emissions, reducing air pollution and helping reduce flood risk from extreme weather.

What can, and is being done?

- Planning Authorities need to develop policies in local plans to ensure that hedgerow planting is integrated in new developments and that any damage to existing hedgerows is avoided (biodiversity net gain should never justify the removal of important hedgerows).
- CPRE Norfolk have written to all Norfolk MPs to ask them to become Hedgerow Heroes.
- Local people and Parish Councils have a huge part to play. We would like each Parish to have its own Hedgerow Hero too.
- Parishes could work with local community groups to plant hedgerows in urban, and urban fringe areas, enhancing green infrastructure and directing funding to help deliver Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- Sign our hedgerow petition - <https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature>

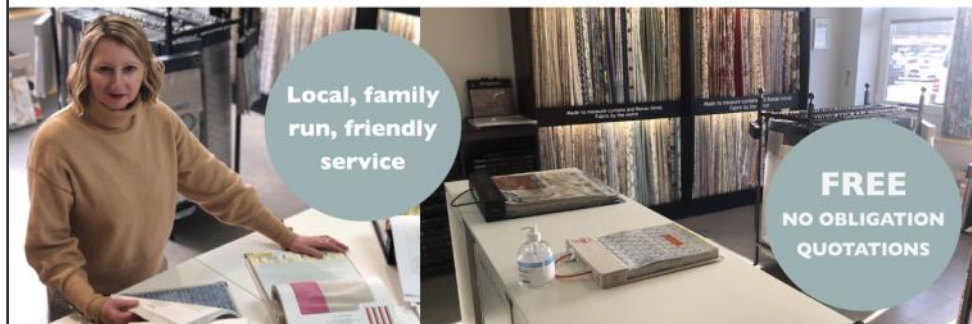


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Dersingham Fen - keeping up with the times

Alex Coombs, Clerk to Dersingham United Charities

I was clearing scrub from the Fen recently when a lady asked 'why?', as surely everyone knows growing trees is a good idea. I proceeded to explain that 'no, not necessarily' and why we were doing it. But I have since realised that only a few years ago I would have thought the same and, I guess, most people in the village think this way too. It made me think about how people have made differing demands of this land over time to suit their own needs.

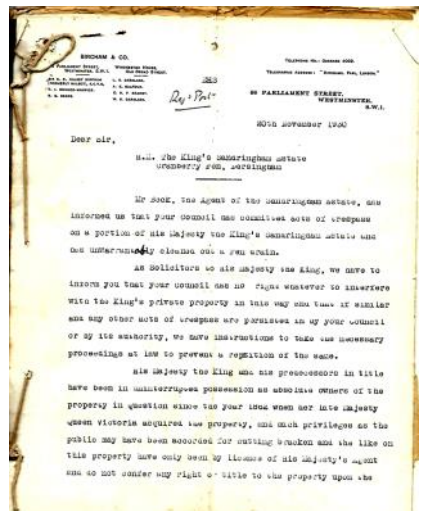
Its History

When the last ice age ended (about 10,000 years ago) and the land defrosted, the vegetation and trees arrived, closely followed by the animals. This was probably the last time our land was purely 'natural'. People followed the animals and from their arrival they made clearings in the landscape for their encampments and also to entice animals into the open where they were easier to catch. From the Bronze Age (c2500-700BC) extensive deforestation was carried out as they adopted larger, permanent settlements and farming - for which they needed arable fields and pastureland to graze newly domesticated livestock. This moulding of the landscape to suit our needs has continued ever since.

In the 18th and 19th centuries the 'Enclosures Acts' allowed large tracts of land to be taken into private ownership - land the villagers had used freely for millennia. Generally, the land left to them was of poor quality, like Dersingham Fen, which was made 'common' in an Enclosure Act of c1780. But the Fen was naturally too waterlogged to be of much use. A number of large drainage ditches were cut through it to drain the water away and help it dry out. The large, open space could then be fully utilised to graze livestock and collect wood, turves, bracken etc, provide a safe access route to areas further afield like Dersingham Bog where peat was cut for fuel, Cranberry Fen to gather cranberries, or to access distant fields or the coast.

By the 1930s local people still relied on these surrounding areas so much so that when King George V's solicitors wrote on 20th November 1930 accusing Dersingham Parish Council of trespass on nearby Cranberry Fen by clearing out a fen drain, the council spent five years in legal proceedings arguing that it was 'common land'. The council only conceded it wasn't in April 1935 and that it was owned by the Sandringham Estate, but it was accepted that the people of Dersingham did have "commoners' rights" to take "whins, furze, bracken, turves, lumps or flags" from there.

By the 1980s society had changed and the villagers didn't need to use the land anymore. The Fen was largely forgotten and only accessed by the occasional dog walker or bird watcher. When Norfolk County Council proposed building a bypass it was only opposed by a few conservationists over a tiny moth (which had probably already gone.) The villagers were largely in favour as it would take traffic out of the village and called the conservationists "foreigners with silly ideas". Obviously motor traffic hadn't been an issue centuries earlier and the villagers' priorities had changed.





Fen 1940s



Fen 2022

Student no. 4059369 highlights this change in attitude in Chapter five of their dissertation: “In the space of just fifty to sixty years the local community had developed from being protective of Dersingham Bog to completely dismissive”; also “the views towards Dersingham Bog were formed out of self-interested motives.”

Now, in the 21st century, times have changed again. Our large-scale industrialised activities have generated excessive amounts of carbon in the atmosphere, and we are now collectively concerned for our landscapes and the effects on climate. There is a realisation that we need to counter this ‘carbon footprint’, but how to do it? I think we are all aware that planting trees will help, but research shows that peat-forming landscapes have a far better ability to lock away much larger amounts of carbon and for longer.

And Ecology

Peat forms in waterlogged, nutrient poor, acidic conditions. When the specialist bog plants that grow there (like sphagnum mosses, sundews, cotton grass, bog asphodels etc) die, their decomposition is so slow in the anaerobic conditions that decaying plant matter builds up and becomes compacted under its own weight, forming peat. This peat forming process is very slow - it can take 1,000 years to form just one metre of peat (i.e. 1mm per year!) – but importantly for climate change, the carbon in these plants is locked away forever, if left undisturbed. Globally, peatlands hold more than twice as much carbon as the world's forests do, and a researcher at Utrecht University has established that per square metre “wetlands store about five times more CO₂ than forests”.

Healthy peatlands can also reduce flooding by slowing the flow of water and providing a floodplain storage facility.

Dersingham Bog and Fen are naturally peat forming areas. A report in 2018 says, “These areas support an astounding assemblage of bog building *sphagnum* mosses, including many which are very scarce in eastern England, as well as high densities of insectivorous sundews, cranberry and bog asphodel”. They were given SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) status in 1964, and are on the RAMSAR register, which records wetland sites designated to be of international importance.

In Oliver Rackham’s classic book, *The History of the Countryside*, his last chapter on

Marshes, Fens, Rivers and the Sea tells us, "A wonderful survival of the prehistoric Fens is Dersingham-Wolferton Fen ... in an out-of-the-way corner north of King's Lynn, fed by copious springs of acid water. It has great areas of *Sphagnum*, characteristic plants such as bog-asphodel, cranberry, and sundew ... It is a relict of the raised bogs which once lay along the Fen-upland edge." He wrote this in 1986 when he felt that only "About ten pieces of The Fens survive" intact, and not badly degraded by farming or peat cutting. The GOV.UK website says, "only 13% of England's peatlands are in a near natural state."

And so, to help protect, or perhaps improve, our admittedly small area of wetland we have cleared the stream channel down the Common that feeds the Fen, we are currently removing the birch and pine scrub that is growing on it and will also shortly be reducing the number of trees that have grown up alongside it. This will help water levels and reduce the nutrients that are threatening the existence of the bog plants, and therefore the Fen's capability to produce peat. The Trustees have signed up to the investigative portion of the Government's peatland regeneration scheme for which core samples (to sample for peat depths) were taken in August, and two dipwells (to measure water depths) will be installed shortly. We await the results of these and any subsequent recommendations in due course.

So, it seems we all still need to utilise the Fen, perhaps more now than ever, just in a very different way. Not for agriculture now but for carbon sequestration – how very 21st century.

Perhaps the final word should be that of our professional contractor who has done much work for us over the years, and on other wetland sites too, and is something of an expert. He asked me, "what do you call a cat that has eaten a duck? a duck-filled fatty puss!"

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Dersingham Day Club

Joy Kelly and Carol Edwards

Dersingham Day Club returned to meetings on 7th September after the summer break, and everyone was pleased to be back.

Sadly, Her Majesty the Queen passed away on 8th September and during the period of mourning the police commandeered the Village Centre for operational work; this meant we were unable to meet for two weeks. However, we returned on 28th September, and it was simply a delight to be back and resume our usual activities of dominoes, cards,

Scrabble, and triominos etc, plus lots of "chat."

That afternoon we enjoyed an afternoon of music, singing and dancing with Merv and Maria.



On October 16th we all went to the United Services Club in Hunstanton for a two-course carvery meal. This is now a firm favourite of ours and we are returning there on 30th November for our birthday celebrations.

On December 14th we will be having our Christmas dinner and entertainment by the Purple Angels. We then break for the Christmas period until 4th January 2023.

On a more sombre note, our ex-member John Bacon, who celebrated his 100th birthday in the summer (photo of John in the October/November Village Voice) has sadly passed away. We send our deepest condolences to his daughter Mary, and the whole of his family.

Dersingham Day Club sends Christmas greetings and best wishes to all.

If you would like to know more about us, please contact Maggie Langridge on 01485 543264 or Wendy Raby on 01485 544975.□

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: DERSINGHAM DAY CLUB CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER 11.00am – 2.30pm AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

Please try to support us if you can; there will be over thirty stalls, plus refreshments in the Hub

The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle



Remote Control Man usually puts his dinner plates in the sink, even though the dishwasher is underneath the counter next to it. Drives me potty. Last night, having earlier made sure that the dishwasher had been emptied, I noted that he was about to put his plate in the sink again, so called out to him from my 'old-lady-throw-you-out-chair' to remonstrate. Unfortunately, my normal thing of not being able to think of the words I need came upon me, so all I could manage was, "I hope you are putting *That* in the *Thing*". "Put *That* in the *Thing*?" he queried somewhat sarcastically, but I noticed him hooking his plate out of the sink and quickly shoving it in the washer. I chuckled and replied, "You understood." He grimaced and said, "Indeed I did." We have been together around thirty-six years, and he does seem to very cleverly unravel my garbled sentences.

I have no trouble with words when I am writing; odd, isn't it? It seems my brain associates words with my typing fingers and not my tongue.

Remote Control Man and I actually had a conversation the other night. For once I coped with words, which was really nice. I think it began with the economic situation and how everyone will be coping, or not, over the coming months. Of course, we oldies remember hard times before, when we had very little and none of today's wonderful inventions to make life easier.

Life without washing machines. Well, maybe we will have to go back to that if electricity bills get beyond our pockets. Oh my god, (OMG in today's idiom) how I remember 'treading' the sheets and nappies in the bath! We didn't have modern day detergents, just horrid 'soap flakes' which I would scatter in the bathwater. I don't remember if I used hot or cold water, but even heating up water was a luxury when I was first married. I would then climb in the bath and literally tread all over the sheets, thus hoping to shift any dirt. Then try and rinse the sheets, wring them by hand, and lug them out into the garden to dry. Needless to say, they were more grey than white.

Nappies were worse. We mums had a large plastic bucket into which we put water and something called Nappysan – a disinfectant – and then the dirty nappies. My goodness, if they weren't washed straight away, they soon stank. My housekeeping skills were never good. I waited until the bucket was filled with the stinking terry-towelling nappies, then tipped them into the bath and did the treading routine. What a horrible, time-consuming task. Thank goodness that with my second baby disposable nappies had been invented which made life a lot easier – though they can't do much for the environment when they are dumped in landfills.

Then, my dad bought me a second-hand washing machine. What excitement and bliss! It lived under a kitchen counter and had to be dragged over to the sink, and a hose attached to the back of it would be fitted over one of the sink taps. There was another hooked hose that fitted over the side of the sink for the dirty water to be flushed away. What a performance. There was a big central agitator in the middle of the machine, and we had big wooden tongs to hook out the washing. I think I had to take washing out between rinses. There were also "twin tubs," which I didn't have, where you hooked the clothes out of the washing side and put them into the spin side. I knew we couldn't afford one of those, so didn't even dream about it. It took most of the morning to accomplish a wash, and the floor was usually swimming with water, but my goodness, what a wonderful invention it was at the time!

Well, let's hope things don't backslide to treading our washing in the bath – but if money gets tight, then perhaps it will be an option!

Anyway, that was the topic of the conversation I had with my beloved, reminiscing about household machines we remembered from the old days. Ah well, it can't all be romance and all that goes with it when your wits are leaving you, your bones ache and incontinence is just around the corner.

After my cancer op and during chemo, I got a bit obsessed that I should get a



photographer to take photos of me as the wise woman of the woods and get them made into a deck of affirmation cards. I thought I was being a bit daft, but here is one of the photos that looks a bit like I am looking for my false teeth in the stream, but I am very pleased with the results and will let you know when they are ready to be sold. There will be a deck of similar shots, all done in nature with positive affirmations. Well, such activity keeps me out of mischief, and keeps the brain going.

In case we have electricity cuts, I am all ready with plenty of candles, a camping gas stove to cook on and a Calor gas heater. Hopefully, they won't be needed, but nice to know we won't freeze to death or have to eat raw liver.

I hope you have a lovely Christmas, despite all the political hoo-ha and deprivations on offer, and let me wish you all the best for the coming year.□



THE ARTS
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THE ARTS SOCIETY - ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS

Next lecture: Monday 12th December
Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm

A Very Ceremonial Christmas **Lecturer: Graham Jones**

Find out about the various ceremonial events that take place around Christmas time in this light-hearted lecture. Carol services, concerts and even Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace and Windsor all play their part. How do the Chelsea Pensioners prepare and celebrate the festive season? All will be revealed. So, come along and feel wrapped in a blanket of Christmas loveliness.

Graham started his professional life as a musician in the British Army and over a glittering career spanning nearly forty years he retired as the Senior Director of Music, Household Division, and Director of Music, Coldstream Guards.



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The Art of Christmas

Lesley Nadel

Christmas is an ancient custom, started probably around the 1st century BC, during the European Iron Age. Midwinter festivities by the Germanic Pagans to mark the winter solstice became known as 'Yuletide'. Celebrations in December have continued for centuries in many countries and religions, and somewhere amongst all the modern celebrations with friends and family, of presents, extravagant food and drink, some take the time to remember the birth of Jesus.

The Christmas tradition depicting the birth of Jesus Christ has been frequently painted throughout the history of art. The predominance of the Roman Catholic faith in the 14th century, particularly in southern Europe, resulted in many paintings of the Nativity scene. Church murals and altarpieces were favoured places. The altarpiece in the Sassetti Chapel in Florence, painted in 1485 by Domenico Ghirlandaio, depicting *The Nativity and Adoration of the Shepherds*, is a famous example and recognised as one of the artist's masterpieces. The donors of the portrait are also depicted in the altarpiece, kneeling to one side.

The painting of Nativity scenes developed with speed during the Renaissance period, from earlier depictions of the subject showing choirs of angels and an array of richly dressed characters, to a much darker theme. Much of the change can be attributed to artists such as Caravaggio and the use of light and dark in his compositions. His *Adoration of the Shepherds*, 1609, portrays a more realistic scene of a very tired looking Mary, cradling her baby child, with haggard looking men transfixed by the ecstasy of the scene before them. The lighting is dim and whilst the manger is a simple, lowly setting, somehow the painting has a feeling of love and humility.

By the 17th century artists throughout Europe continued generally to paint realistic Nativity scenes in classical settings with humanlike characters. However, social and cultural changes were emerging that would see a move towards separating religious or spiritual concerns from the traditional Christmas themes. During the 19th century celebrating Christmas with family became important and paintings were more likely to depict domestic scenes. People no longer just wanted to look at Old Masters' paintings. Paintings depicting snow-filled landscapes (Caspar David Friedrich, *Winter Landscape with Church*, 1811) and families dancing merrily around a candlelit Christmas tree (Viggo Johansen, *Glade Jul*, 1819) were favoured. Charles Dickens' famous literary work, *A Christmas Carol*, resulted in the joyous family-oriented scene by John Leech's *Mr Fezziwig's Ball*, 1843. On the other hand, some artists have depicted the sadness and loneliness of Christmas. Edvard Munch's *Christmas in the Brothel*, 1903-1904, is thought to convey the sadness of those with no one to turn to who seek paid company.

Christmas is a time to celebrate traditions and ceremonies. The Arts Society Northwest Norfolk December lecture is light-hearted and explores some well-known ones such as carol services, concerts, and changing the guard at Buckingham Palace and Windsor. How do the Chelsea Pensioners prepare and celebrate their festive season? All will be revealed, so come along and feel wrapped in a blanket of Christmas loveliness, and share a mince pie with us. Monday 12th December 2022 at 2pm. If you are not yet a member and would like to come, contact our Membership Secretary on 07825 216009.□



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Events in December and January

FRIDAY 2nd DECEMBER: An evening of musical entertainment with MIKE TERRY – Sing-a-long to your favourite songs – 7.30p.m. – Fully licensed bar, raffle - donations of prizes welcome.

MONDAY 5th DECEMBER: BINGO NIGHT The Club opens at 7.00p.m. “Eyes Down” at 7.30p.m. £6.60 for a book of 10 cards and £1.75 for a “Flyer Card”. Fully licensed bar and raffle – donations of prizes welcome. For further information email events@anmerclub.co.uk

FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER: FILM NIGHT - THE RAILWAY CHILDREN RETURN – PG. The club opens 7.00p.m. Film starts 7.30p.m. Admission £4 at the door. For further information email films@anmerclub.co.uk

FRIDAY 16th DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS QUIZ & RAFFLE The Club opens 7.00p.m. Quiz starts 7.30p.m. Entry to Quiz £2 per person.

WEDNESDAY 21st DECEMBER: ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, ANMER – ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE 4.30p.m. followed by mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas cake at the Social Club. Advance booking only – please contact Nick Coleman on 01485 601217 or email: njcolema@aol.com

FRIDAY 6th JANUARY 2023: FILM NIGHT – DOWNTON ABBEY: A NEW ERA – PG. The Club opens 7.00p.m. Film starts 7.30p.m. Admission £4 at the door. For further information email films@anmerclub.co.uk

FRIDAY 27th JANUARY: QUIZ NIGHT The Club opens 7.00p.m. Quiz starts 7.30p.m. Entry £2 per person. Fully Licensed bar and raffle – donations of prizes welcome.

Opening Times

Unless otherwise stated, Fridays 7.30p.m. to 10.30p.m. Last Orders 10.00 p.m.
Saturdays 12.30 to 2.30p.m.

The club is available for private functions. For more information and to book please email anmerchair44@gmail.com □

Snettisham Gardening Club

We send all our members Seasons Greetings and wish you all a happy and healthy 2023. Our next meeting will be our AGM on Wednesday 26th January when our 2023 programme will be available. We look forward to seeing you then.

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

King Charles III

The Queen is dead, long live the King...
Around the kingdom and round the world it did ring.
Since then His Majesty's feet have hardly touched the ground,
There were plans, meetings and proclamations, before he was even crowned.

He has been in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales,
He's worn suits, military gear, kilts and tails,
With his siblings or the Queen Consort by his side
It's been an extremely busy time, since his mother died.

This king, this man, this child, mourning for his mother,
Dealing with family pressures of a petulant son and a brother,
His face a mask for his hidden turmoil and strife,
Lovingly supported however by Camilla his Queen and wife.

The microscopic scrutiny, the ever-present lens,
The media made an issue of his signing with the pens,
The family was followed closely, watching if the sons had made amends,
They photographed them looking at the flowers, walking together like friends.

He moved William's title to 'The Prince of Wales',
He has begun the rebalancing of the Royal scales,
A slimmed down Monarchy is the master plan,
Hopefully this does not exclude the hardworking Princess Anne.

It has all been very full on, so a break he did seek,
Their mourning, loss and sadness was extended by a week.
He had always known this role was to be his peak
But actual loss of his mother, made things a little bleak.

His Cypher's been announced, his head on coins at the till,
The job's now his on which to stamp his royal will.
Her Majesty's size fours are big boots to fill.
The crown will come when the coronation is heard
Three Cheers your Majesty – King Charles the Third!!!

Lorna – October MMXXII

Information on The Drill Hall Elizabeth Fiddick

I am currently looking into the history of The Drill Hall built on Doddshill in 1929. I would be very interested to hear from anyone who has any information about it. I have already spoken to one lady who remembers going there when the village school used the premises and have been given the name of another person to contact. Any information at all would be warmly welcomed. I can be contacted on 01485 540940.□

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Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb

Winter walks can be some of the most rewarding. Clear views over ploughed fields, wildlife more visible, and a warm glow at the end. Home to a rum and ginger with a red-hot poker thrust into it – OK, a cup of tea then. We have had remarkably few walks rained off so far this year, but the likelihood of cancellations is more likely now winter is with us. The leader will, however, always go to the start of the walk, assuming that they can get through.

We are reviving the Boxing Day Walk. Popular in the past, it is an excellent way to mitigate the gross excesses of the season. Do join us.

Our next walks are:-

Wednesday December 14: 1.30pm

Hudson's Fen, Roydon Common and more. About 4 miles. Starting at the car park, Chapel Road, Pott Row TF702223. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Boxing Day, Monday December 26: 10.30am

A circular perambulation using an old carriage road, Peddars Way and farm tracks, plus a bit of quiet road. About 4 miles. Start point just north of the eastern end of Ling House Road TF730306. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday January 11: 1.30pm

A tour of the footpaths and lanes around Congham. 4.5 miles. Meet at the big layby on the A148 opposite the turning to Sandringham. Start point TF711253. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday January 25: 1.30pm

A walk around the fringes of the Massinghams with a route using a bit of our old friend the Peddars Way and enjoying a portion of Mad Dog Lane. About 3.5 miles. Can't wait! Start point Great Massingham Green TF798230. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday February 8: 1.30pm

A woodland wander taking in Dersingham Bog and the Royal woods. About 4 miles. Start point the Dersingham Village sign TF685297. Leader Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

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



Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers and to explore the local area. You'll probably discover footpaths that you never knew existed and maybe views that will give you a fresh appreciation of the local landscape. So, if you haven't walked with the group before why not join us for an amble through our wonderful

countryside. Most of our walks are between 4 and 5 miles long and take around two hours, with a rest stop at some point. There is no cost involved, just turn up with your boots on. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs.

The leader of the walk will do their best to look after you.

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

Group coordinator: **Tony Bubb** Tel: 01485 542638 Email: frostytrees@btinternet.com □

Dersingham Choir – Christmas Concert

**Saturday 10th December from 7pm at
St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, PE31 6YE**

What a way to start the festivities! Come along and support your village choir in our very first Christmas concert and have some fun!

Tickets are £5 each on the door

Everyone is welcome, so spread the word.

What to expect???

The first half of the concert will be songs that we have been learning during this term, and after the interval everyone is invited to join us, singing carols.

The venue is fully accessible with free car parking. Seasonal refreshments will be provided.

The choir is grateful to be supported by the following - Norfolk Community Foundation, The People's Postcode Lottery, Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Dersingham Parish Council, Dersingham Post Office, and Rossiters, Dersingham. □



Season's Greetings to all our members and a Happy and Healthy 2023. We will meet at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton for our first meeting of 2023 at 2.00pm on Monday 16th January when the speaker will be Samantha Doughty, Development Officer Adult Services, to tell us how to *Stop a Crisis*.

You will be most welcome to join us and for further information see our website hunstantonu3a.org

**Hunstanton
u3a**

2nd Dersingham Brownies Lynn Wheeler

The 2nd Dersingham Brownies enjoyed an autumn themed sleepover during the October half-term at the Methodist Church Hall in Hunstanton.

The first activity on arrival was to decorate an autumn placemat for use during their stay. Throughout the evening, they enjoyed a wide variety of crafts and games to complete the Autumn Challenge badge. They painted a pumpkin shaped t-light holder and created an edible fire with biscuits, chocolate sticks, dolly mixtures, icing and strawberry laces. After a delicious tea, they made autumn leaf bookmarks, coloured in autumn flower fairy decorations, and played games before toasting marshmallows over t-lights and having an indoor campfire singsong.



After getting ready for bed, they listened to a bedtime story. Everyone slept well and the next morning, after tidying up and having breakfast, the Brownies left to enjoy the last two days of their half-term. □



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Rainbows is for girls aged 5 - 7 years and are the youngest members of the Guiding family.

Brownies is for girls aged 7 - 10 years.

We have two Brownie units in Dersingham meeting on Tuesday and Thursday



Guides is for girls aged 10 and over.

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To register your daughter's interest go to www.girlguiding.org.uk or contact a Dersingham Brownie Leader on (01485) 544753



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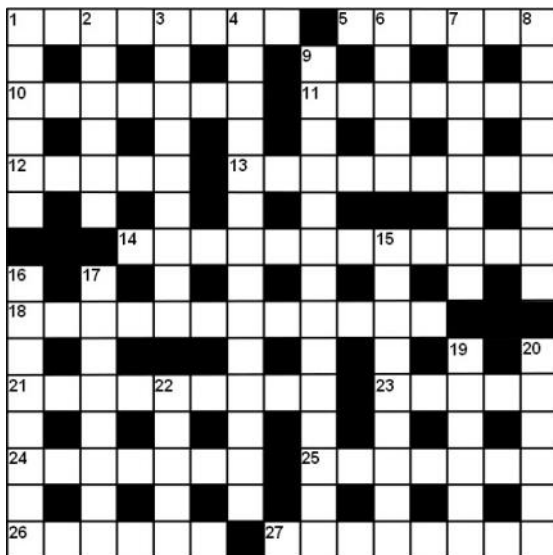
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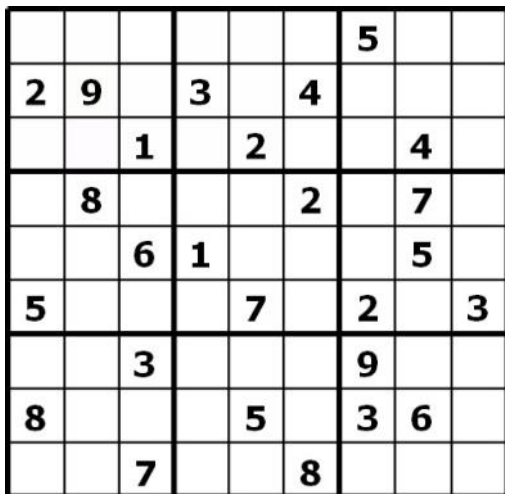
Across

- 1 Serpents writhing under the tree (8)
- 5 Complex record playing somewhere in area (6)
- 10 Play with eccentric wild ted (7)
- 11 Influences results (7)
- 12 Somehow broadcast round rich singers (5)
- 13 Working fifty deep into exhaustion (9)
- 14 Opulent trio spent week resting in harbour (2,5,5)
- 18 British tennis player joined Billy on Christmas table ... (6,6)
- 21 ...together with Gabriels tasty recipe (5,4)
- 23 Like Edward – really funny when left out (5)
- 24 English tree entwined with mad dog fennel (7)
- 25 Face slap when Sam reversed vehicle into a mix-up and finished with a black eye (7)
- 26 From hectic Riviera back to Kent say with relatives (6)
- 27 Her snags were tangled in her bites (8)



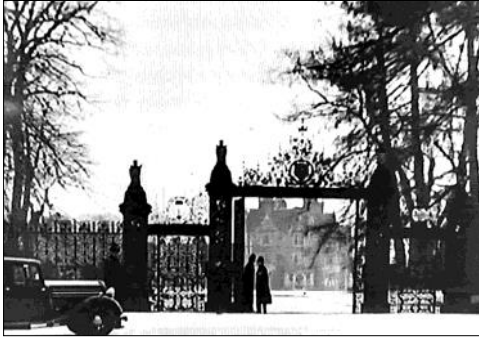
Down

- 1 Uprising in Lilliput school (6)
- 2 Jo repaired triode (6)
- 3 Modern den refurnished as a stark reality (3,2,4)
- 4 Walk the planks – in pantomime maybe (5,3,6)
- 6 Search weapon (5)
- 7 Lots to see here (8)
- 8 Teas in Essex produce feeling of nonchalance (8)
- 9 Congregation (6,2,6)
- 15 How to remember friends Christmas card details or train spikelets (4,5)
- 16 A ham bone cooked for W.I. witch doctor (8)
- 17 Long ago, but fondly remembered at this time of year (8)
- 19 Able to imitate Christmas starter (6)
- 20 Busy R.H.S say providing suitable accompaniments for Christmas dinner (6)
- 22 Story told back in Belgium (5)



Answers on page 73

Old Picture Corner By Tony Bubb



These two pictures, taken between the wars, show a wintry Sandringham.

The Norwich Gates are open, affording a view of the house now obscured by planting. This, we are told, was to give greater privacy to the royals and their guests. It must have been a chilly shift for the police on duty there, but their superior officers had a nice warm Wolseley to retreat to whilst touring round to inspect the constables out in the open.

The second picture was taken from the air and shows plenty of snow (remember snow?) on the ground.

The area in the foreground is now laid to lawn but, as you see, it used to be flower beds. These were dug up to grow food during WW2. I note the snow appears to have been cleared around the building, a nice job for somebody.

If you have any old views of the area – not postcards – do let us see them. That picture of Aunty Gladys doing the splits may have a really interesting background for us to enjoy.□



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Phobbies is a club for people with and without disabilities where people can enjoy hobbies together. Current hobbies include art, card making, knitting, crochet and rug making, but we are keen to include others. We meet every Thursday from 10am to 2pm at the Social Cub. New members welcome.

Contact Maggie: 01485 544865 or 07967 799816.□

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Aftermath of Florida Hurricane

Jane Jestice

How I love the seasons and the weather in our country! I have just got back from a month in Florida where the weather was predictable - temperature around 28 degrees, clear blue sky with a few fluffy clouds, high humidity, and if it's going to rain it will happen in the afternoon, usually around 1pm! Beautiful, and no need to guess what we need to wear or take with us "in case" - just put on tee-shirt and shorts, lather on the suncream, grab a hat and water bottle and we are good to go, EVERY DAY!

Here we have that "shall we", "should we" conversation with ourselves everyday before we go out. Even if we have read the weather forecast, especially in Norfolk, there is no guarantee that it will be right.

However, there has been one huge similarity between both places this year, and that is the resilience of nature. The area in Florida where we live was hit very badly by hurricane Ian just before I went out. There was devastation all along the coast, not mainly from the high winds, but from the water surge that accompanied the storm. The wave that came in was 15ft high in some places. It brought in salt water, swirling with enormous amounts of sand and mud, and then subsided taking anything that was loose with it, back to the beaches and the sea, and leaving the sand, mud and other deposits in the ground floor of every house.

When I arrived, most houses had lost everything on the ground floor and all of it was piled high beside the roads. 60,000 cars were written off because of salt water damage. Everywhere was covered in a thick layer of sand and mud. The beaches were closed because of submerged debris and there was an advisory not to go in the ocean as it was polluted.

The vegetation had suffered badly too. Many trees were down. Those that stood had leaves turning brown and falling off (a false autumn was how it was described.) It was easy to see on any plant that was still alive how far up the water had come by looking at the height where the brown leaves started and the green leaves began.

There were no dolphins to watch in the ocean, and a fisherman told me that the fish had left. There were much smaller numbers of birds near the ocean, and more inland than usual.

However, when I left, it was already beginning to change. Trees were starting to grow new bright leaves. Many plants were shooting from the base. The sea was blue and clear. The dolphins and pelicans were back and the tarpons were jumping again. And the seashells were as beautiful as ever.

When I arrived home, I looked at my garden here in wonder. The grass that was almost non-existent after the hot summer is now brilliant



green and way too long. The flowerbeds have recovered remarkably. Although, I have to admit I do have an unusual selection of flowers still blooming!

So well done nature, keep it up!

PS: For those who have read about my garden before, I am SURE you will, along with me, be sighing with relief! My walnut tree is back this year to giving me more walnuts than I know what to do with. I'm wondering if the two years of no fruit could be put down to long Covid - stranger things have happened in nature!!□

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

CONNECTIONS	BASHFUL	CANON	DOC
HUMBLE	PROF	CUFF BUTTONS	BED
GENT	BAILIFF	COY	BOATMAN
DIFFIDENT	TIES	PROJECT	GOLF COURSES



Spies and Zeppelins – part 2

Dick Melton

Dick Melton has submitted a follow-up to the extract from a booklet written by Holcombe Ingleby, which was published in our last issue.

It was about this time that a certain Mrs. Hooks and her boy, residing at Heacham, were one evening walking home from Snettisham when they came upon a car that was stationed on the road above Heacham Bottom, and was obviously engaged in signalling. Mrs. Hooks described these signals to me. They consisted of two long upward flashes and one short one, followed by two horizontal flashes. She reported to the local constable what she had seen, and he is reported to have detected some discrepancy in the boy's evidence. What he probably did was to confuse the boy. Mrs. Hooks's statement is quite clear and unequivocal.

A week before the raid a car was again observed flashing from Snettisham Hill, which is on the other side of Heacham Bottom. My informant, a lad of sixteen, states that he saw a bright light flashing upwards, that it seemed to be flashing out to sea and that, on being observed, the car moved to another point on the same road, from which it also flashed. The light was very bright and more like a searchlight than a motor-car lamp. The light was seen again that night at Heacham and my informant called his parents' attention to it. He had observed what I have stated when he was going to and from his work. On the night of the raid, he saw a light that looked to come from a large gas lamp flashing from the same spot and in the same direction as the light previously seen. The chief object of the statement is to show that at least one motor car was apparently signalling in the district before the night of the raid. Witness: Geoffrey F Girling, Heacham.

William Playford of Snettisham is also stated to have seen the flashes on the first night referred to by Girling, but I have not verified the statement. The next statement is set out in order to show that "a priori" a Zeppelin coming to an unknown country would be certain to be attended by one or more motor cars, if available.

Miss Hilda Gurney Whitechurch, of The Lodge, Old Catton, Norwich writes, "I went to Germany in November 1912 and stayed there till October 1913 and during all that time trials and experiments with the aircraft were taking place. I was on a visit to very old German friends of my family, who took me to see all that was going on and told me the ins and outs of everything. My friends are in a position to do so, and their son was one who had received Prince Henry of Prussia on one of those big occasions. What I am now wanting to communicate to you is that a motor car with two officers in it was in attendance on each aeroplane - a regular military plan of campaign. They were expert at that time, and now must be very much more so, and the car which was mentioned at King's Lynn was doubtless occupied by officers well acquainted with their work." (Miss Gurney Whitechurch is publishing a book entitled *The Inner Workings of Germany* which confirms and enlarges on the statement here made.)

On my making more particular inquiry, Miss Gurney Whitechurch writes, "Zeppelins came to Kassel a month before I arrived, but I am convinced that they did have an attendant car, the same as aeroplanes and balloons. The manoeuvres of the two latter I saw many times." She adds, "Sometime before I left, my friends told me, 'We shall be at war with England this time next year.'"

In connexion with this statement, it should be observed that the night of the raid was pitch dark and it would be impossible for any aircraft to find its way on such a night unless it had some sort of guidance. It is true it was provided with a searchlight of its own, but except for a momentary flash at infrequent intervals it did not use this light. Presumably it was afraid to do so, for obvious reasons.□

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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Presents. 5 Arcade. 10 Twiddle. 11 Effects.
12 Choir. 13 Depletion. 14 We three Kings.
18 Brandy butter. 21 Angel cake. 23 Leary.
24 Mayweed. 25 Mascara 26 Nieces.
27 Gnashers.

Down

1 Putsch. 2 Editor. 3 End or mend. 4 Tread the boards. 6 Rifle. 7 Auctions. 8 Easiness.
9 People at sermon. 15 Keep lists.
16 Obeahman. 17 Langsyne. 19 Canape.
20 Syrahs. 22 Liege.

Word Wall Answers

Modest: Bashful, Coy, Diffident, Humble

Links: Connections, Ties, Golf courses, Cuff buttons

Water: ... canon, ... bailiff, ... bed, ... boatman

... ile: Prof ..., Doc ..., Gent ..., Project ...

Sudoku Answers

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

Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

For articles, reports of events, meetings and details of upcoming attractions:

Issue	Copy deadline midday on	Publication date
No. 140 (Feb/March 23)	Monday 9 th Jan 2023	Monday 30 th Jan
No. 141 (Apr/May 23)	Monday 6 th Mar 2023	Monday 27 th Mar

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Articles

Please send as Word documents. Any photographs need to be sent as separate files, not in the body of an article or email, and they need to be high resolution (large) images so that they reproduce well.

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The editor reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Published material also appears on the Parish Council website. Copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor and the Parish Council do not necessarily agree with any opinions expressed, or the accuracy of statements made by contributors .□

**Dersingham Parish Council Office, Dersingham Village Centre
83 Manor Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6LN
Tel 01485 541465**

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Layout & Administration: Geraldine Scanlon
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Red Pumps Garage *p.48*
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Station Road, Heacham *p.56*
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Windows

Sandringham Windows *p.7*
The Window Repair Man *p.67*

VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on
Tuesday January 31st at 7:30pm

FISHERMEN'S FRIENDS: ONE AND ALL (12A)

After the highs of performing on the pyramid stage at Glastonbury, the group struggle with their second album.

During a divisive tour of South Australia, they trace their ancestors, embrace a new community, and discover their musical DNA.



Doors open at 7pm
Entry - £6; Under 16s - £3
(Includes tea/coffee/squash)

Licensed Bar

Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by Dersingham Village Centre Association,
Reg Charity No 1178462

Supported by Creative Arts East

www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk Tel: 01485 543195



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