

Number 124

July 2020

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



Thank you NHS

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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



Hopefully by now you will have received the April/May edition of Village Voice, the delivery of which was very much delayed because of the Lockdown. We decided to abandon the full June/July issue and just do this single month edition for July, then plan to return to "normal" for August/September.

"Normal" on all fronts still feels a long way off. I am writing this at the end of May, just before the deadline for this issue of Village Voice. By the time you receive this in a month's time, hopefully, there will have been an easing of government restrictions about how much of the village can be open and whether people will be able to visit each other more freely, albeit with caution.

Thank you to all the contributors to our magazine and to the advertisers who continue to support us. This has been an unusual edition to put together as many groups and organisations have been unable to operate as usual and many advertisers are unclear about their future. I was concerned that we would not have enough to fill the pages! However, people responded to a request for material and to let us know what they have been doing during this strange time. This has resulted in some interesting content, ranging from stories and poems, to how to make a face mask. You will also see updates from some of our regulars, many of whom have been managing to stay in contact through phone, email, Zoom and other pieces of technical wizardry, and engaging in all sorts of creative activity.

I have been spending most of my time in this glorious weather out in the garden. It's still not exactly weed-free, but there are nooks and crannies that have not, until now, seen loppers, secateurs and trowels for many a year. And the jungle that was our greenhouse is now beautifully tidy, with all our spare pots sorted into their different sizes!! The biggest problem in our garden is the wretched muntjac which is eating the tops off everything in sight. Luckily it also likes eating ground elder. I did a bit of cupboard clearing at the beginning of lockdown; I keep saying I'll do more housework when it's a rainy day, with the result that the spiders rule supreme indoors.

However, we are in the extraordinarily lucky position of having a garden to escape to and not having caught the virus. There is a whole different reality for those with no outdoor space, those with children, those who cannot work, those who are isolated, those who are homeless and especially for those who have lost family, friends and colleagues due to Covid-19.

Finally, we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to local NHS staff who have coped magnificently with the pandemic, often at great personal cost. We salute you, and Village Voice's covers echo the weekly Thursday clapping and saucepan banging that took place on just about every street throughout the village, by residents young and old. This weekly event was also a wonderful opportunity for neighbours to emerge from their homes and make contact with each other, sometimes for the first time ever ☐





Dear Village Voice



Goats for Dersingham Fen?

A friend of mine was talking this morning of ways to keep the undergrowth under control on Dersingham Fen. Three or four years ago Cromer was having a job to keep the grass and undergrowth under control on the cliffs as it was getting too dangerous for men and machines to do the job. So North Norfolk Council sought advice and they were told to use Bagot goats. This is a breed of small but stocky goats that are very sure-footed and are used to living on cliffs, hills and mountains. Not only did these goats keep the grass and undergrowth down, but they became a tourist attraction and now you can buy T-shirts, trinkets and ornaments with goats painted on them. North Norfolk Council was so pleased with these goats that they bred another twelve goats - six nannies and six billies - at Wiveton Hall this last winter.

It would be very good to have a herd of say twelve goats on Dersingham Fen. They take very little looking after, and once bought they would not cost much to feed. They could be tethered in one area and when they had cleared that up they could be moved to another area. They would be much cheaper to keep than cattle, and also people would go there to look at them.

Dick Melton

Enjoying the woodland

My parents and I read the article written in the No.122 February/March edition of The Village Voice about boys on their bikes in the woods, the concern being litter. My parents were also concerned about the litter and as a family we have litter picked on a couple of occasions. I now take a bag with me so we can bring our litter home to put in the bin.

I was pleased that the person who wrote the letter recognised it was nice to see us out getting fresh air and exercise. We're doing the same things my dad and uncle did when they were boys. My parents have said they can see nothing wrong in what we are doing as long as we stick to the following rules:

We do not leave litter;
We do not obstruct pathways or cause trip hazards;
We do not destroy any foliage;
We do not intimidate anyone and we give way to walkers and animals.

I would hope that we can all enjoy the woodland area we live in. Unfortunately not everyone agrees, as our jumps and tracks are repeatedly destroyed on a daily basis. If anyone has any objections to us enjoying the area we live in, in the way we are doing, then please suggest a suitable piece of land with contours and resources that we could ride.

AJ
A Dersingham resident aged 14

Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



I have just reread my last column, it made for some depressing reading. We were all dreading lockdown but found ways to survive and some have positively enjoyed the experience, although others, particularly those living alone or in small, cramped conditions, not so. The biggest worries, such as will we have enough toilet paper, cat food and cat litter proved to be unfounded once supplies started to get back into the shops, and the weather has been so good that we have been able to get out into the garden and go for walks in the beautiful countryside around the village. We are now easing gradually out of lockdown, some more enthusiastically than others, and we will have to adapt yet again to a new way of life.

I would like to thank all of those who have helped those self-isolating or shielding, whether it be through an organised scheme or simply by shopping for neighbours or maintaining contact by email, text or phone. Even the smallest thing shows others that they are not forgotten. I would also like to thank Borough Councillor Stuart Dark for all his work as emergency planning cabinet member in issuing his weekly updates. There has been a plethora of advice coming out from central government, the County Council, voluntary organisations and the police. His updates have pulled everything together and we have been able to have a dedicated page on the Parish Council website with information and contact details for everything from where to get help, how to help, business advice, to advice from the police about the latest scams. Our website address is www.dersingham.org.uk

On the Parish Council front, I reported in the last edition that we had cancelled forthcoming meetings because of the lockdown restrictions. We have continued to pay our bills and staff have continued working and we are now about to enter the Zoom revolution. On Monday 15th June at 6.30 pm we will be having our first Parish Council virtual meeting and such meetings will continue until restrictions are further eased and we can recommence physical meetings in the Village Centre. Zoom meetings are somewhat of a surreal experience, sitting in your own home, trying to look smart but still wearing slippers and trying to stop the cat joining the action! There is now a whole art in angling the laptop to show the best background, whether it be a plain wall, pictures, bookcases or the newly fitted kitchen. It's reassuring to see that politicians' bookcases are even more crammed full than mine.

I am pleased that VE day did not go unnoticed in Dersingham with several socially distanced street parties and plenty of bunting. I was able to lay a wreath at the war memorial and was pleased to have been joined by our newest Councillor, Jordan Stokes. A quietly moving experience. I would also like to thank Jordan for helping to set up the Dersingham Village Facebook group which is a great source of information and contact.

Remember: Stay Alert, Control the Virus, Save Lives

Stay Alert to Stay Safe by

- * staying at home as much as possible;
- * working from home if you can;
- * limiting contact with other people in line with the current guidelines;
- * keeping your distance when you go out (2 metres apart wherever possible);
- * washing your hands regularly;
- * self-isolating if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.

Are you looking for work or does your company need staff?

New Anglia LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) is working with partners to support businesses during COVID-19 to help them find the staff they need to continue to operate at this challenging time. With over 60 vacancies currently being advertised: visit <https://newanglia.co.uk/employment-opportunities/> to see the latest opportunities.

This Employment Opportunity page is part of New Anglia LEP's work to help businesses through the COVID-19 crisis.

Other areas of work include:

*Helping to source PPE (see box below),
Promoting grants available to businesses
Supporting key sectors.*

Anyone who needs free, impartial business support – including guidance on the new Government schemes – can contact the New Anglia Growth Hub to speak to a business adviser on 0300 333 6536 or email growthhub@newanglia.co.uk



PPE WANTED

Norfolk businesses are making personal protective equipment (PPE) to help keep key workers safe during the Coronavirus pandemic. Could your firm lend a hand?

Personal Protective Equipment

Anyone, including Parish Councils, needing to source PPE, can access New Anglia's database, but need to email supply.chain@newanglia.co.uk to get a log-in for the data system.

Anyone wanting to **make or sell PPE** can register what they are making or have in stock here: <http://newanglia.co.uk/data-capture-for-ppe-supply-during-covid/>

Dersingham Village Centre Update 29th May 2020

From the Dersingham Village Centre blog by Steve Martyn

As we said a couple of weeks ago, slowly the lock-down is being eased and the Village Centre Trustees are planning for the day when we can start to reopen the Centre.

We are hopeful that in due course, as part of the Government's planned Stage 3 release of the lock-down, we may be able to open at least part of the Centre for exercise and dance classes. The current guidance from the Government is that the Stage 3 release will not be until the beginning of July, at the earliest. Accordingly, we are making plans for **limited opening** from Monday 6th July.

The Trustees have also decided that the 6th of July will be the **earliest** date that the Centre will reopen, even if government guidance changes to allow legal opening before then. We need the coming weeks to prepare the Centre for safe reopening. It is important to realise that at the time of writing, in late May, the date of the 6th July cannot be regarded as a certainty. It will depend on how things progress over the next few weeks.

What we hope will be possible . . .

The resumption of small groups of exercise and dance classes that use the main hall. Groups that normally use the smaller rooms in the Centre will have to move temporarily into the main hall in order to maintain the correct social distancing.

The only rooms in the Centre that will be open initially will be: the main St Nicholas Hall, the entrance lobby and the toilet off the main hall. All other rooms - the Garden Room, the Loft, the Hub, the kitchen, the main toilets etc. will remain closed for the time being.

What we will NOT be able to do straight away . . .

In a normal week the Centre is used for many different types of event, including parties, weddings, community lunches, Village Voice talks, the Village Cinema and others. None of these will be able to take place yet. Once we have had some experience of running the Centre in the limited manner outlined above, we will start to plan for the opening up of the venue for these larger functions. It is not currently possible to say when this will be. We will post more information here as soon as the situation becomes clearer. But, there is light at the end of the tunnel!

There is much more about the Coronavirus situation on the Dersingham Parish Council website, [Dersingham.org.uk](https://www.dersingham.org.uk) which has a dedicated page of information and loads of links to useful websites.

Meanwhile, stay safe, protect yourself and protect others and keep washing those hands. Let's keep Dersingham fit and healthy!□

The May Village Lottery numbers are
14, 13 and 6.

DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

We may be closed at the moment but we are planning for the future when we can resume activities and welcome back the groups who use the Centre.

We look forward to seeing you at group sessions, social and recreational activities, and special events, when practicable.

The resumption of any activity is wholly dependent on when the Centre is allowed to open, trustees and group leaders feel it is safe to run, and will be subject to any restrictions and guidance on managing social gatherings. We will provide further information as and when we can.

Check our Facebook page and website (sign up for the weekly blog).

Meanwhile, stay alert and safe!



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Spring is now in full swing and whilst the last few months have been disrupted for us, nature has continued to lunge into the breeding season as usual.

Our wildlife faces many challenges at this time of year including predation, competition, rearing of young and of course maintaining the best singing voice! Let's take inspiration from nature during this period. Spend some time in your garden, look around and listen, it really is amazing. After recent warm weather butterflies, bees, insects, wild flowers and birds can all be seen.

A migration wonder

The mild weather of late winter saw most pairs of Stonechats stake their territorial claim by the end of February. As their name suggests, this small bird's call sounds like two stones being hit together. Some would have stayed in the area over winter or moved to the nearby coastline to feed, however Stonechats have evolved as a 'partial migrant' to guarantee survival of at least a proportion of the population in the event of a migration or winter catastrophe. In December 2019 we received news that a male Stonechat, marked on the reserve in May 2019 with coloured leg rings in our ringing project, had been spotted in Murcia, southern Spain, an incredible 1500 mile journey. What's even more astonishing, he's now back on the Bog! In March the same bird was located by one of our volunteers, paired up and beginning to nest back on our reserve in a similar location as last year after making the journey back from warmer climes. Here he is, we're just glad he made it back before the travel lockdown!



Male Stonechat

Of course our usual reserve work has been altered for now, but we have been continuing to check on our Black Galloway cows, ensuring their welfare needs are met and conducting essential health and safety checks on the reserve. Like many, we have discovered new ways of team working by using video calls from our new home/garden offices. Although much of our usual practical reserve work has been put on hold for now, we have been busy planning for the year ahead and keeping our volunteers updated.

Unfortunately, a fire at the beginning of April burned around two acres of bog habitat. Local fire services were fantastic and it was quickly brought under control. We are unsure of the cause but can we remind people that fires are not permitted and to be very cautious during dry weather.

By the time of the next Village Voice, breeding will be in full swing, Nightjars will have arrived back from their African wintering grounds and will be nesting once again on the Bog. This nocturnal bird is one of our strangest. It is a wide-mouthed, cryptically camouflaged summer visitor that nests and spends its days on the ground, making it almost impossible to see. It is therefore essential to keep dogs on short leads and to stay on main paths to prevent disturbance of these fantastic birds.

Going forward it will be interesting to see if the possible reduction in disturbance and pollution for wildlife during this key time of year has affected breeding success on the reserve and the wider Norfolk area.

Stay local and enjoy what nature has to offer.□

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Rollason Stage School News

Michelle Rollason. F.B.T.D.A.

During these uncertain times we have kept in touch with our students via the wonder of technology. Our students have received support, free on-line lessons and personal lesson plans. We have missed our Rollason Stage School children & adults and look forward to welcoming you all back at the Village Centre as soon as it is safe. Thomas and the DVC team have kept us informed throughout this crisis and subject to change and Government guidelines we will be back at the Centre in early July. Rollason Stage School provides lessons in ballet, tap, modern jazz, street dance and drama. We work towards B.T.D.A. accredited exams, regularly take part in many professional shows and always welcome new students. Exciting News!! RSS will soon be starting group & solo singing tuition under the direction of Susan Russell A.I.D.T.A.

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rollasonstageschool@gmail.com about our new "post Covid" lesson times.



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A Journey Back

Sylvia Steele

At last the train is moving away from the crowded platform, past the engine sheds, warehouses and industrial units, chugging rhythmically along the track bordering the back yards of London's terraced streets with all of family life exposed. Soon, gathering speed, it takes on a different pitch as it enters a tunnel to re-emerge into early sunlight spreading over the parkland of the Surrey hills. Another distinct, mesmerising rhythm now as it gathers momentum through open countryside with wooded hills in the distance and an isolated farmhouse with a scattering of hens busily scratching around the farmyard and sheep lying contentedly in the fields beyond.

Subconsciously I exhale a deep satisfying breath, feel my taut muscles relax – this was where I wanted to be - I was home again. An oasthouse in the distance draws me back to my first encounter with this tranquil place where I had, so many years ago, been brought to safety away from the city. Those first days in a quiet village on the outskirts of the Weald had been difficult, the nights at times tortuous as I tried to sleep without the constant companion of a busy city street still alive and working.

I recall those first days in an alien school where I quickly became aware that my speech was different from the drawling voices of the other children. But those first mimics became some of my closest friends. Two of those friends would be at the country station to meet me and help me adjust to a life I had long hankered after, away from the bustling town on the edge of London. Here I would learn to relax again. Would it be difficult to readjust as so many people had warned me? I thought not, for wasn't this the place that had haunted my dreams during those years of seeking the perfect getaway – a place where I could be me, not what someone else perceives me to be.

I feel my limbs relaxing, my stomach muscles become less taut, as I visualise the time I would spend walking the hills and woods with nought but my dogs around me again, for this is what I have missed most in city life. I see a solitary Union Jack flying from a village school and I am reminded that, of course, seventy-five years have passed since that unforgettable day when the announcement came that the war was over. My thoughts drift back to those days before evacuation when my parents were considering sending my sister and me to stay with my aunt in Canada, until the torpedoing of the City of Benares, with the loss of seventy-seven evacuee children aboard, scuppered that idea. The village of my Great Uncle Albert, where my grandmother had grown up, became favourite, despite it being near the coast that witnessed the movement of aircraft on a daily basis.

However, those slumberous nights were a long way from the disturbed sleep I was accustomed to: being woken by the nightly air raid siren before being bundled wrapped in blankets into the galvanised shelter in the back yard until the wailing all-clear meant a couple of hours sleep before school. But still, during the day we would be shepherded to the basement for disrupted lessons.

As I relax in my peaceful village home I ponder on the coincidence that as we celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of VE Day we face another enforced change to our daily lives. No sirens to warn of approaching danger, but we still await the 'all-clear' that will pronounce that we can emerge into the world and get on with our lives. But this lock down has given us time to reflect on a life that most took for granted. Only my own generation can recall the changes to our childhood by that other conflict. Whether the wailing siren sent us scuttling for a shelter in the back garden, a place in an underground station or a reinforced brick building in the street, there was camaraderie of a sort – in the public shelters no one knew who their bed-fellows for the night would be and no one

debated how unhealthy it was. We all just got on with it and waited for the all-clear.

I don't remember the Last All-Clear - just the news over the wireless and the lifting of anxiety from my parents' faces. This time I fear the anxiety will still be apparent as everyone tries to adjust to a hidden enemy and a life that will never be quite the same again.□

What's happened to the No. 35 bus?

Ben Colson

Just weeks after the new stop was built near Dersingham Village Centre and Health Centre there are no buses covering that part of the village, Sandringham or West Newton. The reason is that the Coronavirus has taken about 90% of passengers off trains and buses across the UK and the operators have had to cut services to fit the new normal. However, the No. 35 is unusual in West Norfolk for it is almost the only one to have been abandoned altogether.

When it was cut out without notice to Parish Councils, Sandringham's Chairman tried to get at least a once a day essential shoppers link to Lynn from West Newton, a village left with absolutely no transport at all, but to no avail.

Central government has asked operators to ensure that they are back to providing 100% of their pre-virus timetables by the beginning of July, but at the time of writing there is no indication whether the No. 35 will be included or not.□

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The pond with no water

Bernie Twite

There have been a number of items printed about the Warren and the pond with no water, most recently in the last issue from Dick Melton. I had always understood that the original pond was all that was left from the old Gelham Hall moat, and it had the same protection as the rest of the manor site. When the pond was still part of Baldings field it was tidy, the water was clear and the edges clear. After the land became a building site it slowly declined. Reeds and bullrushes took over the water, undergrowth and scrub grew up round the edges and once building started it became a dumping ground for the builders' rubbish. During building work the developer filled in the pond. A local man working on the site put the word out about what had happened. The Parish and Borough Councils were told and it was expected that the pond would be dug out, but nothing happened and it was left as it is today.

I understand that after building finished and the site was handed over, the Parish Council looked into clearing out the old pond, but the work would have been classed as a dig and would have had to be supervised; this would have cost too much and the idea was dropped. With hindsight, with the money spent on the newly-dug pond, it might have been better and cheaper to have had the original pond dug out. After the new pond was dug I had a look and felt it was not deep enough; some water loss was due to evaporation from the wind and sun, and a good quality lining was needed due to the poor ground. In hot weather, when the ground dries out, it becomes a reddish sandy soil which lets water drain away. Did anyone notice during the hot summer of 2018 that the only place on the Warren where nettles were growing was round the edge of the old pond and the grass there was greener than the rest of the site. I think this suggests moisture is still held round the old pond.

In the good old days when a pond was made the ground was dug out, chalk was brought in, and a horse and cart were led round which crushed the chalk which then had water mixed in. This was known as puddling. The mixture was spread out and left to dry, and when dry it set like concrete. It was then left to be filled by rain. If chalk was not available clay was used as liner. Thinking out loud, two questions I would ask: If the original pond was protected how did the builder get away with filling it in? And how was it possible to dig out a new pond on the Gelham Hall site which is protected?□



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Just a Mum? **from Antje Franke**

I went to the bank to apply for a mortgage and was asked by the counter clerk to state my occupation. I hesitated, uncertain how to classify myself.

'What I mean is,' explained the counter clerk, 'do you have a job or are you just a?'

'Of course I have a job,' I snapped, 'I'm a Mum.'

'We don't list 'Mum' as an occupation, 'Housewife' covers it,' said the clerk emphatically.

I forgot all about this until one day I found myself in the same situation, this time at our own Doctor's surgery where I had to register my whole family as new patients. The receptionist was obviously a career woman, poised, efficient, and possessed of a high sounding title like, 'Official Interrogator' or 'Town Registrar.'

'What is your occupation?' she probed.

What made me say it? I do not know. The words simply popped out. 'I'm a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations.'

The clerk paused, ball-point pen frozen in midair, and looked up as though she had not heard right.

I repeated the title slowly, emphasizing the most significant words. Then I stared with wonder as my pronouncement was written, in bold, black ink on the official questionnaire.

'Might I ask,' said the clerk with new interest, 'just what you do in your field?'

Coolly, without any trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply, 'I have a continuing program of research, (what mother doesn't) in the laboratory and in the field, (normally I would have said indoors and out). I'm working for my Masters, (first the Lord and then the whole family) and already have four credits (all daughters). Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities, (any mother care to disagree?) and I often work 14 hours a day, (24 is more like it). But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the rewards are more of a satisfaction rather than just money.'

There was an increasing note of respect in the clerk's voice as she completed the form, stood up, and personally ushered me to the door.

As I drove into our driveway, buoyed up by my glamorous new career, I was greeted by my lab assistants - ages 13, 7, and 3. Upstairs I could hear our new experimental model, (a 6-month-old baby) in the child development program, testing out a new vocal pattern.

I felt I had scored a beat on bureaucracy! And I had gone on the official records as someone more distinguished and indispensable to mankind than 'just another Mum.' Motherhood! What a glorious career! Especially when there's a title on the door.

Does this make grandmothers 'Senior Research Associates in the field of Child Development and Human Relations', and great-grandmothers 'Executive Senior Research Associates?' I think so!!! I also think it makes aunts 'Associate Research Assistants.'□

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Lockdown letter from Humpfrey, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Antje Franke

Dear Hoomans

I have noticed over the past couple of weeks you have been staying in my home for extended periods of time. It is lovely having you here, but I feel I should set a few ground rules. I would appreciate it if you would follow the rules whilst you are staying with me.

1. When you do pop out you will need to take me with you.
2. You seem to be eating lots of nice goodies whilst lazing about the house. I am entitled to a share of these. I won't make a fuss, I will just sit in front of you and quietly stare at you until I get my quota.
3. Don't call me for another bath, I am clean now. Just because you are bored doesn't mean I need a wash or haircut. I suggest you go clean the metal box on wheels outside again. Daddy hooman has done that a few times now even though it hasn't moved in weeks.
4. As you are here constantly at the moment, it is your duty to let me out as often as I require. That means that even if I have just come in and want to go out again you should let me. Sometimes I miss a spot whilst sniffing about and I need to recheck.
5. When I am asleep, leave me sleeping; this isn't a cue for the little hoomans to play with me. I can also sleep where I like - I don't expect to be woken so you can move me.
6. Do not shhhh me when I am barking. As you are here more, my job of protecting you has increased. I have to listen out for every little noise and inform you of it in case it's a threat.
7. Don't leave a room without me. I know how sneaky you guys can be. Just the other day I am sure I heard a crisp packet being opened upstairs and no one called me to share. So from now on I will be following you about.
8. This is a very important rule. If it lands on the floor it's MINE, if it's in my mouth it's MINE.
9. You will never pee alone again - you watch me pee so I do not understand why you shut me out and close the loo door when you pee.
10. If you do not follow these rules I will use SAD PUPPY DOG EYES TO GET WHAT I WANT !!





Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Since our last Village Voice entry, the children, parents, staff and school premises have seen some unprecedented changes and adaptations, to both the day to day running of the school and the way children access their education.

Teachers have been pedalling furiously behind the scenes, (mostly on their computers,) to track down the best online resources and plan and prepare lessons that the parents can teach from home. Mrs. Platt, our headteacher, has ensured a joined-up approach and continuation of our topic-led learning, with all children following the same stories and films to inspire them with their literacy, science and humanities knowledge. This has enabled parents with children in different year groups to teach siblings together in a more manageable way. Brothers and sisters have enjoyed working collaboratively on their learning, taking part in experiments, exploring different genres and discussing different aspects of their tasks and challenges together, as a family. The staff have united to engage with children and families at home, via YouTube, with their very own toilet roll challenge and VE day singalong. Virtual classes and more video challenges are in the pipeline for those children continuing with their home schooling.

In the lead up to Easter, the children explored the story of Grendel, a loveable monster, who adored chocolate so much he was a little rash with his wishes. The children had the opportunity to explore the story through art, fiction writing, the history of chocolate and the Aztec's love of cocoa. For children attending school, following the same programme, there were Easter egg hunts, cooking activities and the opportunity to study the Easter story.



Na'vi people from Pandora

The summer term saw the start of an adventure into space on a quest to explore the Moon Pandora, the setting from the film Avatar, and the exciting bioluminescent flora, fauna and exotic animals of their Rainforest. The beautiful Na'vi people have a connection to all life forms on their planet and the children had the opportunity to make geographical comparisons, as well as have ecological debates about planet earth. All very timely during a period in our history where factories and cars have ground to a halt and the natural world is beginning to flourish in the peace and tranquility humans have left in their wake.

Becoming a spy is the next topic on the school agenda, with the children getting to know the characters from Spy Fox and brushing up on their observation skills. They will develop their scientific and DT expertise, making periscopes, experimenting with household liquids, building their own



Home Science experiment

spy HQ and going tracking out and about with their family. Keeping the children engaged in their learning and creating fun experiences to enjoy at home and at school, is a top priority for the teachers during lockdown. Children attending school have enjoyed using Forest Schools and our vast outside area, and siblings have been able to sit with each other and experience learning in the same classroom.



Siblings and friends in school forest



Siblings in school forest

Sport is definitely still high on the agenda, with children taking part in virtual school games. So far, they have experienced fun tennis, angling, cricket, golf and athletics. A video using alternative equipment for each sport with differentiated activities for different aged children is used as a guide. The children then practise, video themselves and send in to the School Games website. The children have risen to the challenge and West Norfolk currently represent 40% of entries. A great achievement!

Children, parents and staff have had the opportunity to stay in touch via our Dojo messaging system, where pieces of work, stories and ideas have been shared. Class packs and resources have been available on site for parents to collect to support them at home and there has been regular information and updates available via email and text messages. It has been vital to keep the flow of conversation between the school and families flourishing, so we can support one another and do the best for our school community at this very difficult time.

As we look forward to welcoming more children into school and our phased return, our sights are firmly set on preparing the premises and resources so children, parents and staff can safely return to school. The school has been a hive of activity, with staff members pulling together to ensure we have everything in place. We are all looking forward to seeing our friends again and there is a feeling of excitement and positivity in the air, as we move on to the next stage, but we are ever mindful of the rapidly changing situation, which we will respond to, with the children's best interests at heart.



Social distancing on the Playground

From everyone here at Dersingham Primary and Nursery School, stay safe and well and as our headteacher reminds us, during her virtual assemblies, stay positive and find the little things in life to be grateful for!□

The Generosity of Dersingham people by Allan Coleby

Apart from the physical suffering, perhaps the most direct effect of Covid-19 has been on people who have been deprived of their income because they have been unable to work. Grants, loans or benefits promised by the Government produce cash only after a lapse of several weeks. People working from home, were in essential industries, or who had large savings accounts, could manage, but there were many others whose places of employment closed or who were forbidden to employ themselves.

What could these people do in the face of poverty? Into the breach stepped an organisation which has been growing rapidly during the last twenty years – the Foodbank. These distribute food to people who have suffered a financial crisis in their lives, perhaps caused by a severe illness, an accident or disability, unexpected unemployment or a need to support full-time a dependent relative. If this is long-term, the benefit system will support them eventually, but there is a time-lag before help arrives, and this is the problem.

Covid-19 and the subsequent lock-down produced these circumstances for some people. Applications for Universal Credit more than doubled, but cash was not immediately to hand. So, demand on Foodbanks increased by 80% on last year.

There is a Foodbank Centre in King's Lynn and another in Hunstanton. There are three collection points in Dersingham, at each of the three churches, which deliver donations to each of those Centres. But in March this year, there was a big problem: the churches were ordered to close down, like so many other places.

In some places, donations stopped. Not, however, in Dersingham. The Post Office came to the rescue, set up a food gift box in the shop, and the donations came piling in.

Donations were recorded by weight at the Centre. The rate of increase of donations was shown by the fact that, at my collection point, St Nicholas Church, about 50 Kilos per month on average were donated throughout 2017 and 2018, and this increased to about 70K per month in 2019. In January and February 2020, though, the average was 130K each month, with a slight increase to 140K in March. The collection box moved to the Post Office on 31st March, and during April, 346 Kilos were donated, and in May 356 Kilos. Each of these last two months show an increase of about 250% on March.



What a debt this small section of the Hunstanton Centre owes to the kindness of Fraser and Maria in having the box and displaying it in the shop. Above all, we must acknowledge with profuse thanks the astonishing generosity of the people of Dersingham for donating in this way. We think of the relief and gratitude the recipients feel, instead of

anxiety and despair. Thank you, thank you to the generous citizens of Dersingham and to Fraser and Maria for facilitating it.

An equivalent increase can be seen in the amount of food given out by the Hunstanton Centre in 2020: 417.8 Kilos in February; 903.9 Kilos in March; 1152 Kilos in April. These figures show the degree of increase in the desperation of some people. Thank you again, people of Dersingham, for helping us to relieve it.

I have been told that many people have asked how the Foodbank operates. Well, in order to get help from a Foodbank, a person has to be referred with a voucher. Professionals issuing the vouchers are: doctors, nurses, health visitors, social workers, Citizens Advice, or schools. The voucher shows basic information and offers guidance in dealing with the person's crisis. It can be exchanged for a minimum of three days' food at the Centre. If you do not have enough money for food, you can call 08082082138 for free (open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm). You'll talk confidentially to a Citizens Advice agent and, if needed, they will issue you with a foodbank voucher.

The Foodbank movement started when Carol and Paddy Henderson founded the Trussell Trust in 1997, based on a legacy left by Carol's mother, Betty Trussell. In 2,000 Carol had a phone call from a distraught mother, saying that she was sending her children to bed hungry: there was no food or money in the house. Carol sent some food, but investigated data on poverty in the UK, and found the problem was spreading. So Paddy started the Salisbury Foodbank in his garden shed and garage, giving three days' emergency food supply to local people in a crisis. Salisbury remains the base of the Trussell Trust.

Because of the need, especially after the financial crisis of 2007-8, the movement grew, and twenty years later, there are over 2,000 Foodbanks, about 1,400 of them being advised and co-ordinated by the Trussell Trust. This is a properly constituted charity, with a Board of Trustees, a charity number and a section on the Charity Commission website. The Trussell Foodbanks are networked and co-ordinated with each other, ferrying items which one will have a need for, and another a surplus. Our two nearest Centres are linked in a Norfolk and Waveney network. There are other, smaller networks, such as 'Fare Share', used by the Co-op. Foodbanks also work under the Fundraising Regulator, with Gerald Oppenheim as CEO.

The effectiveness, though, lies with the local networks which rely on the local donors. Again, generous donors of Dersingham, we give you our heartfelt thanks.

This article was written in early May, when the need for donations was as great as ever. It looks as if the situation is not going to improve greatly for some time, and even in "normal" times there is still an urgent need to support this service.

My number is 01485 543481 if you have any questions about how to make donations.



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Dersingham Choir

In the April/May edition of Village Voice an old photograph from about seventy years ago was published of a church choir, sent in by Tony Bubbs. We asked whether this was a Dersingham choir and whether anyone knew the names of those appearing in the picture. Gerry Turley, describing himself as 'an old Dersingham boy!' and Bernie Twite, another person with a long memory, confirmed that it was indeed the Dersingham choir and have given us the following names:

Back row from left to right: Ted Roy (organist and choirmaster), Tony Ridley, Billy Andrews, Bernard Riches, John Playford, Bill Playford, Wallace Twite and Roland Linford.

Front row from left to right: Michael Whitty, Dennis Back, Derek Lines, John Asker, Derek Asker (or Peter Goff?), Michael Ebert and Eric Barnard.

Bernie added that Teddy Wallace and Roland Linford all completed sixty years' service in the choir within a few months of each other, a record it will be hard to beat □



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Ladies' Church Choir

In addition to giving us information on the Men's Choir, Bernie Twite has now come up with a photograph of the Ladies' Church Choir! There are a few missing names, but here's who he has been able to identify:

Back row, left to right:

Daphne Riches, Pam Bond, Doris Goff, Miss Higgs, ? Nora Nurse, Edna Walden, Gladys Twite, Mrs Ransome.

Front row, left to right:

Maisie Linford, ? ? ? Rosie Bird, Betty Riches, ? ? Rosie Lines ?



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THE ART SOCIETY - ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS.

You don't need to spend the coming months starved of art, even if most of the world's galleries and museums have closed. From the comfort of our easy chairs we can now view many of the world's greatest collections on line by taking free virtual tours. Almost as good as exploring in the flesh without the hassle of a plane trip or the inevitable queue.

A good place to start is by downloading the Google Arts and Culture App. It has partnered with 2,000 global art institutions. You might fancy a trip to the Musée d'Orsay in Paris with your coffee in the morning and with your tea in the afternoon a stroll round the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam to gaze at the *Paul Gauguin painting of Vincent Van Gogh painting Sunflowers*. Or you may prefer Vermeer's painting of *Girl with a Pearl Earring* at the Mauritshuis in The Hague.

This 'lockdown' has to have some positives attached and if you love art, take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity with technology to enter the virtual doors of the worlds' galleries and museums. State Hermitage Museum on YouTube, the Louvre In Paris, the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, MOA, Frick and Guggenheim, the list goes on and on.

We look forward to starting our lectures again just as soon as the Government guidelines permit.

A special mention for British Museums, who are also well served. The National Gallery can be accessed Google Street View tour, and the internet tourist may fancy a trip to the websites of the British Museum, The Courtauld Gallery or the V&A. The British Library is slow to the party but some of its 'more hidden treasures' may be available on line soon.

Nearer to home, The Art Society Organisation is showing a series of 'Becoming an Instant Expert On Given by leading Art Society Lecturers. The two tasters are Andy Warhol and the invitation to become an instant expert on 20th Century glass. If you enjoy these and want more you're invited to sign up to receive the next one directly into your inbox. Go to: connected.theartsociety.org

www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

Genealogical research on the Mitchell family

Isabelle Wahle

Greetings from Hong Kong. I am doing some genealogical research on the Mitchell family from Dersingham. I am researching at the moment Sidney Maurice Mitchell born on 25th October 1930 in Paddington, London.

His mother was Doris Irene Mitchell, born in Dersingham in 1906. I have found Sidney Maurice Mitchell living with his grandparents, Arthur Edward Mitchell and Annie Roberts Mitchell, on the 1939 Census. They lived in Chapel Road. I have lost the trace of his mother, Doris Irene Mitchell. She is also one of the family members I am actively researching.

After 1939 I found Sidney Maurice Mitchell, aged 20, as he travelled to Southern Rhodesia in 1951. He gave his last address in the UK as "Dersingham, King's Lynn" and his profession as platelayer, presumably working for the railways.

A further document shows Sidney as a locomotive driver, 27, single, and a UK address of "Frogmore House, Flat 5" at Windsor Castle. I know from my research that this is the address of his uncle, Arthur Frederick Mitchell, born in 1902 in Dersingham. He worked as a Yeoman/Under-butler at the Gold and Silver Castle, Windsor. Sidney Maurice Mitchell's aunt, Gwendoline Joyce Mitchell Aspden, also worked at Windsor Castle at the same period. I assume from the document I found that Sidney worked for a while in Southern Rhodesia, certainly for the Rhodesian Railways. Rhodesia was his intended place of permanent residence on his original travel document.

Elizabeth Fiddick did a great job by going to St Nicholas Church cemetery in Dersingham. She took pictures of the tombstones of some of the Mitchells for me. This is how I discovered that Sidney Maurice Mitchell (1930-2009) was buried with his grandparents in Dersingham. It was a surprise!

I am now trying to figure out what he did with his life: did he stay in Rhodesia for a while, did he come back to the UK, did they bring back his ashes after his death overseas...? I would love to know more about his life and the life of his mother.

If someone remembers Sidney Maurice Mitchell, his mother Doris Irene Mitchell or other members of the Mitchell family, you can contact me at: horsdutemps09@gmail.com or write to Isabelle Wahle, 18C Caperidge Drive, Discovery Bay, Lantau Island, Hong Kong.□

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Reduce the Cost & Footprint of the Food you eat

Finding reliable statistics on the CO₂e footprint of food production, transportation and processing is exceedingly difficult and the process of discovery is not helped by the Climate Change Committee saying "40% of UK emissions come from households", but failing to include food in that, and we must ask why?

See <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/5CB-Infographic-FINAL-.pdf>

Food production is said to account for between a quarter and a third of total greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. **That is a lot.** Furthermore, we must consider the effect world food production has on the environment and bio-diversity. At the end are some pictograms showing the breakdown of where the CO₂e emissions occur in the food chain. The first one clearly show that:

- * Transport accounts for only 6%
- * And packaging for another 5% of food's footprint.

Put another way, combined together, about 2½% of our total footprint. These are still substantial but there are others which are much, much larger contributors.

The standout is of course livestock and fish farms which take

- * 30% on their own
- * With another 6% for the crops grown for animal feed
- * And another 16% from the land use

Making a grand total of 52% of all the emissions from the food chain and therefore over 13% of our total CO₂e footprint.

Source: <http://ourworldindata.org/food-ghg-emissions>

There are an increasing number of initiatives to encourage locally grown produce. Not only does this reduce the carbon footprint but also is good for the local economy and makes us feel good. BUT this has to be very carefully worked out because not all local produce is what it seems and may require extra car miles to acquire it. Be aware that local foods that have been stored over winter may have used more fuel during their storage so that actually to eat an apple from New Zealand may cause a lesser footprint.

When talking to a substantial grower of strawberries at a meeting in Suffolk he told me that the biggest carbon footprint was for the two trays he delivered to his village shop. The ones that left the farm bound for supermarkets on a 40-footer had a comparatively low footprint per punnet - the "last mile" can be expensive.

More info here: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2008/mar/23/food.ethicalliving>

Similarly, there are a large number of local communities trying to stop plastic packaging on their patch; partly to help reduce the carbon footprint, but also - and perhaps more

importantly - to reduce the waste plastic on land and sea which has a devastating effect on wildlife. Here are some figures on carrier bags:

- * 3g CO₂e for a lightweight plastic carrier bag
- * 10g CO₂e for a standard disposable supermarket bag
- * 50g CO₂e for a heavyweight reusable bag
- * 12g CO₂e for a lightweight **paper** carrier bag - if it is recycled
- * 80g CO₂e for a heavyweight **paper** bag as used by many clothing retailers

You can find out more here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-47027792>

So now to the main problem

We are targeting a 3 tonnes lifestyle by 2045. That's **3000 Kg** of CO₂e emissions per person.

The BBC has a news website. At the top level it is pretty much what you can see on teletext but elsewhere there is some good stuff, so today

I recommend you look here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46459714>. Halfway down is a food calculator which, when I entered some of my favourite foods, gave me these results:

- * Beef - one per day (portion of 75gms) - **2,820 Kg** per year (but actually a steak as sold in a supermarket is 225gms) so really 8,460 Kg per year.
- * Coffee - 2 cups per day - gave **311 Kg** (but I drink more than that)
- * Bananas - 1 a day - gave **25 Kg** per year

I nearly gave up at this point because I was so far over the 3,000 Kg limit. But then I went into it further... It turns out that the BBC site gives figures for a very large latte - and, according to Mike Berners-Lee, ordinary black coffee would only have an annual CO₂e footprint of just over 15 Kg and with milk would be just under 40 Kg - so my coffee is safe.

Turning to the beef: also on that BBC site (see pictograms at the end), is information showing the footprint of beef is dependent on how and where it is produced, with European beef production being one of the lowest. In fact, if you use Mike Berners-Lee's figure of 18 Kg CO₂e per kilo of beef, then, having one portion every day works out at an annual footprint of just under 500 Kg per year - much more manageable, and some - possibly all - of my beef is safe. In reality of course, I will not eat beef every day. Other meat is less polluting and vegetable curries are very tasty and especially nutritious if they contain chickpeas.

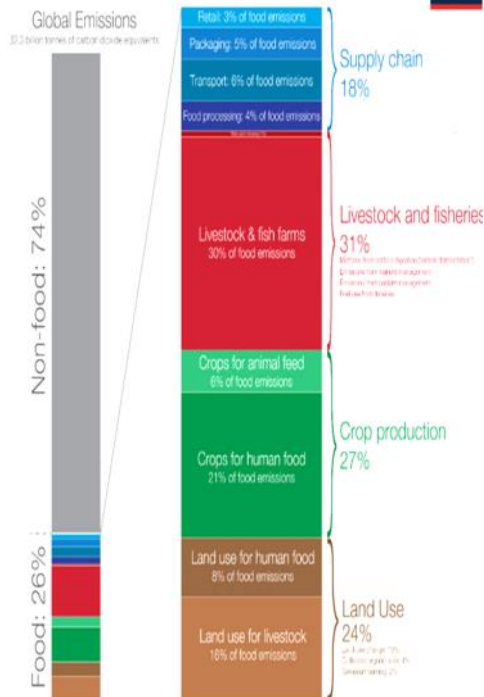
So, what has been learnt from this exercise? Two things, I would suggest:

- a) Local can really be better - in this case with "local" meaning not imported
- b) Check, and check again, the information in these calculators - even from reliable sources such as the BBC. If possible, go right back to the original research to check the figures have been interpreted and presented fairly and not just to sensationalise.

Play with this food calculator and check **your** lifestyle food choices. It will make you think - and is a bit of fun.

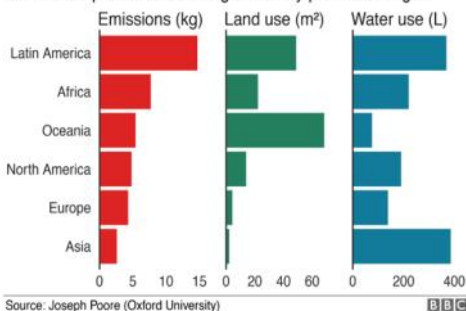
I hope you found this interesting and thought provoking. We still didn't have room to discuss food waste which is thought to be about 6% in the UK which, of course, must be added to the CO₂e footprint.

Global greenhouse gas emissions from food production



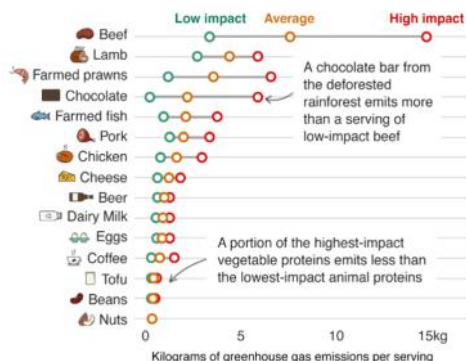
The impact of beef is highest in Latin America

Climate footprint of one serving of beef by production region



Beef has the biggest carbon footprint - but the same food can have a range of impacts

Kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions per serving



Source: Poore & Nemecek (2018), Science

How much of the world's CO₂e footprint is caused by the food we eat?

Two estimates from reputable sources:

This one says about 25% (a quarter).

"When it comes to tackling climate change, the focus tends to be on 'clean energy' solutions - the deployment of renewable or nuclear energy; improvements in energy efficiency; or transition to low-carbon transport. Indeed, energy, whether in the form of electricity, heat, transport or industrial processes, account for the majority - 76% - of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions." From <https://ourworldindata.org/food-ghg-emissions> published November 2019

This one says about 33% or a third.

"The global food system, from fertilizer manufacture to food storage and packaging, is responsible for up to one-third of all human-caused greenhouse-gas emissions, according to the latest figures from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a partnership of 15 research centres around the world". From <https://www.nature.com/> published in October 2012

Dersingham Methodist Church in Lockdown

Elizabeth Batstone

After getting over the initial disappointment caused by the forthcoming lockdown, the Revd Steve Oliver and the church stewards discussed cancelling events, lettings and ways of keeping in touch and supporting each other. We blithely thought we would meet again mid-May to plan re-opening. How wrong we were!

Planned events that needed cancelling, apart from Sunday services, included the very popular Monday lunches, the March coffee morning, fund raising for Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged, as well as the regular events of carpet bowls, communion services, jigsaw club, and Bible fellowship. Lettings to various village organisations also needed to be cancelled. We were also very sorry to have to cancel our annual flower festival held every May, coinciding with the church anniversary. This year's was to be very special, celebrating 130 years.



But most importantly, we need to maintain links within our church family and we are keeping in touch with everyone as much as possible. Easter cards containing Steve's Easter message were ready to give out when lockdown struck, but Marion Kemp managed to deliver them all just in time, and they were much appreciated. The pastoral visitors agreed to phone, on a very regular basis, all in their groups, and this has turned out to be a lovely way to chat, share news and concerns.

We have been producing a fortnightly newsletter, similar to our weekly notices. The newsletter is called 'Keep in touch': it contains news about people, details of lectionary Bible readings, lines of hymns, prayers, stories, and articles from many different people. We have included quizzes, word searches, photos of a previous flower festival etc. The newsletter is either emailed or hand delivered by our 'delivery team' and we will continue to do this until we can all be together again. The newsletter is very popular and people look forward to receiving it.

Many have enjoyed listening to church services on the radio and television, as well as *Songs of Praise*, and, for those with Internet access, the many services streamed from all over the country. Revd Steve Oliver started a gospel hour via the Hospital radio website on the first Sunday in lockdown and this is continuing. He plays requests, gives news of birthdays, anniversaries, and prayers for those who are ill or bereaved. During this time we have lost two of our much loved members – Jean Griggs and Joe Earl. We could not attend their funeral services but hopefully, when possible, thanksgiving services will be held. Meanwhile we give thanks for the very happy memories of times spent with them and their faithful service to Dersingham Methodist Church. We remember their families in our prayers.

We look forward to unlocking the church doors and welcoming everyone in. But we have learnt so much in recent weeks – how important we are to each other; how lovely to hear someone's voice; read something interesting; share whatever the need is; but most of all that God is **everywhere** and he is not confined by lockdown. □

Ingoldisthorpe Village WI
Leslie Geer, President

Who would have thought what could happen in three months, our whole world has turned upside down. The first thing I must say is that I sincerely hope anyone who reads this is coping the best way they can and keeping safe.

As you can imagine, Ingoldisthorpe WI had so many plans for the months ahead - outings, and regular events like Walks and Bowling. Not to mention our village community events - Fish and Chip lunch, Afternoon Tea and our monthly get togethers with interesting speakers.

But not to be defeated, we have found other ways of keeping in touch: chats at the end of the drive, emails and telephone calls, a newsletter which members are encouraged to contribute to and a periodic note from me to make sure no one feels forgotten.

We can be grateful for the weather, which has been kind, and I dare say our gardens have been getting some TLC.

We do not know how long we will be like this. We as a WI are not considering doing anything before September, if then; it will depend on how things go.

Take care everyone..... I do so miss our WI cakes !□



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Sandringham Update

Garry Marsden, Visitor Enterprise Manager

Hello from Sandringham,

I hope that everyone is managing to cope at this difficult time. It has been strange over the Lockdown to see the Country Park completely devoid of people. The wildlife has certainly enjoyed the rest though and it was lovely to hear at times just the birds and the sound of the wind in the trees.



At Sandringham we, like many other places, are slowly beginning to open up our facilities and visitors are beginning to return. One downside to this is the return of litter and now we have a new menace in the way of disposable wipes and latex gloves. I cannot understand why people litter places that they obviously enjoy. It is one of the many tasks carried out by Country Park staff - picking rubbish every day, emptying bins, emptying dog bins, mowing grass, inspecting and managing trees, cleaning toilets and so on. Many of these tasks have been complicated now due to COVID-19 and we have to be so careful that we do not put our staff at risk as they go about managing the site for the safety of visitors.



The verges of Scotch Belt have now been raised to deter people from parking there. I know this is controversial but in the end I believe people will appreciate how much safer and more pleasant the Estate is if it is not covered with cars parked all along this verge. Car park charging will also, by the time you read this, be in place and again I realise this is a big change. The reasons for the charges have been well publicised and you can read about them on our website, but in its simplest form the contributions from parking will go towards maintaining and improving the visitor facilities. Those that take the bus,

walk or cycle will not be charged of course and as part of the upgrade we have fitted some new cycle racks. If you do want to use your car though, just £40 will buy you a season ticket to use the car parks for the whole year, that's 11p per day, and we give other benefits as well which can be read about on the website which is where you are now able to purchase your season ticket: sandringhamestate.co.uk.

During the past month work has been able to resume at the Visitor Centre under the new Government guidelines. The café has been completely re-decorated along with the exterior of the building and gift shop. Kelly, our retail manager, has been working hard to develop a range of unique, quality Sandringham gifts that meet the values with which we are working, like using local and UK producers, sustainability and quality.

As I write only the West Car Park is open for local visitors to enjoy the Country Park for exercise. From 1st June we will open the North Car Park and toilets. The Estate will carefully and cautiously open other facilities as permitted by Government guidelines. Our main priority is to keep visitor numbers at a minimum right now to protect our local community, staff and indeed those people who do choose to visit. Please keep an eye on our website for further updates in the coming weeks and months.

Stay Safe.



Sandringham Parish News

Ben Colson

Parish Council

The Coronavirus pandemic has affected us all and in Sandringham Parish all public facilities remain closed at the time of writing. It is to be expected that there will be a staged re-opening in later June or July but that is currently far from certain, nor will it be clear until then what conditions will be placed on public gatherings.

The Parish Council's AGM which should have been in May was postponed, and in line with emergency regulations it was unanimously agreed by Councillors using email that it should be merged with that in May 2021, meaning that both the Chairman and Vice Chairman will remain in post until then. The ordinary Parish Council meeting which would normally follow the AGM and the July meeting have also been cancelled, but dates have been selected for the meetings from September to next May. These are 9th September, 11th November, 13th January, 10th March and 12th May. All meetings start at 6.30pm and the September, January and May ones will be held at the Sandringham Club in West Newton, with those in November and March at the Wolferton Social Club. These will only go ahead if government restrictions have been changed sufficiently for them to be held. Until the next Parish Council meeting is held, whether in September or later, Parish Council business is still being handled by the Chairman and Clerk.

The main issue that was reported from the last meeting held on 11th March was the *parking, litter and verges* in Wolferton. This got progressively worse during April and May and up to thirty-four cars parked in the Cliff Top car park (which holds about eight) and on the hill into the village were counted one Sunday afternoon. This has led to widespread concern about road safety, blocking of the road to larger vehicles, and more litter. Since then there have been reports of the Village Green being used as a sort of overflow car park for when the hill can take no more cars. It is said that the imposition of parking charges at the Sandringham Visitor Centre is responsible, but in truth the problem of ever more visitors to the Dersingham Bog site, which is a superb walk, was already making parking more difficult, even before the announcement last autumn of charges at the Visitor Centre car park. The Estate and Natural England have held a virtual meeting and we await a plan to resolve the issue.

Since the last meeting was held, the Parish Council has received comments on an outstanding planning application in West Newton, and we had already made our thoughts known to the Borough Council's planning department. We are only allowed to raise formal concerns based on what are known as planning considerations, whereas in this instance they are environmental health issues. It may seem like splitting hairs, and it is, but the planning officers follow the rules and that is what the rules say. A decision on the application is awaited at the time of writing.

Other matters

During the lockdown, a Wolferton Action Group WhatsApp site was established and proved popular with many residents, either to seek assistance or as a means of virtual chatting and keeping in touch. Thanks to the tech generation sister and brother, Jennie and Tom, for so thoughtfully setting it up.

Finally, with building work permitted to restart during May, work on phase 2 to re-roof St Peter's Church at Wolferton is back, up and running again.□

VE Day 75th Anniversary

There were originally plans to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on 8th May with a party in the Village Centre. Needless to say, it was not felt safe to continue with that event, but that did not deter the residents of Dersingham, who held a variety of celebrations in their front gardens, bedecked with flags and bunting.

At the Carole Brown Health Centre a group of Teddy Bears enjoyed a picnic!!



Elsewhere, Sacha emailed Village Voice to tell us about her son, Connor Allibone, aged nine, who dressed up for VE Day celebrations in his World War II replica suit. She reported that he is somewhat of an expert on all things World War II, especially German and British planes. He loves to watch documentaries and listen to the stories his grandparents share of wartime.

On VE Day he put on his uniform and they went for a walk round the village, bringing a smile to lots of people's faces! The Co-op took his picture at the front of the store to put on their Twitter page.

Sacha added that she thought it's nice to see our younger generations acknowledge and take an interest in wartime history.



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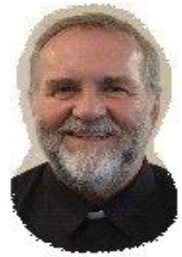
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40a Lynn Road, Dersingham PE31 6JZ



Dersingham Methodist Church

Rev. Steve Oliver



Just a thought...

This coronavirus tragedy has troubled me since it happened; I am troubled over the loss of life; I have also been troubled by my God allowing this in the first place. You see I have no answers to the questions you may be asking yourselves, yet perhaps the answers are within each one of us.

There is no sense to such a tragedy as this but if we search deep within there is a truth that is beyond our understanding; a truth which says God is there, in all the chaos and the hurt and the pain; God is there when all seems hopeless and lost; God is there even when we abandon all faith in his love for his people.

There may be no sense to what is happening, but within the chaos there is always hope. A hope in a world which will perhaps continue its thankfulness for those who care for us; thankfulness for our family and friends; thankfulness for creation which offers us its beauty for free; thankfulness for a God who loves us unconditionally.

Yes there is always hope, but will we learn from all of this? Will the carers continue to know we care; will the homeless still find a home; will the lonely still find a healing hand; will the creation we have found a new love for continue to breathe or will everything we have learnt go back to where it all was?

Below is a poem which asks us to look to today, because what we do today may bring us in the end to a much better understanding of yesterday and a greater hope for tomorrow:-

Look to this day
for it is life
the very life of life.
In its brief course lie all
the realities and truths of existence
the joy of growth
the splendour of action
the glory of power.
For yesterday is but a memory
and tomorrow is only a vision.
But today well lived
makes every yesterday a dream of happiness
and every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well, therefore, to this day.

Loving God, reach out to people, in their sorrow and despair, and grant them help, to rebuild their shattered lives and hopes of a better tomorrow.

Updates from local groups & organisations

Anmer Social Club - Films

Anmer Social Club remains closed due to the government's Covid-19 restrictions. Please visit our website www.anmerclub.co.uk or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/anmersocialclub for updates on re-opening and future events. In the meantime we hope that all our members and visitors will keep well and stay safe and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Catholic Churches

Whilst both of our churches are currently closed, you can find Parish news, Fr Henry's Sunday homily and links to the many live streamed Masses and prayers showing in the diocese on our Parish website. Although technically not able to video the Masses, Fr Henry is still saying daily Masses and praying for parishioners in the church at Dersingham. When the churches are allowed to start public Masses again, notices will be on the doors of both churches as well as on the Parish website:

www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org. The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

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

Dersingham Institute Bowls Club - Jan Rawstron

The lockdown has obviously been a challenge. Our new normal is staying at home with limited access to family and friends. However, many positive things have come out of this period of isolation, with many of our members becoming quite creative. Knitting needles have been dusted off, with new garments just waiting to be revealed once lockdown has been lifted. More inspiring though are the things knitted for various charities. Well done to everyone for your contributions.

Homemade bread and cakes are on the rise (pardon the pun), if you can get the flour and yeast. Spring cleaning has never been so thorough, and gardens never so weed-free. New skills have been learned, with plenty of time available to master them.



But things are definitely looking up. Our bowls green will be open in a limited way from 1st June. Our members will be able to pre-book a one hour session, providing they observe social distancing. A sanitising station will be set up for hands and equipment. We are trying our best to resume some sort of bowling, whilst keeping everyone as safe as possible. Hopefully, by the time the next issue is printed, things will have changed for the better. So, meanwhile, stay safe and healthy.

Dersingham Day Centre

Even though Dersingham Day Centre hasn't been meeting in the Village Centre over the last few months our members have still been very busy. We've been keeping in touch by phone and have learned that members have been quizzing, solving word puzzles, knitting and cross-stitching. We're all eagerly anticipating seeing the fruits of their labour

when we're all able to meet up again. Members and volunteers are enjoying the good weather and those who are able are making the most of their gardens and the glorious countryside around us. In nature we find solace. We remember Dorothy Smalls, Victor Byles and Joe Earl who have sadly passed away. Of course these are unprecedented times and we all miss each other. We're all looking forward to starting our weekly meetings again, but urge everyone in the meantime to stay safe.

"This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes,
Try, as best you can not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.
If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning."

(Excerpt from *To Bless the Space Between Us* by John Donaghue)

Dersingham Methodist Church

Still closed, awaiting further information. Ring 01485 541068 for the latest information.

Girlguiding in Dersingham during Lockdown (by Lynne Wheeler on behalf of all the Dersingham Leaders)

During the last weeks Dersingham's Guide units (Rainbows, Brownies & Guides) have continued to remain active. Optional activities have been e-mailed out to the girls for them to try.

Each section has received a selection of Interest and Fun badges to try at home, and a variety of other activities they can try indoors or in the garden with members of their families or on their own.

The Brownies and Guides were challenged to a virtual camp, where they had to sleep for one night, somewhere other than their usual bed. Suggestions included a tent or den indoors or out or another bed within the home.

The Rainbows were challenged to make a den indoors or out and eat a meal in it.

All the sections invited the girls to join in VE Day Commemorations by going to the "Stories of Lynn" link for their suggested activities.

We hope to resume our normal meetings and activities when the situation allows.

Snettisham Gardening Club

We are sorry to have to advise that the planned Annual Open Show for Saturday 11th July has had to be cancelled in view of the current Government directions on social distancing. We are still hoping to be able to hold a monthly meeting before the end of the year, but are having to wait to see what happens over the next months. In the meantime please call Addie on 01485 544754 or Gail on 01485 541279 for any information, or email gardenclubsnettisham@gmail.com □



Musical Pandemic Pursuits by Steve Davis

Those of us with even the merest indulgence in modern technology have perhaps found it becoming more a part of our lives in recent months as we strive to stay in touch with those who matter to us. New phrases such as *Zoom Meetings* and *Virtual Lockdown Choirs* have entered our vocabulary and a simple search on *YouTube* will yield some amazing performances combined together from individuals recording from their own homes.

As Churches around the world are no longer able to offer their weekly services, many have taken to providing some form of online or other means of worship and outreach, and there is much to choose from, with St Nicholas, Dersingham being no exception. So, with some previous limited experience of video and audio editing and operating under the umbrella name of *StNicksAV (St Nicholas Audio-Visual)*, most of my time has been taken up with editing together our weekly online worship video, having, at the time of writing, just completed our tenth (including an extra for Good Friday). It's been quite a challenge but a very rewarding one as the team involved, including incumbent Revs Mark & Dave, and other readers, preachers, musicians and prayer leaders have each recorded their contributions. You can access all of these 40-60 minute video 'services', from the website: dersinghamonlineworship.com, or simply go to your favourite *YouTube* app (great if you have a Smart TV) and search for "*st nicholas dersingham online worship*" and you should find them.



Now whether you're normally a churchy sort of person or not, it's worth at least taking a look from the comfort of your own home. What do you have to lose? No one need know; no one will know what you're wearing or not at the time; there's no collection and you can always fast forward over the bits you don't like, and you might find it's not so bad after all. None of us are experts, but I reckon you'll see that we've got better at it as time has gone on.

For those without access to modern technology, we do also make up a few versions on DVD and even audio only on CD, all of which are delivered on the Sunday morning along with a copy of our weekly Lighthouse Newsletter. Now, whereas I wouldn't want to suggest that we could cope with a huge increase in demand, if you were interested in receiving one of these, then do please get in touch (see below) and we'll see what we can manage.

These days, there are many apps available for editing videos. I have the latest version of one I've been using since it first came out some fifteen years ago called *Magix PhotoStory*, (magix.com/gb/photo-graphic/photostory). With it, I process and collate the various video and audio contributions that come in each week from the team, together with a few photos and a touch of artistic licence. Although I include a couple of traditional hymns, usually downloaded from *BBC Songs of Praise* videos, my real motivation comes from making recordings of the modern worship songs that I, along with others, would normally give instrumental and vocal lead to at our weekly all-age worship service known as *The Gathering*. One such person I regularly sing with is Melanie Dixon and the challenge for us, like many at present, has been to add our voices and instruments to the mix from our separate Dersingham homes.





At the start of our efforts, I would make a guitar and vocal recording, email the resulting audio (MP3) file to Melanie, who would listen to that on her tablet (using headphones) whilst singing along and recording, just her voice part, into her smartphone before emailing that back to me. I would then combine, align and balance together both recorded tracks using the relatively simple, free Windows Software app know as *Audacity* (audacityteam.org), add a touch of *reverb* to make it sound like we're in a bigger building, mix down the result

and, utilising some *PowerPoint* generated lyric slides, construct a Karaoke style singalong video.

Now, from there we've strived to improve recording quality. Use of relatively low-cost external plug-in mics, rather than the ones built in to lap-tops, tablets and phones, can yield a big improvement for recording music. Some form of multi-track recording mechanism whereby you can listen to one or more tracks playing whilst recording one or more others simultaneously on the same device greatly eases the process too. For tablets and phones, we have found that the (*Android*) *J4T* multitrack (4-track) recording app costing just £3.99 is relatively easy to use. If you're serious though, some form of USB Audio



Interface greatly enhances quality, enabling audio leads from PA mics and musical instruments to be plugged directly into your computer. I've recently invested in a handy little self-contained device called a *Zoom H4N Pro* multitrack recorder, which enables me to make quality recordings away from my computer, doubling as a USB Audio Interface direct to my computer when required together with a few useful audio effects. Now, with some extra attachments to my mic stand, I have a complete recording-studio-on-a-stick that I can easily move around to wherever the inspiration takes me, eg the conservatory!! For the more adventurous there are all manner of elaborate *Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)* app packages to get to grips with. Bundled with my Zoom recorder was a licence to download the so-called *Lite* version of the long established professional *DAW* package *Cubase*.

To me though, *Cubase* does seem rather cumbersome and indeed overkill for what I want to do, so, for the time being at least, I think I'll just stick with what I know with *Audacity*.

Although to begin with our recordings consisted of just my guitar and voice on one track combined with Mel's on another, we pretty soon indulged in doubling up on our voices and instruments till we've become a veritable virtual ensemble – eat your heart out Enya! Well, maybe we've a way to go yet!!

So, what to the future? How long will all this go on? We all say, it'll be good when things return to normal. Of course in many ways it will but, having adapted and learned so much in the process, as folk invariably do in such times of crisis, I think I'd like some new form of *normal* to emerge. Whatever activity it is that you turn to or learn in these times, I hope you'll manage find some new inspiration too.

To discuss anything mentioned, feel free to contact me on **07885 721158** or email: StNicksAV@davista.co.uk. □



Then and Now by Tony Bubb



Taken in the mid 1970s the above view of the Old Hall has changed quite a bit – for the better. Now weed free and with many more windows, the basic structure remains much as it was. Even allowing for the fact that the road is now a bit wider I do wonder why it was built so close to the boundary, with the view from the downstairs bay window being largely of the wall and gates, when it could have been much more interesting.



Breaking the Atlantic Wall

Brian Anderson



In Village Voice 104 I wrote about how the German Enigma enciphering was broken by Bletchley Park (Ultra). Serendipitously, in a later issue I was able to tell Doreen Linford's story of her role at an outstation of Bletchley Park. I am now returning to this topic by looking at other intelligence activities being pursued at that time.

Until the late 1970s intelligence gathering was assumed by most people to involve human intelligence (by which I mean "spies on the ground"), aerial reconnaissance, interrogation of prisoners, deception activities and reconnaissance raids. Then the story of Bletchley Park and Ultra broke and the public perception changed. Now Ultra was everything and the other activities largely disregarded.

The truth is more nuanced. The intelligence community in Britain realised that Ultra was a very powerful weapon. But what if the Germans suspected that Enigma traffic was being broken? Would they seed their messages with false information to mislead and deceive? And what about information that was sent by other means? Thus the other activities were still vital to confirm Ultra's integrity.

I will illustrate this importance by describing one operation that occurred in occupied France over several years, and was conducted in Normandy. When France fell in 1940 it seemed that all was lost. One man had enough self-confidence in his own abilities to believe otherwise: Colonel (or Brigadier-General, depending on which account you believe) Charles de Gaulle. He arrived in Britain on 17th June 1940. Another Frenchman also made this journey: Captain André Dewavrin. He arrived on 21st June. Within a very short time he was interviewed by de Gaulle who made him head of Free French intelligence. André Dewavrin then became "Colonel Passy", the cover name he used for the rest of war.

But what was he to actually *do*? After casting around for some time he came up with the idea of people on the spot. People who knew their own area intimately - road menders, railway workers, transport drivers, doctors, farmers, postal workers and many more. There were still two problems - firstly, how was this network to be established and information and instructions exchanged? Secondly, the consent and help of the British had to be obtained. The second was fairly easy but the first was a problem. Eventually, by agents landed in France by sea or air, a tentative network began to be established. Radio transmitter-receiver sets were supplied as well as all the paraphernalia of spying - information on cut-outs, letter boxes, cell structure, code books. Thus was the network born, code-named *Centurie* (Century). One of its agents working in France was Gilbert Renault ("Colonel Rémy"). He met Marcel Girard who was based in Cherbourg and Caen. Girard assured him that he could supply intelligence for the whole Normandy area. This was what Renault wanted to hear - intelligence on German activities on the Atlantic coast in case the Germans resurrected their invasion plans for Britain or to provide details of the defences when (there was no "if") the liberation of France began.

Girard knew at least one important contact - Eugène Meslin, a Government engineer, who had the authority to travel almost the whole Normandy coastline in order to supervise non-military projects. This was promising but Meslin pointed out that there were some areas that even he could not get to. Girard said he needed to cultivate those who were recruited by the Germans to work within the forbidden zones. Somewhat reassured, he began to recruit a small network of agents.

But before we get onto that we should note that in 1942 Hitler ordered the fortification of the Atlantic coast. If nothing else, this signalled the end of the threat of the invasion of



Atlantic Wall Strongpoint

buffoon who produced reactions of affection, irritation and respect in roughly equal measure. He was constantly working on ways to penetrate the forbidden zone. Then in May 1942 his opportunity arrived. He tendered for a minor repair job at the *Todt* Organisation headquarters in Caen. (*Todt* was a huge Nazi organisation responsible for an extensive range of civil and military projects in Germany and the occupied nations. It was notorious for its use of slave labour). He secured the contract and was told to wallpaper an office. He agreed to return with some pattern books. When he returned the officer in charge spent some time poring over the books. Then they were interrupted by a clerk carrying a pile of large sheets of paper. The officer placed them on a desk and continued looking at the wallpaper samples. Then another interruption - this time the officer left the room. Duchez looked at the pile of paper, then very gingerly lifted a corner. The sheets were blueprints - blueprints showing in great detail planned fortifications along the Normandy coast.

Duchez immediately saw an opportunity and a problem. Here was a chance to obtain the German plans for the defence of the coast. But how was he to remove them? He had only the pattern books with him and the map was quite large. He noticed a large ornate mirror on the wall, suspended so the lower edge was in contact with the wall and the top canted away. He took the top copy and slid it behind the mirror just before the officer returned. A pattern was agreed and the officer said he would arrange for the furniture to be moved out. No, said Duchez, he could move the furniture to the middle of the room and cover it with dust sheets.

On Wednesday 13th May 1943 Duchez returned and started work. When he'd finished the job the map, concealed in his wallpapering equipment, went with him. Century copied the map and by a rather involved route, it arrived in London. MI6 were not as enthusiastic as might have been hoped. Was the map genuine? Or a plant to mislead? When the Germans discovered its loss would they just change their plans? Century's response was immediate - they would make their own map. This map would check the stolen one as well as providing reconnaissance in depth, identifying likely landing grounds for gliders, inland minefields, telephone cables, ammunition dumps and the like. This task was

Britain - Hitler was now more concerned about an invasion *from* the west. The project was named *Atlantikwall* (Atlantic Wall). Parenthetically, the German allocation of code names was remarkably incompetent. Along with *Freya*, a radar system named after a Teutonic goddess who could see a hundred miles by day or night, and *Unternehmen Seelöwe* (Operation Sealion), it told the Allies exactly what the operation was about.

To return to Normandy: One of Meslin's agents was a painter and decorator named René Duchez. He was regarded as a bit of a



René Duchez

steered by Robert Thomas, a young cartographer based in Caen who recruited a team to translate information from agents onto maps. Although the Germans had seized as many maps in shops and offices as they could, Century was able to find enough to cover the whole of Normandy at different scales. At the peak, about 200 agents were reporting details: people such as Jacques Sustendal, a doctor with a pass that allowed access close to the coast; or Arthur Poitevin, a blind music teacher considered harmless by the Germans but who paced out the fortifications and remembered the distances. Church towers offered opportunities; inland defence works were mapped; in some cases even the calibre of artillery was recorded.

There was a large operation forging identity papers coordinated by Odette Duchez, René's wife. She paid dearly enough for this - she was arrested and tortured and spent the rest of the war in Ravensbrück concentration camp. René escaped by the skin of his teeth.

So clearly there were huge risks. Mistakes, raids, radio transmission interceptions and betrayals cost Century dear as the Gestapo penetrated cells and networks. They were aided by a collaborationist organisation recruited from pre-war French fascists and criminals called the *Milice française* (French Militia) who were especially dangerous as they understood dialects, colloquial expressions and French culture. In Normandy the *Milice* was led by Lucien Brière whose activities were becoming an increasing risk to the Century networks. In March 1944 London ordered the assassination of Brière. The task was led by Arsène Fernand. Brière often boasted that he was safe enough as he wore a bullet-proof vest. It didn't save him. The assassination team caught him in the open and shot him twice in the head and neck. Fernand remarked later that he'd never seen so much blood. The body was photographed and the photo sent to London.

There were other Century networks along the French coast. The most significant was around the Pas-de-Calais. Reports and maps from there showed that the Atlantic Wall fortifications were much stronger than in Normandy. This was confirmation of what Ultra had already assumed from code-breaking - the Germans were expecting that any invasion would use the shortest route across the Channel. From this point on every effort was made to make the German High Command continue to believe this as preparations continued for D-Day in Normandy.

As the map-makers continued their work, other Century members, conscripted by the Germans to work on the Wall, began to befriend *Todt* and *Wermacht* engineers. Over convivial glasses of Calvados they teased out details of the fortifications - how deep were the foundations of the blockhouses? How thick were the walls? They also recorded the unit numbers of the troops and their morale and fitness. Some of this was known to Ultra but it was useful confirmation. Century was also able to ensure that at least some of the cement provided was substandard.

On 1st June 1944, the BBC began to broadcast a long series of messages to France: *Les fleurs sont très rouges...La boussole pointe vers le nord...John a une longue moustache.* The invasion is imminent. On 5th June the messages changed: *Les dés sont sur la table... Les longs sanglots des violons de l'automne.* The invasion is starting.

Century members now had a new role - sabotage and ambush. The meticulously mapped telephone lines were cut, disrupting German communications and forcing the use of radio transmission which could be overheard in Britain and deciphered by Ultra. All the effort and exposure to danger was now paying off. The Allies were ashore and moving inland.

René and Odette Duchez were reunited after the war. The strain had been too great for René and he died a few years later. Odette died in 2005.□

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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny



The Aldertons

Previously in Village Voice I have been writing about the Alderton brothers. Philip was killed in 1941 and it says on the write-up by the British and Commonwealth War Graves Commission that his parents, Herbert and Ellen Alderton, lived in Dersingham, Norfolk, England. His brother was killed in 1944 and it says in the report that his parents and his wife Edna were living in Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand. What I could not understand was how did these members of his family get to New Zealand in the middle of the Second World War. Herbert Edward Alderton, the brothers' father, born in 1871 at Kenninghall, died at Dunedin, New Zealand, and was married to Ellen Maud (Gent) of Wolferton. Herbert's father, Philip Alderton, was born at Scole; Herbert's mother, Eleanor Alderton, was also born at Scole. Ellen was born at Wolferton in 1882; Ellen died at Balclutha, Otago, New Zealand. Ellen's father was John Gent, her mother was Elizabeth Gent.

The 1881 census shows the Alderton family living in 'The Cottage', Snettisham, next to George Daw, a butcher. The 1891 census shows they were still living at Snettisham, with no address, and with Mr Alderton as a Post Office assistant. In the 1901 census the family were living at 'Lodge Cottage', Snettisham, with no job shown for Herbert, his father Philip as a groom and gardener for the estate, at another address shown as Park Lane, Snettisham.

From 1904 until 1908 Mr Alderton was the landlord of the Alexandra public house at the bottom of Station Road, Dersingham. Then the family lived at another address in Station Road, where Herbert was a job master - a keeper of a livery stable who rents out horses and carriages by the month. The children of Herbert and Ellen Alderton were Philip, born 1908, Amelia, born 1910, Arthur, born 1911, Frederick, born 1912, Douglas, born 1918 and Marie, born 1919.

Herbert sailed on 13 August 1923 with all the family from Southampton on *Rotorua* (New Zealand Shipping Co) to Wellington, New Zealand. The Master of the ship was Mr J.L.B. Hunter. Herbert's first job was given as land worker.

Philip Alderton, private 20th battalion New Zealand Infantry, died in action on 27th November 1941, and was buried in Knightsbridge war cemetery, Acroma, Libya. Before the war Philip was a poultry farmer living at Signal Hill Road, Dunedin. His next of kin was Mrs E.M. Alderton (mother), 26 Harbour Tree, Dunedin.

Frederick Alderton, private 26th battalion New Zealand Infantry, died in action on 17th March 1944 at Cassino, Italy. His next of kin was Mrs E.D. Alderton (wife), living at 662 Castle Street, Dunedin. Before the war Frederick was a window dresser.

On 27th July 1946 Herbert Alderton, aged 73, arrived in London from Auckland on the *Northumberland* (New Zealand Shipping Co). He then visited a house at Ingolside, Snettisham.

Albert Alderton, lance corporal H.Q. 8th field company, lived at 132 Mill Road, Whangarei, was a garage attendant/mechanic, and his wife was Mrs A.N Alderton. Douglas Alderton, sapper 21st equipment company, was a farm worker and lived with his mother.

It looks like the dates that are given for the Alderton family are incorrect as the whole family went to New Zealand from Dersingham on 13th August 1923, whereas the report by the British and Commonwealth War Graves Commission says they were still in Dersingham in 1941 but in New Zealand by 1944. The War Graves Commission has done reports on thousands and thousands of dead through both World Wars, so it is no wonder they make a mistake or two.

This new date of 1923 explains why Frederick and Philip and the other two brothers joined the New Zealand army. I cannot find Philip's nor Fredrick's names on any memorial in New Zealand, but they are on the Dersingham war memorial on Linford's Corner as they were both born in Dersingham.

It looks to me that when the Alderton family moved out of the Alexandra Inn in 1908 to 'Gableville' further up Station Road, Herbert became a jobs master. Herbert's father Philip and his father-in-law at one time had both worked on the Sandringham Estate. When the family got to New Zealand Ellen Alderton had another child, born in 1926.

I would like to thank Bernie Twite and Mandy Styles for their help with this article.

The great ladybird plague

On Monday 12th July 1976 it was a really hot and cloudless day in Hunstanton, and then it happened. The great, spotted, scarlet plague hit West Norfolk with a vengeance; Hunstanton was under siege as swarms of ladybirds invaded The Wash coastal resort. Unless you were there, as I was, you could not understand how bad it was. They were everywhere: in your food, your drink and in your hair; if you wore something yellow it was even worse as the ladybirds were attracted to that colour; and if you had your windows open then they got in the house and in your bed. The ladybirds descended upon Hunstanton about midday on the Monday. Everyone said they would go away when the tide went out but they did not; they kept on coming until the Thursday evening.

On the Friday morning all of the live ones had gone, and so had most of the holidaymakers as most of them had packed up and gone home, as no matter where you went you could not get away from them. A lot of shops, especially restaurants, cafes and public houses, and all of the ice cream kiosks on the promenade had to shut. Then the great task of cleaning up began. There were dead ladybirds everywhere, millions and millions of them. In the gutters they lay six inches deep and the council workmen were shovelling them up into black sacks. Even after two weeks you could still find them in nooks and crannies around the house. Then some bright spark on the council realised that the colour they were most attracted to was yellow. So along came two council workmen and they painted a yellow line all the way along the edge of the promenade, and if the ladybirds did come to Hunstanton again they would settle on these yellow lines and could be swept back into the sea. The ladybirds must have got to know about this as up to this very day they have not been back to Sunny Hunny,

Sherborne and West Newton pubs

A gentleman asked me if Sherborne ever had a public house. I said 'Yes', and so did West Newton. Over the years the public house at West Newton had three different names. It started off as the 'Tunns' in 1789, then it was called the 'Three Tunns', and at some time it was called the 'Three Feathers'. It is shown on Bryant's map of 1826, and in 1835 it is listed as a farm, brewery and premises. I cannot find it mentioned as a public house after 1875. When the building was purchased by the Prince of Wales in 1883 it was modified to be used as a members only club. As far as I know this was the first club on the estate and the rules about being drunk on the premises were very strict. No wines or spirits were to be sold in the club and the first time you were found drunk you were suspended for one month, the second time you were suspended for six months, the third time banned for life.

The name of the public house at Sherborne was 'The Bull'. As far as I can make out it was opened in 1790; the first landlord was Mr Andrew Williams. Part of the Bull was also a village shop for many years. There were six landlords over the years and in 1883 Mr George Hooks took over. From 1900 Mrs Jane Hooks was the landlady. In the Lynn Advertiser on 15th November 1907 it was reported that King Edward VII had gifted 'The Bull' to the village of Sherborne to be a members club. Mrs Hooks was to be the caretaker

and Mr C.R. Bullard of Shernborne Hall was the secretary of the club. Sandringham Estate closed the club down round about the year 2000.

Dersingham Commons

I was pleased to see an article in the Village Voice by Elizabeth Fiddick saying that some work will be done on the Open Common, the twenty-five-odd acres of the fen nearest to the village, and the Shut-up Common. There is only one problem - the work is thirty years behind time. It should have been carried out in 1990 after the by-pass was opened. The Open Common needs very little doing, just the birch trees taken down on the top of the common around the old search light base. The trouble with the fen can also be solved easily. As I have said many times before it only needs controlled burning. If this were to be done in October or November there would be little danger to the birds and other wildlife.

The Shut-up Common is the biggest problem; it started to get overgrown by birch trees after a lot of the allotments were closed down. When all of the five allotments in the village were being used, the allotment holders would go on the Shut-up and take the small branches for pea sticks and the trunks were used as bean sticks and to make trellises for their roses to grow up. A lot of the birch was used for firewood. Some of the people in the village would cut the brakes (bracken) to litter their pigs down or put on their potato clamps. On the Shut-up the birch trees need taking away to right up past the old cycle track and all the way down on the northern side of the stream (if they can find it) and as far down as the Eight Mile Stone corner.

Well that's it for now. They are rough times we are going through so take care of yourselves. All the best from the boy Dick, Sunny Hunny.□



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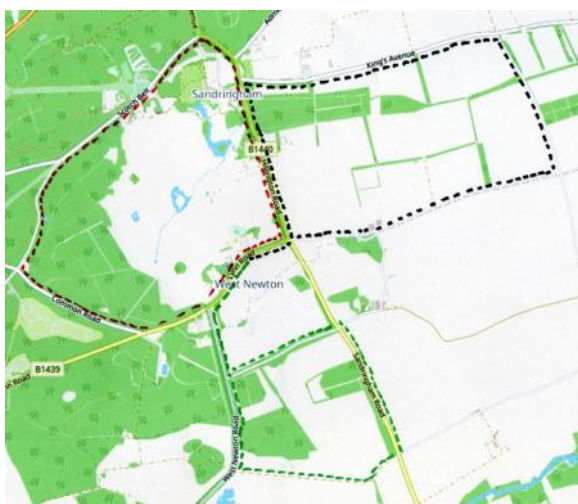
Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb

Whilst there are no organised walks arranged for the foreseeable future this does not mean that we cannot go for a walk by ourselves. Here are three pleasant walks, all starting at West Newton for ease of parking, around the Royal Estate. Each is about 3 1/2 miles and is on roads and tracks. Now, although these roads are probably familiar as we drive along them from time to time, when walked they take on a new, less familiar nature. We did them after dinner when there was even less traffic around making for a very pleasant experience, but they can be enjoyed at any time.

The first (red) goes around the house and grounds. The second (green) goes south past Victoria Cottages and turns along The Drove and the third (black) goes up King's Avenue – note the lack of apostrophe on the road name sign – turns down a bit of the Icknield Way and returns past the Water Tower. Of course you can go round either way and thus get six walks for the price of three.

Happy walking ☐





St Nicholas Church
Rev. Dave Cossey
Curate of the Dersingham Benefice
(Anmer, Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe and
Shernborne)



One week after the introduction of nationwide lockdown St Nicholas Church made a concerted response to the new challenges we were facing by launching our new 'online worship' website. This has enabled people both near and far to continue to engage in worship through our computers, smartphones and televisions.

As a church we felt considerably challenged to explore early on in the process what church might now look like in a time when we are no longer able to meet together in person. Much of what the church does has rightfully been expressed through face-to-face community-based expressions of worship. Naturally, some elements of this have sadly had to be paused for the time being. However, through experimenting with different approaches we were pleasantly surprised to discover that many elements of our worship services have continued to be able to be practised through a new form of online worship.

Through some creativity, plenty of hard work, and many of our team exploring and learning some new technical skills, we have been able to continue to engage with many elements of a church service, including sung worship, prayer, teaching, and more besides.

We also have had access to statistics for the website that show how engagement with the content has seen both a high level of take-up and also a steady increase week-on-week of new worshippers. In a time of social distancing and the difficulties that come from this, we have frequently received many encouraging and grateful responses, both from local residents and even from those further afield - including some from far across the world!

Of course, we do deeply miss meeting together in person and we trust that when the time is right that we will once again return to worshipping together face-to-face. However, we are also encouraged and excited by this successful venture into online worship and the overwhelmingly positive reception that has come about because of the combined efforts of our online worship team.

You too are invited to join us! Whether you have regularly attended church in the past, or if you've never stepped foot in one before – you are most welcome to join with us.

New services are available each Sunday morning, but all previous services can also be watched after the fact, so there are services that you can return to and engage with at your own leisure. Please do join us at www.dersinghamonlineworship.com.



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A moral tale from Tony Bubb

An old Doberman starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost.

Wandering about, he notices a lion heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.

The old Doberman thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep trouble now!"

Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat.

Just as the lion is about to leap, the old Doberman exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious lion! I wonder, if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this, the young lion halts his attack in mid-stride, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees.

"Whew!," says the lion, "That was close! That old Doberman nearly had me!"

Meanwhile, a squirrel, who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the lion. So, off he goes.

The squirrel soon catches up with the lion, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the lion.

The young lion is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!"

Now, the old Doberman sees the lion coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?," but instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old Doberman says.....

"Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another lion!"

The moral of this story...

Don't mess with the old dogs... Age and skill will always triumph over youth and enthusiasm.□



Dersingham Gardens

These are some of the gardens that would have been on view as part of Dersingham Open Gardens at the end of May. Here's what we would have seen! But it is very much hoped that the event will now take place in September.

Jane Jestice

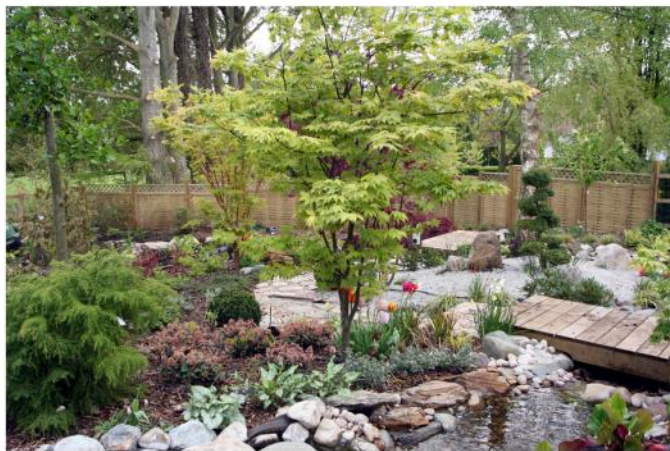






Here are before and after shots of Tony Bubb's garden, where a tree demolished his fence. Its replacement is now planted up with fruit trees.







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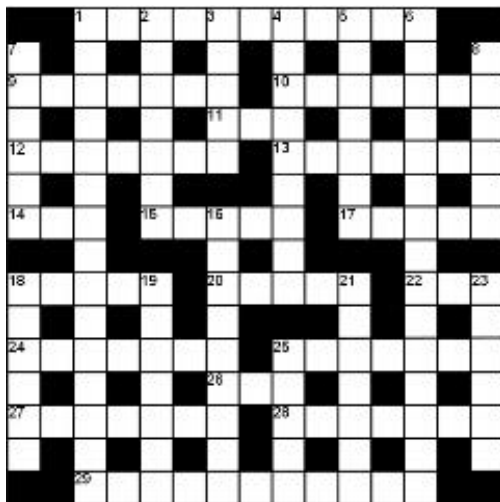
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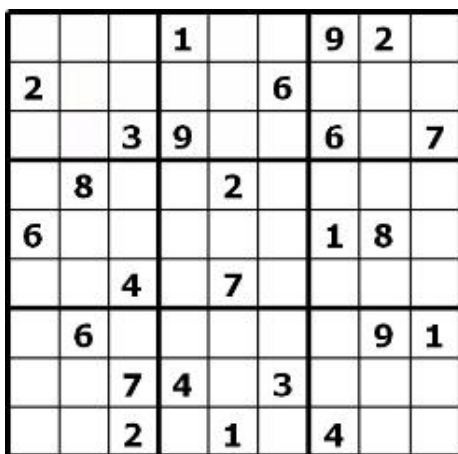
- 1 Bribes support worker at 'Queens' from Federer maybe (11)
 9 Butler in subtle lesson (7)
 10 Signor Tom returned to musical academy of rodents (7)
 11 Flock of pheasants hatched from many eggs (3)
 12 Dish enjoyed by the famous Akabusi (7)
 13 Grill family vegetable (7)
 14 Initially spring popular always for first formula fans (3)
 15 Heather in charge in this period (5)
 17 Small queen wearing germanium fabric (5)
 18 Strip off around 3rd August to make it lighter (5)
 20 Lock rests unlocked (5)
 22 Fish ten k. upstream (3)
 24 Plug-and-play in road Pat negotiated (7)
 25 Broadcast USA roar across the sky (7)
 26 Everything still remains after top of barrier collapsed (3)
 27 U.S. serviceman hosts mixed tidal number display (7)
 28 Band Aid seen and played sweetly (7)
 29 Tea and stew cooked around society in these directions (4,3,4)



Down

- 1 Harry tried a rum bangle here then vanished into thin air (7,8)
 2 Egyptian pop group caught returning brassica (7)
 3 Longing to be surrounded by laughing carnivore (5)
 4 Door sign not applicable to Euro politician deceased (9)
 5 Supremo working in four (4,3)
 6 Bottle corks strewn around roadside in the south east for example (11,4)
 7 Surfs made a mess-up at sea (6)
 8 American national certificate of education gets you into commerce (6)
 16 Bury Baba in area among other things (5,4)
 18 Antiques Roadshow in grounds featuring 'Z.Z. top' (6)
 19 Gallery enclosed by suffix holdings (7)
 21 Swimmer located in sandier ground (7)
 23 Papers found in south eastern interior (6)
 25 A boy working around northern islands (5)

Sudoku





From your Ward Councillors Tony Bubb and Judy Collingham



As we write it is the most wonderfully sunny, bright day. Whatever Lockdown has entailed the weather has certainly made it more bearable.

From 1st June Council panel meetings – notably Planning – will commence online via Zoom video conferencing. The public can “attend” via YouTube and notification should be/has been forthcoming in the media. Your comments and input can then be emailed to the relevant panel members. It is not perfect but the best that can be managed in order to maintain appropriate distancing. At the time of going to press we have no direct experience, of course, of how this actually will work in practice.

We continue to wrestle with what our communities will look like post the worst effects of the Coronavirus. How to encourage people to engage safely, how to ensure that our theatres and public spaces can continue to operate? There are of course no easy answers, but we will do our best as your Council to ensure that facilities reopen and re-function when safe to do so.

Car parks, toilets and other public facilities are open and in Hunstanton, and increasingly in other seaside venues, extra hand washing facilities have been installed. So far it would appear that our beach resorts have coped reasonably well, but it is true that some folk are not adhering to Government guidelines. This is a pity when so many have done their best to keep this virus at bay. Let us keep vigilant and support our health and other public service workers, not forgetting all those in the supply chain who have kept the supermarkets stocked and enabled us to at least eat well during this time!

Our best wishes to you all for good health and well-being.

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

COURSE	HASTINGS	ROMNEY	BOARD
HANGER	LUNDY	MAN	DOVER
SANDWICH	WIGHT	RICHARD	HAYLING
MICHELMORE	ISLANDS	HYTHE	FARNE

The Great Blow

Liz Fiddick



It was June 14th 1645 when Cromwell's New Model Army completely routed the Royalist forces at Naseby and virtually brought the Civil War to an end. A few cities in the west held out for a while but finally all were forced to submit. The King escaped from Oxford but his plans to negotiate with the Scots for their support came to naught and he was handed over into the custody of the English Parliament. However, it was a very uneasy peace that followed. The victors were completely at odds with each other. Parliament itself was deeply divided and the reforms it had enacted were not popular among the people. There was much discontent with the social order in the rank and file of the army and from Cromwell downwards there was increasing distrust with all ranks in Parliament. The tension grew steadily until Cromwell, going against the authority of Parliament, ordered the King be removed from their custody, placed under his control and escorted to London, under guard, to house arrest in Hampton Court. Anxiety was further heightened when rumours circulated about the demands being made by the army which went far beyond anything contemplated so far. Republicanism was in the air. The King was so alarmed when he received a letter threatening his life that he escaped from Hampton Court and fled to the Isle of Wight where he was imprisoned in Carisbrooke Castle.

So, by 1648 England was an unhappy, divided country. This uneasy peace was nowhere more apparent than in Norwich, which had been a very lively city in the decades before the war. On Guild Days, when the Mayor rode in procession after his election, there were pageants, masques, and sideshows everywhere. The streets were decorated, while strolling players, tumblers, freaks, and singers provided entertainment for the crowds who could indulge in the plentiful supplies of food and drink. Christmas was another festival that was celebrated with much gaiety as well as reverence. But all this had been swept away by the Puritans in Parliament. In 1645 an order was given that there were to be no sermons or communion on Christmas Eve and that all shops should open as usual. Discontent among apprentice boys and artisans had grown more vociferous. They had listened to the countless tales told by the older generation of the rare old times they had enjoyed and everyone was beginning to resent the austere times they were forced to endure. Sympathy for the King was mounting and Royalists began to take heart once more. As John Utting, the Mayor elected in 1647, was known to be a man of moderate opinions, the apprentices gathered in Castle Yard to petition him that the festival of Christmas should be allowed to be celebrated as in the past. As soon as this became known the Puritan faction immediately insisted that a far more thorough reformation was needed. They demanded that the Mayor should strictly enforce all of Parliament's Ordinances. They pointed out that there were many images in churches that had not been destroyed, and a crucifix still adorned one of the Cathedral's gates. When Utting ignored these demands, the Sheriff, Thomas Ashwell, rode to London to complain to Parliament. As a result, on April 22nd an officer arrived with orders to arrest the Mayor and escort him to Westminster to face charges. As the citizens of Norwich regarded the Mayor as the safeguard of all their rights and privileges they swore an oath to support him.

On Sunday 23rd, with rumours circulating, angry crowds began to gather, shouting abuse at the Puritan Aldermen and threatening to hang the Sheriff and the Officer on Castle Mound. The rumour that there were plans to take the Mayor away in secret spread like wildfire, so the infuriated crowd locked the city gates and hid the key. By midday the crowd, many now armed, moved en masse to the market place and a password "For God and King Charles" was agreed. One of their leaders shouted that if they allowed the Mayor to be taken away a Governor would be imposed on them, as had happened in King's Lynn, and they would all be tried by martial law. The Mayor

tried to calm the crowd, assuring them he would not be taken away and begging them to go home. The crowd slowly dispersed but gathered again on the Monday in even larger numbers on Chapel Field before surging back to the Market Place. The Government Officer was lodging at The King's Head and a rumour flew amongst the crowd that he was about to depart with the Mayor in custody. Although the Mayor tried to calm the situation the crowds yelled that they would "Pluck the Roundheads out." Meanwhile, a few more responsible citizens persuaded the Officer to leave without the Mayor. They managed to smuggle the terrified man out of his lodgings and escorted him a few miles from the city gates from where he hastily made for Westminster.

The crowd was now attacking the houses of the leading Puritans, especially that of the Sheriff, smashing his windows, breaking open doors and searching for arms. As Captain of Militia the Sheriff had a considerable number of weapons which men now handed through the windows into the eager hands of the protesters. Others discovered his store of beer, brawn and pies which were soon consumed. Many more houses were attacked and additional arms were distributed to add to the array of pitchforks, clubs and sticks already carried. Looting and destruction continued apace as the situation grew more and more serious. For poorer citizens and some apprentice boys it just seemed like a glorious holiday when they could shout for the King, break a few windows and drink all the beer they could find.

However, help had already been sent for. A body of cavalry at East Dereham, commanded by Charles Fleetwood, was alerted. When around 3 o'clock the rioters heard that troops were on the way this made them even more determined to resist, but they realised more weaponry was needed. It was known that not far from St. Peter Mancroft Church, in what is now Bethel Street, was the HQ of the County Committee which contained its store of arms and ammunition. The mob surrounded the house and the few guards, taken unawares, hastily locked the doors and barred the windows. One guard fired his musket through a window killing a young boy. This first loss of life, and such a young one, infuriated the rioters who immediately stormed the building and removed muskets, pistols, swords, pikes and armour. They ransacked the building, showering bundles of documents into the street. At the height of this mayhem the first troopers arrived and up and down St. Stephen's Street a confused crowd of Royalist rioters and Parliamentary troops fought. Reinforcements for the soldiers arrived as more and more arms were looted from the Committee House. Loading and firing seventeenth century firearms involves coils of "match" and a good deal of loose gunpowder. So the powder barrels from the cellar were brought up and broken open. Gunpowder spilled everywhere. One rioter described afterwards how he had filled his hat with gunpowder that he had swept up from the stairs. Another rioter was seen "very busy with a lantern in his hand." It was inevitable that the heat of such a lantern would eventually make contact with the scattered gunpowder and so reach the powder casks in the cellar.

There was an enormous flash as ninety-eight barrels of gunpowder ignited and with a tremendous roar blew apart the entire Committee House, devastating the whole area. Over a vast distance windows were shattered, roofs blown off, ceilings brought down, leaving many people injured and dying beneath the rubble of their houses. At St. Peter Mancroft and St. Stephen's Church all the stained glass windows were badly damaged or completely destroyed. It is not difficult to imagine the chaos that followed as frantic efforts were made to help the injured and rescue those trapped. A later Parliamentary report put the death toll at forty souls with a greater number severely injured.

The investigation of the affair was carried out by the City Magistrates over many days. They took countless statements from troopers, rioters and independent witnesses who gave graphic accounts of their experiences. From these the magistrates committed many to trial. They were mostly small tradesmen and artisans who had been swept along with

this unplanned demonstration, but they were now charged, not just with riot and looting, but more ominously with murder. They were imprisoned in the Castle until brought to trial on Christmas Day. Nine were acquitted, and twenty-four were fined £30 and made to stay in prison until the fines were paid. The eight men considered the ringleaders were condemned to death and hanged in the Castle Ditches on January 2nd 1649 alongside two old women convicted of witchcraft. As for the Mayor, John Utting, he was at first confined to his house in Brandon Parva, but was eventually brought to trial where the worst construction was put on all his actions. He was fined £500 and imprisoned in the Fleet Prison for six months.

April 23rd 1648 has since that time always been known as the day of "The Great Blow".

Norfolk in the Civil War R.W.Ketton-Cremer



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Can a garden be a work of art?

Lesley Nadel, North West Norfolk Arts Society

"Fine art is that in which the hand, the head and the heart of man go together".

John Ruskin

Conceptual art is intended to elicit a reaction from the viewer, can the same be said of conceptual gardens, which are being increasingly showcased at our Flower Shows. RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show appears to have attracted the biggest mainstream audience than any in the past. Conceptual gardens have been designed to demonstrate, for example, the tension between culture and nature, with themes to represent the disruptive effect of homophobic abuse on our society and the experience of depression.

Cleve West, gold medals winner at Chelsea Flower Show, says "I used to think that landscaping was the ultimate art form, but now I'm not so sure. Conceptual gardens are probably the nearest we can get to art, in that they side-track nature to focus on a feeling or a theme without always relying on plants".

"You need artistic talent to be a good garden designer. The best gardens are a successful composition: a series of shapes, forms, colours, textures that work in harmony. Often, the actual drawing might be considered much more a piece of art than the finished garden itself".

Conceptual gardens are intended to get a reaction from the viewer which is as much about the abstract artwork as the materials with which the garden is made. A philosophical debate to follow. But we know that gardens mature and change. Is it still the same art form when the flowers have seeded and the lettuces have bolted?

Art invites critics and there are many out there ready to give their opinions. Would art critics be equally as cautious about criticising gardens? The late Brian Sewell said, "you dare not say anything about the garden, or the motor car, or their clothes. My advice is for God's sake, stick to the status quo. Otherwise no one will send you any Christmas cards".

Not all gardens are works of art but then not all paintings are works of art either, but who's to say? And should only conceptual gardens be considered works of art? The critical art forum, Thinking Gardens, (thinkinggardens.co.uk) believes criticism and analysis vital to help any art form evolve. Critics have found that their criticism is not always readily appreciated. However, many years ago, the garden writer Anne Wareham wrote a critical review on the fascinating, eclectic East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden ⁽¹⁾ here in Norfolk in the RHS journal and there was a shocked response.

Can we use sculpture in our gardens and consider our garden as an art piece? Look at the designs of the 17th and 18th century gardens that can be viewed as places of intellectual stimulation as well as places of great beauty. Statues and classical allusions were positioned in key positions to remind us of our moral weaknesses, temptations and frailties of the human flesh.

Should any aspiring garden designer not think of the garden as an art piece, but regard the art being in the process not in the finished piece? Cleve West again "I've often thought that David Hockney's garden in Los Angeles was about as close as it gets to a work of art as it had all the hallmarks of one of his paintings. Barbara Hepworth's garden in St Ives also benefits from the artist's work".

Perhaps when visiting gardens and even when in our own, we should begin to see them with our minds as well as our eyes.

The North West Norfolk Arts Society normally meets regularly throughout the year at Sedgeford Village Hall. For further information visit our website www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk or telephone our membership secretary Felicity 01485 210891.

⁽¹⁾ The Arts Society North West Norfolk has had to cancel its visit to East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden in June due to COVID-19. It is hoped to rearrange for 2021.□

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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Backhanders. 9 Parable. 10 Marmots. 11 Nye. 12 Mousaka. 13 Pumpkin. 14 Spa.
15 Erica. 17 Serge 18 Barge. 20 Tress.
22 Koi. 24 Adaptor. 25 Auroras. 26 All.
27 Digital. 28 Aniseed. 29 East and west.

Down

1 Bermuda Triangle. 2 Cabbage. 3 Hyena.
4 Nameplate. 5 Euro MPs. 6 Stockbroker
Belt. 7 Spumes. 8 Usance. 16 Inter alia.
18 Beards. 19 Estates. 21 Sardine.
23 Inside. 25 Aland.

Word Wall Answers

Cliffs: hanger, Richard, Michelmore, Dover

Cinque ports: Hastings, Hythe, Romney, Sandwich

Sandwich board, ... course, ... Islands, ... man

English islands: Farne, Lundy, Wight, Hayling

Sudoku Answers

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

Dersingham WI

Maggie Guest

Obviously, we have not had any meetings, nor do we expect to be holding normal WI meetings before September and we will be reviewing the situation regularly and following government guidelines. However, we are not just sleeping!

Stephanie, our President, soon sent round a letter giving us useful information on deliveries in the village. She found volunteers to get food, prescriptions, etc for any older members who are alone and in need of help, including dog walking. Our hard-working President sent us instructions to make masks (*see below*). Wendy has been doing a monthly quiz with answers the following month. Alison has been doing a free monthly raffle with numbers being allocated and drawn, then she gets her exercise walking round the village with prizes. Stephanie also carried out a phone interview to send in to Village Voice (*see below*).

What have members been doing? I managed to get photos taken by family of Roma knitting, Sharon out with her new dog and Lyn doing a Skype dance class with her teacher Peg. I know a lot of people have been gardening in the lovely weather and no doubt they are now watering to keep the plants alive. We hope to meet in the autumn at St Cecilia's Church on the 3rd Wed of the month at 7.15 pm, but that depends on government guidelines regarding groups meeting indoors.

Stay safe!



A phone interview by our President Stephanie with one of our original members, Joan Schorah

How long have you been in the WI? **57 years**

Where did you grow up? **A Yorkshire farming village near Selby**

What is your favourite day out? **Visiting the North Norfolk coast, Burnham Overy Staithe particularly**

What do you love about Norfolk? **Glorious sunsets over the sea**

What do you hate about living here? **Nothing**

What is your favourite restaurant/pub? **Obviously my grandson's pub The Wellington at Feltwell**

What is your favourite Norfolk landmark? **The colourful cliffs at Hunstanton**

What would be your specialist Mastermind subject? **I am a Master of absolutely Nothing**

If you were an animal/bird/insect, what would you be? **A cheery Robin, always a welcome sight and sound**

What is your favourite film? **Mamma Mia**

What is your favourite song? **I Did It My Way by Frank Sinatra**

What was your first job? **Secretary with a firm of accountants**
What was your last job? **School Secretary for 25 years!**
What is your most treasured possession? **My dog**
What is always in your fridge? **Milk**
What is your favourite meal? **Anything with good friends and wine**
What is your favourite tipple? **Gin and tonic**
What is your biggest indulgence? **Lazily getting up from a bedroom filled with sunshine, listening to Radio 4 and enjoying coffee in bed**
What is your earliest memory? **Throwing my dummy into an open fire and knowing that was the end of it**
What did you like best at school? **Home time!**
What did you like least at school? **P.E.**
Who do you admire most? **My daughter for her amazing ability to stay positive despite a life-threatening illness. She is always on hand helping others cope**
What six people, alive or dead, would you invite to dinner? **Victoria Wood, Sandy Toksvig, Clare Balding, David Attenborough, Simon Reeve and Ken Dodd**
What do you like most about yourself? **Ability to empathise and get on well with most people**
What do you like least about yourself? **My intolerance**
What is the best thing anyone has ever said to you? **I'm a very loyal friend**
What is your favourite holiday destination? **Tenerife**
What was the best day of your life? **My Wedding Day**

Simple Face Mask

NB - These face masks are designed to prevent you from spreading the virus, not from catching it.

They should be washed at 60 degrees after each wear. My husband informs me that all domestic hot water systems are set to 60 – 65 degrees, but if you are not sure a boiled kettle will do the job!

You will need 100% cotton fabric, a tea towel will work well. If you have a new one, wash it first to get rid of the starch. You will also need approximately 2 x 11 inches of elastic.

Cut two rectangles, 10 inches by 7 inches (Picture1). I used a cotton quilting fabric for the outer layer and a softer muslin/cheesecloth type fabric for the inner layer. If you use a tea towel, two layers the same will be fine. Or you can just use the tea towel fabric for the inner layer.

Place the two rectangles together, with the outer layers facing outwards. Turn the two longer edges in by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and then by another $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Pin and tack. If you don't have a sewing machine, you can sew the edges with a back stitch. Remove tacking (Picture 2).

For the shorter edges, you will need to make a wider hem for the elastic. First turn in $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and catch the edges together (Picture 3). This will make it neater when finished, but you can leave this out if you want. Then turn $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and pin, tack and stitch as before. You will then have an open channel to thread the elastic through (Picture 4 shows the channel with a large knitting needle threaded through to illustrate).

Thread the elastic into a large darning needle and feed through one of the side

channels (Picture 5). Repeat with the other side. Fit to your head and knot the elastic securely, trim the end of the elastic and gather the sides of the mask to shape it (Picture 6). If you want you can put a couple of stitches over the elastic to hold it.



Greenfinch LM Williams

The pandemic is showing us how local the planet really is and how connected we are to the lives of others.

This page is dedicated to all the NHS workers and the carers; to those who have died and those who have lost loved ones; to those who are still suffering the illness and to those who have recovered; to those who are working in essential services – especially our local food shops and retailers, chemists, postal workers, food growers, delivery drivers, binmen, cleaners and utilities workers; to the many neighbours who are helping their neighbours; to the foodbanks and food donors; to the children and young people, their parents and teachers; to the elders, the shielding, the volunteers, the behind-the-scenes miracle workers, and to everyone in our community who has stuck to the rules and made sacrifices for the greater good. Thank you. Your life is precious and is remembered. □



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Forthcoming Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

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

Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
No 125 (Aug 20/Sept 20)	Monday 6th July 2020	Monday 27th July 2020
No 126 (Oct20/Nov 20)	Monday 7th September 2020	Monday 28th Sept 2020
No 127 (Dec20/Jan21)	Monday 9th November 2020	Monday 30th Nov 2020

Advertising in Village Voice

More than 2,500 residential and business properties in Dersingham, West Newton, Wolferton and Sandringham receive a copy of Village Voice with another 600 available to subscribers, businesses and shop counters. It is also available online from our website at dersingham.org.uk. Do please support the services advertisers provide and mention where you saw their advert. Our advert prices are £22.20 for an eighth page, £34.20 for a quarter, £66 for a half and £132 for a full page. Discounts available for block bookings paid up-front. These prices include VAT. Full details and booking forms can be obtained from the Parish Office or email: villagevoice@dersingham.org and returned together with payment by mid-day of the copy deadlines given above.

Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice

These should be emailed directly to the Editor:

villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk or posted to **The Editor, % Dersingham Parish Council Office** (address below), ideally well ahead of the above copy deadlines to stand a better chance of inclusion. Available space for articles is governed by both the physical limitations of the publication as well as the revenue required from advertising. We like Village Voice to be special for our primarily Dersingham readers, so articles should try to be customised accordingly and not just part of a round-robin press release to all local publications. Dates of forthcoming events mentioned must take place after the publication dates listed at the top of this page. Items/flyers purely to advertise non-profit making events should aim to fit (and be readable) within a quarter page slot. We hope you will provide photos/graphics/logos etc to accompany promotions or articles. Digital pictures need to be 300 dots per inch and preferably JPEG. **Please send photographs and logos as separate files, and not embedded in an email. For text files Word documents are preferred.**

The Editor reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Any contributions will be accepted on the understanding that, unless requested otherwise, names, addresses, etc, may be included and maintained on the Parish Council's database. Published material will also appear on the Parish Council website. Copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor and the Parish Council do not necessarily agree with any opinions expressed, or the accuracy of statements made, by contributors. □

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Are you (or is someone in your community) feeling lonely or isolated?

There is **FREE** support that could help!

Operation No Cold Shoulder is a year-long project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund running in your area from April 2020 until March 2021 and is offering the following free support;

Free Creative Wellbeing Packs

Provided by Creative Arts East for people aged 18+

A series of postal packages containing creative arts activities to try at home, including music making, crafts, movement activities and more!

No prior experience is needed.

Call Lea or Sydney on 019953 713390 or email lea@creativeartseast.co.uk



Free Telephone Befriending

Provided by Age UK Norfolk for people aged 60+

Offering people aged 60 and over friendly conversation by telephone from a dedicated befriending volunteer. We call weekly for an enjoyable and stimulating chat.

Call 01603 785 223 or email befriending@ageuknorfolk.org.uk



Free Befriending Support in West Norfolk

Provided by West Norfolk Befriending for people aged 60+

Matching isolated older people age 60 and over with a volunteer befriender who can contact them on a regular basis (by phone during lockdown) – supporting socially isolated older people and their carers in West Norfolk.

Call 01553 763500 or email info@wnbefriending.org.uk



Would you like to help lonely or socially isolated neighbours?

The project is offering free support for communities who would like to set up Good Neighbour Schemes in their area where volunteers help those most in need in their neighbourhood with practical support.

Free help to set up Good Neighbour Schemes

Provided by Community Action Norfolk (CAN)

Step-by-step support, advice, a resource pack and funding support to help a scheme get up and running along with ongoing advice and support including an option of online training sessions.

Call Tracey on 01362 545024 or email

tracey.allan@communityactionnorfolk.org.uk





Stay safe