

Number 147

April/May 2024

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



Congratulations for everyone at the school for achieving a "GOOD" on their Ofsted report. I always enjoy reading about what the children are doing; it always seems much more interesting and imaginative than in my school days.

It is now early March as I'm writing this, and I'm itching to get outside to a beautiful sunny day, daffodils and other bulbs poking through, ferns emerging and about to unfurl, the magnolia about to burst into flower, and the few crocuses that have escaped the birds and the muntjacs. We've renewed our efforts to keep out the "munchjacs", barricading every conceivable gap in the hedges and putting up internal barriers. Our trail camera is now pointing along the drive as that seems to be the only way in. No sign of it there, yet a big beastie still appeared in the garden. More camera work needed, I think.

As you may have been reminded, 6th June marks the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy during WWII, which led to Germany's eventual defeat. In Coral Shepherd's article she asks whether any of you have memories, either your own or from other family members, about the build up to that day locally. We would love you to share your memories with our readers in the next edition of Village Voice.

Inside you will find details of a variety of events coming up in the next couple of months: Making Gardening Easier are taking a trip to Wyken Hall Gardens, Dersingham Choir will entertain us with songs from the sixties, the Methodist Chapel holds its annual Flower Festival, there are films at the Village Centre, Wolferton has announced a grand plant sale, some more walks are planned for our keen ramblers, and dates have been announced for when the RAF Heritage Centre at Bircham Newton is open. I'm particularly looking forward to Mark Capron and others abseiling down the church tower!!

In between exploring what's coming up, you will find articles from our regular contributors, including another poem from Lorna, and Elizabeth Fiddick's latest piece of historical research on Manor Road.

We are always looking for more material to publish in Village Voice. So do send in items, whether it's memories of village life, photos, a good recipe, a short story, a poem, whatever you'd like to share. Send to villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk. □

Dersingham Day Club

Bridget Risebrow

The Day Club resumed on January 4th following the Christmas break. On March 13th members enjoyed Banjo Man entertaining us. On March 27th it was the turn of Four Steps to Heaven. We are looking forward to Nick Mosley coming to see us on April 17th. A dinner has been arranged for April 3rd at the United Services.

We have been lucky to welcome four new members, but still have space for more. If you are interested, please contact Maggie Langridge on 01485 532264 or Wendy Raby on 01485 544975. □



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Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



In the last edition of Village Voice I commented about the amount of rainfall that we had experienced. I don't need to say that the rain has continued to fall and this February has been the wettest on record. Whilst some roads and gardens have been flooded, I am pleased for us all that we have not had any serious problems of houses or businesses being flooded or roads being impassable for extended periods. My own garden has become even more waterlogged and I look forward to some drier weather.

I would like to repeat what I said last month about the ditches, dykes and culverts that take water draining from the hills to the east across the village and eventually out to The Wash. So that little stream or ditch in your garden comes from somewhere and goes somewhere. It is vital to keep these water courses free of debris to help reduce the risk of flooding; they should not be used to dump rubbish and garden waste.

After careful consideration, the Parish Council set the precept at the end of January - this is the amount of money in your Council Tax bill that Dersingham Parish Council needs to provide services to you all. Like everyone else we have been affected by increasing costs, and to be able to maintain our services we have had to increase the precept. However, it is still below the amount that was charged in 2018.

Over the last year the Parish Council has replaced several aged streetlights, and we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Borough Council to enable us to do this work. This spring we will be looking again at our streetlights to assess further maintenance work. We are also in the process of renewing our village cleaning contract (keeping the dog bins, litter bins, bus shelters and benches clean and also cleaning the children's play equipment and the skatepark), and later in the year will be renewing our grass cutting contract. Other work in the pipeline is the repainting of the village sign at the southern entrance to the village, replacing our website, and relocating the goal mouths on the Recreation Ground.

Finally, a couple of dates for your diaries. On Tuesday April 23rd we will be hosting the Annual Parish meeting. This is not a Parish Council meeting, but it is a meeting for everyone in the village to come and ask questions of the Parish Council and to make comments. We will be arranging a speaker and will be providing refreshments. If you are interested in the village and its future, please do come along. Further information will be available closer to the time on the noticeboards and the village Facebook page.

The second date is 6th June. This is the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings that led to the end of the Second World War the following year. I have been looking into the contribution of Dersingham and found that the village and its surroundings were used to conceal tanks and other vehicles that were used in the landings. If you have any memories, either your own or from other family members, we would love you to share your memories with our readers. Please email us at villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk or drop them into the Parish Council office at the Village Centre. To commemorate the anniversary we will be hosting a fish and chip supper (it is also national fish and chip day) and beacon lighting at the Village Centre. For details of the supper see the poster elsewhere in this edition. The event starts at 7.30pm and the beacon lighting will be at 9.15pm. □



News from Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne, DVCA Chairman

Save The Dates

Saturday, June 22nd - A musical evening to celebrate Midsummer.

Sunday, July 21st - Table Top Sale and Café

Saturday, October 19th - Barn Dance and Hot Supper

Sunday, November 17th - Christmas Fair and Café

Tuesday, December 31st - New Year's Eve Supper and Dance

Note, these are events that the Association are organising or are involved with, and more details will follow.

Coffee Shop

On Thursday mornings, we catch up with our regular customers and extend a very warm welcome to visitors.

On offer are very reasonably priced home-cooked quiche, cakes, hot and cold drinks, and great banter with our baristas. Tapping House take over on the first Thursday each month, with a slightly different menu, and the proceeds support the vital work carried out at the Hospice.

Friendship Lunches

On the first Tuesday each month, we serve a freshly cooked two-course meal, with tea or coffee, for just £7.

In April, the lunch will be on April 9th, and the menu is Supreme of Turkey, Chicken and Gammon followed by Rice Pudding. Booking is required. Call 01485 540644 by noon on the *Thursday* beforehand and also advise us of any allergy or dietary needs.

Village Cinema

April's film show is *Wonka*; chocolate treats will be available to enhance your enjoyment! May's film is *One Life*, the true story of how Sir Nicholas Winton enabled the evacuation of Jewish children from Czechoslovakia.

For more information about the Centre and what goes on, visit our website www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk where you can sign up for regular updates. We have a Facebook Page and also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group. Event posters are displayed in various locations around the village; we are grateful to local business for their support.

If you have any questions about the Centre, events and activities, or bookings, please call our landline, 01485 543195. An answerphone is in use, so leave a message with contact details and someone will get back to you.□


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Butterfly report for 2023 - a tale of two transects

Brian and Yvonne Anderson



This article is unlike previous butterfly reports, as we walked the Snettisham Coastal Park transect for the first time and had no access for a good part of the season on the Dersingham transect because of the construction of the Elizabeth Way along the route. We were also somewhat limited by time as we moved during the year.

The Snettisham transect

Most readers will recall the devastating wildfire that burned a great deal of Snettisham Coastal Park on July 19th 2022. The transect walker at the time had completed six visits before the fire, but the recording had to be abandoned for the remainder of the year. The end-of-year report for all Norfolk transects said that the transect might have to be abandoned "perhaps for some years". We objected on the basis that it would be useful to map the recovery of butterfly populations on the site. Unfortunately, the previous walker had decided to do another transect so there was no one to walk it. So we volunteered.

The transect route runs from Beach Road along the inner sea bank before dropping down to the sandy area between the two banks, then runs back along the outer bank to Beach Road. This last section was unaffected by the fire and the vegetation was undamaged. Our first visit was on 2nd February - just to get an idea of the damage after a winter of weathering. In general, grasses and reeds had either escaped burning or had recovered. Perennial herbs were recovering, especially Nettles, Sow-thistles, and Cranesbill and Storksbill species. Hawthorn scrub was badly burnt, as was Sea Buckthorn. Brambles were recovering well.



Snettisham transect

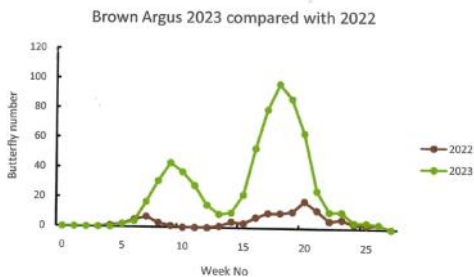
We were aware that any changes we saw in the butterfly populations did not necessarily result from the fire, so our observations were cross-checked with the results from the forty or so transects currently walked elsewhere in Norfolk. National data were also considered.

We made a total of eleven visits over the season, just enough to reveal some trends.

Blues and Coppers

Both the Common Blue and the Brown Argus significantly increased in number. This matched the trend for the other Norfolk transects. Nationally, as shown by the Big Butterfly Count, the Common Blue declined. Butterfly Conservation reported a significant increase in Brown Argus numbers everywhere within its range. On the Snettisham transect the Brown Argus increased from 0 in 2022 to 53 in 2023. The graph shows the 2022 - 2023 comparison for Norfolk. We suggest that these numbers result from the widespread presence of the caterpillar foodplants - Bird's-foot Trefoil for Common Blue and Common Storksbill for Brown Argus. So, even if there was widespread mortality in 2022, a rapid recovery in 2023 was likely. The results for the Small Copper are different - there was an 85 percent drop in sightings, despite it being commoner on the other

Norfolk transects. In this case the foodplants are Sheep's or Common Sorrel and this plant was very uncommon at Snettisham, which may provide an explanation for the drop.



Brown Argus Norfolk records 2022-23

Brown Argus

Whites

Small and Large Whites showed some changes, probably unrelated to the site, as these are butterflies of the wider countryside and can easily fly in. Green-veined White and Orange Tip numbers were down. The main foodplant of the caterpillars is Garlic Mustard, which would grow better in the unburnt area so there is no obvious link to the wildfire.

Browns

This is the most complex area, as all the species' larvae feed on grasses: some fine, some coarse, some in tussocks. some in the shelter of hedges. Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers increased in number both at Snettisham and in other Norfolk transects. Ringlet numbers dropped significantly - 82 percent down on site, 30 percent down elsewhere in Norfolk. The drop is probably because of the drought conditions in the summer of 2022. It is known that Ringlets do best when the previous summer was warm but damp. Wall Brown numbers were stable. Speckled Woods are uncommon on the site so no trends can be inferred. The Small Heath numbers dropped by over 90 per cent on site, whereas there was a general increase in the rest of Norfolk. Small Heath caterpillars feed on fine grasses in open grassy areas and many would have perished in the fire. They are also affected by drought, though to a lesser extent than the Ringlet.

Aristocrats

All these species (eg Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma) are strong-flying and would be found irrespective of conditions in the previous season.

Overall, we were heartened by the resilience shown by most species after such a catastrophic event.



Dersingham transect 2022



Dersingham transect 2023

The Dersingham transect

You may recall that in last year's report we expressed concern that the path was to be closed to upgrade it as part of the Elizabeth Way. The work was supposed to be completed by February 17th 2023. In the event, there was no public access until June, although we were allowed access a couple of times (and made two other visits).

We consulted the County ecologist and were able to secure some modifications to the plans, in particular the provision of more caterpillar foodplants. When the path was reopened it was much wider than before and a new surface had been laid. We waited to see what effect the disturbance had on butterfly numbers. The first few visits were not promising. It wasn't until 17th May that we saw our first butterfly. And it was 7th July that numbers were in double figures. But then numbers improved rapidly - on 20th July we saw 107 butterflies across twelve species. Numbers remained high for some weeks and then there was a very slow tail-off into autumn.

The late access to the route meant we missed the Orange Tips almost entirely, as well as the spring brood of Green-veined Whites (this was compensated for by a healthy emergence of the autumn brood). Speckled Woods were well down, but we did miss the spring brood. Gatekeepers increased substantially - this was the case across Norfolk, but nationally numbers fell. There was a small decline in Meadow Browns and a large one in Ringlets, probably because of the drought conditions mentioned above. The standout finding was the huge increase in Red Admiral numbers from 29 in 2022 to 124 in 2023. Small Whites also increased very substantially.

We were able to record for only half a season so the real test of the changes will come in 2024.

Other sightings

Red Admirals and Small Whites were common everywhere. The last we saw was a pair basking in the sun on the wall of our new house.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Robin and Sue du Bois and Lisa Jones for the submission of records, Jenny Murray and Chris Selby for assistance on one of the transect walks, and Alan Dawson (of the Norfolk branch of Butterfly Conservation) for help and advice. □



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From Your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



The weather has presented challenges for everyone living in the Borough and for the first time we are seeing localised flooding in villages and towns. The water table must now be so high that even moderate rainfall is causing ditches and culverts to overflow. We have been in discussion with Dersingham Parish Council for Norfolk County Council to undertake a general overview of drains and ditches which, judging by the water pouring out of the ditch around St Nicholas Church, to name but one area, is well overdue. Residents with ditches at the end of their gardens are reminded once again to keep them clear, or contract help to do so.

It is shaming and depressing that vandalism led to weed killer being poured on the sports ground. This land belongs to Sandringham and is leased to the Parish Council who in turn lease it to the Sports Ground Association for a peppercorn rent. Users are therefore fortunate to have the use of this extensive and beautiful ground and it is beyond belief that anyone would wish to compromise the surface. Those responsible might like to think how best they can make reparation.

Council budget setting is on the agenda for next full Council, and we shall be judging how it lines up with corporate objectives. This is a difficult time for small businesses (or indeed any business of whatever size) and the job of legislators is to balance tax take against creating a vibrant economy and welcoming culture in the Borough.

The excellent Lynn Museum currently has a splendid exhibition about the Moon with models, moon rock and even some conspiracy theory material. This runs until September 15th but is free until the end of March. Well worth a visit.

Don't forget that the Borough Website has easy to use pages to report litter, fly-tipping and dead animals, etc. If you see something like this, please report it. □



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News from Dersingham Bog **Matthew Lonsdale, Natural England**

Spring has arrived on Dersingham Bog, and we look forward to putting down our power tools (for the majority of the time) and getting into some more surveying and monitoring work to see if the work which we've carried out over the winter period has been successful in helping to maintain or increase the populations of many of the specialist species that spend the breeding season on Dersingham Bog.

Many birds that are residents during the winter, but in smaller numbers or keeping a low profile, such as Mistle Thrush and Stonechats, have suddenly started to become more obvious as they take on higher perches and start singing. Many birds also start to move in from the surrounding farmland, such as the breeding Woodlarks and Marsh Harriers, who have also started singing and displaying from their territories across the Bog. Stonechat numbers have also increased as they are some of the first migrants to reach Dersingham from further south and have also started setting up territories across the site. They can easily be seen from the trails as they like to perch out in the open near the paths, calling and singing regularly.



Barn Owl with vole

All our practical work has now been completed so as not to disturb birds during the breeding season. This has included finishing ryteching (specialist cutting equipment) on the slopes and tops of the heaths to develop a heathland with heather of all different ages, as well as areas of bare ground as feeding sites that species such as Woodlark depend on. We try and do this every year but have increased the time spent doing it this year to increase variety on the heathland. All the scrub work has also been completed on the heaths, Bog and in the reedbed at the eastern end to maintain the habitats and stop pioneer species such as pine and birch from overtaking these habitats that are part of the designations for the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). Other work we've carried out is to try and limit the spread of the long pond onto the bog by stopping the wave action, using bundles of brash and coir rolls, as well as clearing some areas for preparation for

bracken rolling at the end of the summer.

We will be continuing with our array of species' monitoring this breeding season, with bird monitoring conducted through a Common Bird Census of the site, which is split into three sectors for this survey, as well as species specific surveys for species such as Woodcock and Nightjar. We will also be conducting Butterfly, Dragonfly, Moth and Bumblebee surveys. So, we are looking forward to monitoring these species and hopefully showing our work paying dividends.

We have a great team of volunteers that help us carry out all the work that we do on Dersingham Bog and our other reserves, and we were sad to say goodbye to Conor and Luke who, on a shared partnership with RSPB, helped us carry out our winter work plan. Conor was also here throughout the previous summer. He is now moving on to work on the Plovers in Peril site at Heacham with the RSPB, and Luke to be assistant warden at Fair Isle bird observatory. We're still looking for volunteers for the summer, especially to help conduct our Nightjar monitoring, as well as our practical volunteering days. If you're interested, please get in contact at matthew.lonsdale@naturalengland.org.uk □

Dersingham Task Force

Dennis Weatherill

By the time you're reading this edition of Village Voice, spring will have well and truly sprung after a very wet winter. The amount of water in the soil is delaying the start of our activities, as it is for every gardener and allotment holder. We have been continuing to meet throughout the winter, but purely socially over tea and scones at Thaxter's.....we may be reluctant to pick up our spades and hoes to do some proper work!

One of our members, Kate, has dug out some pictures from 2015 when the Dersingham Task Force was presented with a Community Award by King's Lynn Town Mayor. It shows our founder, Sue Eastmure, receiving the award, together with founding members of the Task Force. The award quoted our ethos, which is still valid today, twenty years after Task Force was founded.



"All these tasks are undertaken amidst friendship, cheerfulness and many discussions putting the world to rights and a sense doing their bit for their village."

So, if you share this ethos and would like to join us, please contact Dennis Weatherill on 07482 913399 or denzilweatherill@gmail.com, you would be made very welcome.□



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Sandringham Parish Council

Sandringham Parish Council had its February meeting at West Newton Village Hall on 14th February. Matters arising at the meeting were:

1. *Wolferton 30 mph speed limit:* The Highways Agency has agreed to undertake a feasibility study funded by Sandringham Estate. Location of signs was agreed - located east of the junctions of Station Road/Rectory Road, Church Road/Rectory Road and at Marsh Farm.
2. *Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Memorial bench* is now in place by the railings at the junction of Church Road/Rectory Road. The bench is based upon the Isle of Bute design, and so has a curved seat and back rest. It was made by local company, Wrought Iron & Brass Bed Company, using a 3D CAD system, laser cut and powder coated. The oval gravel base and siting has been provided by Sandringham Estate. It is situated at a lovely location overlooking Wolferton, The Wash and the Lincolnshire coastline.
3. Representation was received from parents of children who catch the school bus at Station Road/Rectory Road junction, Wolferton. Representation was for a *disabled bus stop*, matching those in West Newton and Sandringham. It was agreed that the idea should be costed, and planning regulations researched.

Date of next meeting: 7.00 p.m. 8th May 2024 at West Newton Village Hall. All welcome. As pointed out by a member of the public attending the meeting, Parish Councils are the basis of British parliamentary democracy. And I think it was Churchill who once said, 'Democracy is not perfect, but it's better than the alternative.'□

Stephen Thompson
Chairperson
Mobile 07956 638313

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Wolferton Village News

Social Club

These are the dates for bingo at Wolferton Social Club for April and May.

CASH BINGO

Sunday April 7th: Doors open 7:00pm. Eyes down 8:00pm

Sunday May 5th: Doors open 7:00 pm. Eyes down 8:00pm

PRIZE BINGO

Tuesday April 16th: Doors open 6:30pm. Eyes down 7:30pm

Tuesday May 21st: Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7:30pm.

Wolferton Grand Plant Sale and Coffee Morning (with homemade cakes) will be held on Saturday 11th May 2024 on The Green, Wolferton.

This event will open at 10am to raise funds for St Peter's Church, Wolferton and St Paul's Church, West Newton. Please visit for your bedding plants, shrubs, vegetable plants, herbs, perennials and much more □



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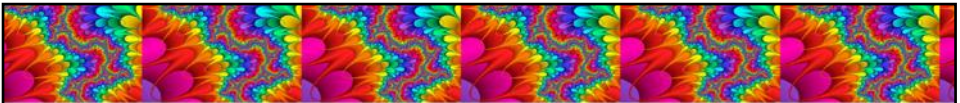
Margaret Ponder

This year we have welcomed several new people to Phobbies, but we still have room for more if anyone is interested.

We meet every Thursday to enjoy the company of others and to try our hands at different craft projects. These include painting, paper crafts, knitting, sewing, crocheting and rug making. This year we are taking part in a West Norfolk-wide project called **The Chatty Chair Project** where we will decorate an old chair and later display it in King's Lynn, as well as other venues, in June. Several other groups around West Norfolk are taking part. We have an old chair and will start sanding it down when the weather picks up and we can work outside. We will tell you more in the next magazine, but if you fancy helping do come along.

If you think you might be interested in joining us or helping to run the club, come and visit us between **10.00am and 2.00pm any Thursday** at the Social Club on Lynn Road, or contact **Maggie on 07967 799816**. Even if you wouldn't want to come regularly you are very welcome to just come and visit.

We have a stock of handmade items for sale, including blankets, baby clothes, gloves, hats, gifts etc. Drop in any Thursday between 10.00am and noon to see what we have.□



Dersingham Choir are excited to present two free concerts in April
'Bangles and Beads'
- a spectacular collection of hit songs from the 60s.

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Volunteering with Children in West Norfolk

Andy Keyse, IV Ambassador for West Norfolk

For the last six years I have been volunteering as an Independent Visitor (IV) for the Norfolk Independent Visitors Service. This is a Norfolk County Council funded statutory service run by children's charity Coram Voice.

I have found the role really rewarding, if sometimes challenging, but overall great fun. One day a month, usually at weekends, I spend a few hours with my young man who is sixteen now. Among many other activities, we have visited historical sites around King's Lynn, been to the beach at Hunstanton, crabbing at Wells, visited the pantomime and of course eaten at McDonald's. We have a great deal of fun and I return from each visit feeling uplifted.

Sadly, many children who grow up in the care system face a chaotic and challenging time. Their social workers may change, foster care placements can break down and they can be moved from school to school. This would be difficult for any child to handle, but for children who have already been seriously failed and harmed by adults, it creates a downward spiral which progressively erodes their trust in adults, their confidence in the world around them - and their future life chances. Studies have shown that having just one consistent, trustworthy, supportive adult in their life can change that trajectory completely; someone the child can look up to, rely on, depend on and turn to for advice, for comfort, and even to share a joke or celebrate an achievement. Someone who knows them well and remains in their life unflinchingly through good times and bad. That single, stable presence in their life could be an Independent Visitor.

As well as these studies there are many testimonies from the young people themselves saying how important their IV has been in their lives. One of these begins: "Independent Visitors are really important for children and young people in care, not just because they make sure we get to go out and do interesting things, but because for us, spending time with them can be the one time when you don't feel reminded you are different."

We are currently looking to recruit new independent visitors. Post pandemic, volunteering has hit an all-time low and we are really struggling to recruit new volunteers to the role, so much so that we now have over forty young people on our waiting list including several in West Norfolk. Full training is given, and a lot of care is taken in matching an IV with their young person. Out of pocket expenses are paid for mileage and activities.

If you would like to find out more you can email me on keyseaj@gmail.com or visit the Coram Voice website <https://jobs.coram.org.uk/vacancy-details?v=165588>. □

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This year's ecumenical World Day of Prayer, held at St Cecilia's on Saturday 2nd March, was very well attended. This year the theme of "I beg you, bear with one another in love" which had been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine was very relevant and moving. Thanks go to all who were involved with preparations and for all volunteers on the day.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with flowers or refreshments, etc. Please contact the parish office if you would be available to help with any of our parish events.

Our Lenten Alms contributions this year are going to 'Aid to the Church in Need', who are working closely with Christians in Iraq, Syria and Gaza.

On Friday 23rd February at OLSE, Hunstanton we had a Mass and Buffet lunch in celebration of Fr Michael Stokes' 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Our next parish event is an international lunch to be held on Saturday 6th April in the Garnet Room, Hunstanton at 12.30pm. Please see weekly bulletin or website for more details.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2pm and there is also a Mothers' Prayers group which meet at 2.30pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE.

The Pope's prayer intention for April 2024 is ***For the role of women***; we pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world. The Pope's prayer intention for May 2024 is ***For the formation of religious and seminarians***; we pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

If you would like to be on the distribution list for the weekly bulletins straight to your inbox, please send your email address to hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk. Also, if you are a new parishioner, there is a form in both church porches to fill in your details to welcome you to the parish. Feel free to ask if you can't see them.

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

Please contact the Convent direct about daily Masses there on 01485 532837. For Parish news including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the **Parish News** page on our website. For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters see the **Links** page of our website at www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.

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

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org **Email:** hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk **The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.** If you require a Priest urgently, please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email parishpriest763@gmail.com



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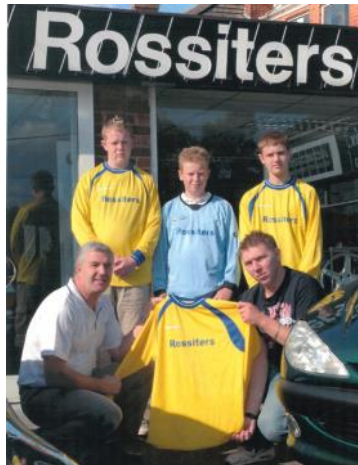
Finale for Rossiters Garage... Chris Rossiter

It is with a degree of trepidation that I write to let you know that as from May 1st 2024 Rossiters Limited will be closing. Having started in 1984, after forty years I'm ready to retire and focus on many other ambitions in my life.

Over the decades, through both car sales and our AC Schnitzer programme, we've made many friends and had wonderfully loyal customers. That's what I'll miss more than anything. I've also been blessed with fantastic staff over the years, most of whom stayed for long spells...indeed Richard (Asker) has been with me for nearly twenty-five years! I always aimed to present a relaxed, no pressure atmosphere and to that end I like to think that both customers and staff were able to feel rather homely and comfortable here.

I want to thank all customers, whether recent or historic...no matter how long ago! Customers, suppliers and friends are invited to pop into the Dersingham showroom on 26th or 27th or 28th April (9:00am to 4:00pm) when we'll be providing refreshments.

A few photos from the past: On the left - awarding prizes for a colouring competition at our exhibitor stand at Hunstanton Lions' Northwest Norfolk Motor Show in 1990. Next to it is a celebration of a successful season for the Dersingham boys' team in 1995. Below was when we sponsored the kit for the Dersingham team.□



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Making Gardening Easier May Davey



We held our AGM and a talk by Ash Murray from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust on 15th March. A report will be in the next issue of Dersingham Village Voice.

On 19th April our outing is to Wyken Gardens. The old Manor House is surrounded by a fascinating garden with herb and knot areas leading into an old-fashioned rose garden, which is flanked by a pergola and old flint walls. Beyond this is a wildflower meadow, a beech maze and a traditional orchard and kitchen garden.

The vast majority of the garden is wheelchair accessible. Wyken has been developed over the last forty years by Kenneth and Carla Carlisle and is now an RHS partner garden.



The coach will leave Dersingham from outside the Co-op at 10.45 am and from South Wootton Village Hall at 11.00 am.

The subsidised cost of £25 for members and £27.50 for guests includes the coach, entry and tea.

Members are asked to bring their own picnic lunch which can be eaten in the gardens. There will not be an opportunity to buy lunch at the gardens, but tea will be served from 2.45 pm.

If you would like to book a place or to know more, please contact Gloria Pantling, 35 Grimston Road, South Wootton, King's Lynn, PE30 3NR. Telephone 01553 671912/07570 262766 or email gloriapantling@btinternet.com.

On 17th May, William Haire from Easton College in Norwich will describe work on the farm at the college.

On 21st June there will be a **FREE** trip for members to mark May and Chris Davey's Golden Wedding. We will be taking a coach to Peter Beales Rose Gardens and having tea there.

We usually meet at 2:00 pm at Dersingham Village Centre. unless there is an outing. Entrance is £3.00, which includes tea and a raffle ticket. Visitors are always welcome. Come and see how you like us!□

The Cactus and Succulent Society Noel Mellish

The local branch of the British Cactus and Succulent Society has restarted meetings for the upcoming year. We meet on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month, from March to November, from 2:00pm to 4:30pm at the Albert Victor Bowls Club, Manor Road, Dersingham, PE31 6LD.

We have a great programme of guest speakers, together with our open afternoons, which are an excellent opportunity to share growing experiences with other members. Our meetings usually include a monthly table show with a raffle and refreshments.

The next talk on April 2nd is "Arizona Byways" presented by Trevor Wray.

We are always pleased to welcome new members to the Branch as well as visitors who are interested in growing cacti or succulents and would like to know more.

Further info: <https://kingslynn.bcsc.org.uk/>



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Carpet Bowls Sue Eastmure

The opening two months of our current session have been extremely successful, with very good attendance. A members' knockout competition was organised by Carol with twenty-two members entering. After many closely fought matches Rosemary and Eileen won through to contest the final. This was another close match with the result not decided until the final end when Rosemary prevailed. Both players deserved the round of applause that greeted them at the finish.



Rosemary on left, and Eileen.



Tuesday afternoon roll up

Our Social Secretary arranged a Sunday Lunch at The Feathers which thirty members enjoyed.



Lunch at The Feathers



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Between the Showers

Wellies should have been the wear for our watery wander,
With grey clouds still gathering and faint sounds of thunder...

Off we went into the moist laden air,
Shafts of sunlight flickering here and there.
'Twas to be a quick walk 'ere the next showery lot
But Peter's long legs and poles made it a trot!

The woodland's such a glorious place,
It's wonderful to see its new greening face.
We skirted many puddles and squelched through wet grass,
We didn't linger much, we were making a quick pass,
Stepping over trees, slapped by wet branches...oh heck...
One slap just sent water trickling down my neck!

Wildlife was busy, as on more than one track
Sauntering at their leisure, we met roe deer and muntjac.
Choirs of birdsong permeated the air...
With trills and calls and fluttering here and there.
A man and his small dog came walking by;
Doggy paddling in puddles that were belly high.

As we made our way back - a mesmeric sight,
A large raindrop on a twig in a shaft of sunlight.
The refraction glittered like a sparkler - so surreal,
A moment in time creating a sci-fi feel.
We got back in a bit, well before the next shower,
A good feeling of wellbeing, created in an hour!!!

Lorna MMMIV



Our next meeting will be at the Community Centre, Avenue Road, Hunstanton on Monday 15th April at 2.00 pm when Andrew Jarvis will be giving us selected speeches from Shakespeare.

On Monday 20th May Helen Astrid will be explaining the comedy that lies beneath some operas. You will be most welcome to join us.

For further information please see our website hunstantonu3a.org. Telephone 07443 763679.□



Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

With spring fast approaching, the children are looking forward to warmer outdoor adventures, and a jam-packed sporting calendar, after a quiet first half term. Year 5 finally got their rearranged rugby festival, after wet weather scuppered previous dates, and they had a fun, muddy experience playing games with other schools at West Norfolk Rugby Club. Year 6 and Year 4 girls competed in the West Norfolk football county qualifying competition at Lynnsport. Year 6 put in a sterling performance, coming third, and Year 4 finished second and now progress to the county finals in Norwich. Best of luck to them!



James Wild visited the school at the end of January, where he had a tour and enjoyed a very thorough question and answer session in the new school library. He was very impressed with the consistent approach to learning across the school and how the children were able to talk about their lessons in a

very positive way. This was mirrored in the Ofsted report from November, where children were praised for 'knowing how to build positive relationships founded on respect and kindness...they are happy and enjoy learning.' The school community are delighted that they continue to be a 'good school' and hope to build on this latest report to make further improvements in the future. See more on James Wild's visit below.

The PTA have been busy raising funds and putting on events for the children, including a KS1 and KS2 disco to celebrate Valentine's Day. They have already contributed to the cost of class educational visits, topic books and a deposit for a pantomime.

The children were delighted on returning to school after the half term break to find a letter from King Charles thanking them for their get well messages and pictures. We all hope he continues to make a speedy recovery.

Last half term proved to be very busy across all year groups, with the Nursery looking at animals of the Arctic in the cold depths of winter. The children explored penguins and polar bears in the beautiful sensory area. They looked at the Northern Lights and the icy cold water of the Arctic Ocean. They thought about where the animals lived and what they like to eat.



Reception class hosted lots of visitors that help in the community. A huge thank you to the police, Dersingham Fire crew, RNLI, Rev Capron and Mrs Bradley - a nurse from QEH - who came to talk to the class about their jobs and what they do. The children asked lots

of fantastic questions and they listened attentively to the answers. We also collected some baby items to give to Baby Basics as part of our role in the community to help others.



Year 1's Turrets and Tiaras topic, saw them learning about the monarchy and their different residences across Great Britain. They looked at different geographical areas and did some historical research into past kings and queens. They enjoyed the

alternative adaptation of Rapunzel, which saw the witch in a rather snazzy pair of bloomers! They are looking forward to visiting Sandringham House in the spring to celebrate the King's coronation anniversary.

Year 2 found out about Australia last half term. The children looked at weather patterns around the world, used compass directions, learned about Australian landmarks, habitats and their plants and animals and wrote great fact files to show off their learning. They also had fun with netball skills and making rhythms for percussion instruments, using both real examples and software on the laptops. This term Year 2 are travelling back in time to find out about aviation history, which has kicked off with making paper aeroplanes.

Last half term Year 3 really enjoyed their River Explorer topic. The children learnt about the different stages of a river and the types of features within each one. They completed an in-depth study of the River Thames and the River Great Ouse.

Year 4 have had a lovely half term, learning about the Anglo-Saxons. The children looked carefully at the Sutton Hoo ship burial and explored the different grave goods and artefacts. They came up with their own theories on who might have been buried in the mound. They made Top Trumps cards, using Anglo-Saxon gods and monsters and read the story of Beowulf. Forest school was brilliant this term and they learned how to light fires, whittle wood and look for signs of different forest creatures. Year 4 even set up a motion camera to see what came to visit the clearing during the night!

Year 5 have had a very enjoyable topic on Ancient Greece. They have learnt about the history of the country and the children brought in lots of homework. They researched famous Ancient Greek philosophers. The children have also been learning to play the Pbuzz, this is a simplified version of the trombone with a mouthpiece and a moveable slide to change the pitch. It's a lot lighter than a traditional instrument, which makes it easier for youngsters to have their first taste of making music. The school is one of four chosen to participate in a project to promote music in schools, culminating in a concert in the summer. It is supported by Young Arts, a wing of The Arts Society North West Norfolk.



Year 6 have been reading *The Island at the End of Everything*. This book, set in the Philippines, is based upon the forced creation of a colony for those suffering from leprosy. It contains themes of family, friendship, and how society both views and treats those suffering from illness. This has been used to motivate writing: children have written their own section of the book involving setting and characterisation. Alongside this, they have focused upon the natural world and evolution as part of the topic work, which also linked to debates about creationism in Religious Studies. Elsewhere, the class continue to work assiduously building towards SATs in May.

This is being written on the first day of spring, but with the torrential rain and howling wind, you wouldn't think so! As Easter is fast approaching, let's hope everyone gets a taste of some warm sunshine soon!

James Wild MP talks about climate change with Dersingham School Council

As part of his focus on improving educational outcomes in North West Norfolk, James Wild MP visited Dersingham Primary School in his latest school visit.

During the visit, James toured the school with Headteacher, Mrs Zoe Warren, talking about the school priorities such as increasing literacy and improving extra-curricular and community links. The school continued to be rated 'Good' by Ofsted in November 2023.



James saw the school's efforts to improve literary skills through the 'Read, Write, Inc' scheme and listened to pupils using this synthetic phonics programme to develop children's reading and writing skills. James also participated in class lessons focusing on databases – taking part in the class data collection questions.

The Headteacher also spoke of the school's increased community ties such as litter picks, community carol services, and visiting a local care home. Additionally, the school's pupils take part in forest school on a frequent basis.

Later, James met the three different School Council sections – Eco Council, Sports Council, and Student Council and spoke of the work nationally to better protect the environment and reach net zero targets. He answered questions from pupils on topics ranging from parliamentary work and climate change to hobbies.

James Wild MP said, "It was great to visit Dersingham Primary School and to see the inspiring environment teachers and staff have created where children are encouraged to learn and discover new skills."

Commenting following the visit, Headteacher Mrs Warren said, "It was lovely to welcome James into our school today. The children from the school councils thoroughly enjoyed their question and answer session with James and asked him such a range of questions from his most proud moment, to his views on climate change, to his hobbies."□

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Hunstanton Croquet Club

Caroline Harper

Hooray! The new season at Hunstanton Croquet Club has begun! March activities included a coffee morning at Norfolk Lavender, opening up the clubhouse ready for the new season, and measuring out and creating 120 carefully aligned holes for hoops (Hoop-setting).

Club afternoons recommenced on Monday 25th March. As I write this in advance, I have no idea whether the opening session was played in sunshine or snow! I hope the former!

I'm pleased to announce that we shall be running our four-week introductory course to golf croquet on Tuesday mornings throughout April. At a cost of only £12 for the course, this is an excellent way to learn the basics and decide if you would like to join our friendly club. As I write, there are places left, so do get in touch - via the website or email me directly at littlehumph@gmail.com. All equipment is provided, you just need to wear flat-soled shoes or trainers and wrap up warm!

If you can't make Tuesday mornings or the course is full, we shall also be holding a free taster session on Wednesday April 17th from 2:00-4:00pm. People who are on the introductory course are welcome to practise on the 'Come and Try' afternoon in addition to the Tuesday morning sessions. To assist with catering, please let us know your intention to attend - it would be disastrous to run out of biscuits!

Look forward to seeing you on the lawns. Happy hooping!
hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk □



Hunstanton Croquet Club

Come and Try

Croquet, Cake and Chat

Wednesday 17th April, 2024
from 2pm – 4pm

Tuition, use of equipment and refreshments.

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secretary@hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk

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<http://hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk>
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Dersingham Evening W.I.

Katrina Mundy, President



February saw three members join the Federation trip to the V&A in London for a Reimaging Musicals exhibition. A long day but a very interesting exhibition and a chance to go around the museum at your own pace. I had forgotten just what an array of exhibits it had. Apparently, if you walk all around it is seven miles (my feet and legs certainly felt it next day).

February's evening meet was our Annual meeting where all the committee stand down and a new committee is formed for 2024/25. The committee now consists of Katrina, Ann, Alison, Jackie, Pat, Diann, Cyn, Sharon, Janet, Wendy and Ruth. Ann volunteered to stay as Secretary, Alison as Treasurer and Katrina as President (again, I didn't move quickly enough off the stage). Peg Hunter was thanked for all she has done over the last few years on the committee and a big thank you also went to Babs Smyth who has been our Treasurer for fourteen years and has now decided it is time for a rest (the Treasurer's role is a difficult one and to have done it for fourteen years and wanting to do it takes a certain type of person).

Ann read her report for 2023 and it was interesting to see just what we had been up to – we had trips to What-a-Hoot Gin distillery, Setchey collectibles and Springfields. Our talks have ranged from Career as a Removal man, Elizabeth Fry, running a Children's charity in Africa to being a Panto Dame, plus many others. Quite a mix. We participated in the village events, both for the Queen's Jubilee and the King's coronation. We now look forward to all the plans for this year coming to fruition.

We had a talk by Michael Upton from The Samaritans (King's Lynn branch) which proved to be a very thought-provoking one. It is thought that up to eighteen people a day commit suicide, although this may be higher as some deaths cannot be determined as suicide due to lack of evidence. They deal with not only suicide but people from all ages, backgrounds and religions and talk about depression, money problems, health worries, abuse and suicide to name but a few. We also found out that if you phone The Samaritans their number will not appear on your recall phone so no one will know you have phoned them. They now have their number on the phones in prisons as our prisons get more overcrowded and prisoners are locked in their cells for anything from fifteen hours plus a day. This is a charity organization run by ordinary people who must at times have to listen to the most horrific and upsetting details, but they are there at the end of the phone twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Our competition was three spring flowers in any medium and we had a mixture of real, silk and handmade ones, and we held a sales table for any unwanted Christmas presents/decorations (we only need so many sets of smellies).

On March 6th a group of twenty-three members and friends enjoyed a lovely day at Ely Cathedral, saw the Celebration of Bridal Gowns, which was a fascinating exhibition highlighting the history, artistry and allure of wedding dresses over the years. After lunch we had a guided tour round the ground floor of the Cathedral. A truly stunning building which I would recommend for anyone to go and have a look at. Many thanks to Sue Inman and the guides for looking after us.

We held our monthly coffee mornings as usual and many thanks to Sharon, Pam and Katrina for hosting them.

Our March evening meet (which we haven't had yet as I write this) will be a talk by Wally

Webb on his forty years of broadcasting for Radio Norfolk. His first radio show for Radio Norfolk was on September 14th 1980 when he played AC/DC as his first track. Previous to this he had been on Hospital Radio Norwich and also did a stint at Scamps in Anglia Square. He has now, with the help of his wife, written an autobiography (Don't Get Caught with Your Trousers Down) about his life in the RAF, on radio and much more. I am sure it will be a most entertaining, amusing evening.

Both our book club and craft groups are still going well, and Babs has kindly offered to hold a free decoupage craft day for our members.

In April it will be our birthday meet and we will be entertained by the singer Joan Hocking (more in the next edition). Diann will also be organising a lunch out in April for members, but the venue is unknown yet. We are hoping to organise a trip to Peckover House in June; I hear the gardens are beautiful then. Our monthly meetings are mostly held on the third Wednesday of every month in St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham at 7:15pm. Posters advertising these are usually up around the village.

If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening W.I. please contact Katrina on 01485 544773 or Ann on 01485542847. □




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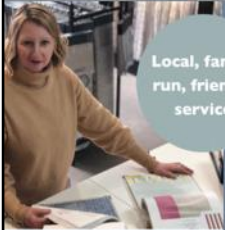
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***The Royal Station Master's Daughters* book launch at King's Lynn Library**

We are delighted to announce that author Ellee Seymour is launching the release of *The Royal Station Master's Daughters in Love*, the final book in the trilogy inspired by a real royal station master, Harry Saward, at King's Lynn library, London Road, PE30 5EZ.

The event will be held at 2:00pm on Saturday, 27th April when Ellee will talk about the inspiration behind her stories and life on the Sandringham estate during WWI.

Library Manager, Mary Grogan, said, 'I am excited to welcome Ellee to the library, and we hope many people can join us and make it a great community event. It is our first author talk this year and its royal theme is perfect timing as the first anniversary of the Coronation of King Charles is the following week.'



Ellee, who used to live in King's Lynn and was a journalist on the Lynn News & Advertiser, said, 'I am grateful to everyone who helped me while I was researching my books, which included the impact the Gallipoli campaign had on the families of royal estate workers. I carried out some of my research at the library too and it is the perfect place to return and talk about them.'

Tickets cost £5 and booking details can be found at: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/40099/Whats-on-in-Norfolk-Libraries>

Ellee's two previous books in the series were *The Royal Station Master's Daughters* and *The Royal Station Master's Daughters at War*. □

Dersingham Library Job Club **Mary Grogan**

Dersingham Library has started a new Wednesday Job Club, to assist the community with their search for work. Whether you find yourself between jobs or simply want to find something new, the Job Club will help. The Job club runs from 3:00pm to 5:00pm every Wednesday, booking is essential.

- Learn how to locate jobs using online tools and job sites.
- Discover templates for your CV and cover letters.
- Make online job applications and land the job you are looking for.

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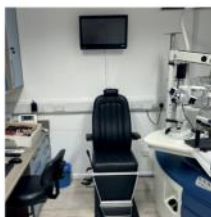
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Events for April and May

MONDAY 8th APRIL: BINGO NIGHT Club opens at 7.00p.m. "Eyes Down" at 7.30p.m. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a "Flyer Card" and £2 for a "Cash Accumulator" card. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email anmer.club@outlook.com

SATURDAY 13th APRIL: DARTS AND DOMINOES TOURNAMENTS NIGHT Club opens 7.00p.m. Starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person per tournament. £1 entry for Bulley's Prize Board raffle. Grand Raffle - £1 per strip. For further information email anmer.club@outlook.com or call or text: 07896 139210.

FRIDAY 19th APRIL: FILM NIGHT – ONE LIFE (12A). A moving true story starring Anthony Hopkins as Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued over 600 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. The club opens at 7.00 p.m. Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 at the door. For further information email films@anmerclub.co.uk

FRIDAY 26th APRIL: QUIZ NIGHT Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £2 per person. Licensed bar, raffle.

MONDAY 13th MAY: BINGO NIGHT Club opens at 7.00 p.m. "Eyes Down" at 7.30 p.m. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a "Flyer Card" and £2 for a "Cash Accumulator" card. Fully licensed bar, raffle. For information email anmer.club@outlook.com

FRIDAY 17th MAY: FILM NIGHT - NAPOLEON (15). Starring Joaquin Phoenix and Vanessa Kirby in a spectacle-filled action epic that details the checkered rise and fall of the iconic French Emperor Napoleon. Please visit website www.anmerclub.com or Facebook for details. The club opens at 7.00 p.m. Film starts at 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 at the door. For further information email films@anmerclub.co.uk

FRIDAY 24th MAY: QUIZ NIGHT Club opens at 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £2 per person. Licensed bar, raffle. □

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Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone, Church Secretary

Thank you all very much for supporting our recent coffee mornings. It was good to see so many coming in, buying items from the stalls, sitting enjoying sausage rolls, cakes and coffee, and chatting to friends. The coffee mornings in January and February raised £729.37.

It will soon be our annual flower festival, here are some details:

Flower Festival — Theme: Songs of Joy and Wonder. **Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th May**, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Coffee, light refreshments, teas. Stalls: books, cakes, cards, gifts, plants. Children from the local school will sing at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday and Friday.

Sunday 26th May: service to celebrate our 134th Church Anniversary with a **Songs of Praise at 3.00 p.m.** with the Revd Richman Ncube and the Revd Steve Oliver.

We are raising funds for the Matjinge Appeal, Zimbabwe. Matjinge High School is a Methodist boarding school for 125 children in Southern Matabeleland, Zimbabwe, where our minister Revd Rich was educated. There is also an adjacent Primary School. The school borehole has dried up, and water has to be fetched from 2 km away. The annual rainy season is unpredictable due to climate change and a new deeper borehole is required. The West Norfolk Methodist Circuit is raising funds for the Matjinge Appeal.

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

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Dersingham Institute Bowls Jan Rawstron

The long winter break is almost over! Saturday, April 6th sees the opening of the bowls green for the 2024 season. Hopefully the weather will be favourable, although those thermal vests and winter fleeces may still be needed (possibly hand warmers too). Allen Toppin and his green keeping team are hoping for a dryer March so that the necessary work can be done on the green in readiness for the new season.

To kick the season off, we will be holding our annual Open Day on Sunday April 21st. We would like to invite anyone who would like to give lawn bowls a try, to come along any time between 10:00am and 4:00pm. All equipment will be provided, just make sure you wear flat-soled shoes to protect the green.

There will be refreshments available free of charge, so do come along and meet us. Our qualified coach, Gerry, and experienced bowlers will be on hand to guide you. Of course, if you already bowl, you can still come along and say hello, and have a roll-up as well.

The draw will be made for the teams in the Dickie Murrell Memorial League (Birds) on Saturday, May 4th, and the League itself will start on the 15th.

Our first competitive event will be on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6th, when we will play for the Edie's Cup. Also, by this time some of our external league matches should have been played in the Countryside and Albert Victor Leagues. So, along with the usual Saturday roll-ups, (Wednesdays as well, until the Birds League starts), there is such a lot to look forward to.

Looking forward to seeing all our bowling friends in April, so start polishing those woods in readiness for a full season of fun and competition.□

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Snettisham Gardening Club **Addie Thompson**

We hold our meetings in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham, usually on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

The schedules for the 2024 Open Show on Saturday 13th July are now available to all. Classes vary from flowering plants and flower arrangements, vegetables, cookery and preserves through to Art and Crafts and photography. There are classes for adults and children with prize money for winners.

Our meeting on April 24th will bring Emma Pickering from Emma's Hedgehogs to give us a talk on these endangered little creatures that are so useful in our gardens.

For our meeting on Wednesday May 29th Michael Croot of McK Plants will update us on planting containers and will also bring along bedding plants for us to purchase. You will be most welcome to join us. For further information contact Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.□



Manor Road - A Journey Through the Centuries

Elizabeth Fiddick

In my last articles I took a closer look at how the area around our church and the moat in the pastures, where our past history is easily seen, had changed. This time I want to look at a smaller part of our village, where our long history is perhaps not so obvious but, with a careful look and a few steps to the side, you can move from the seventeenth century through to the present day.

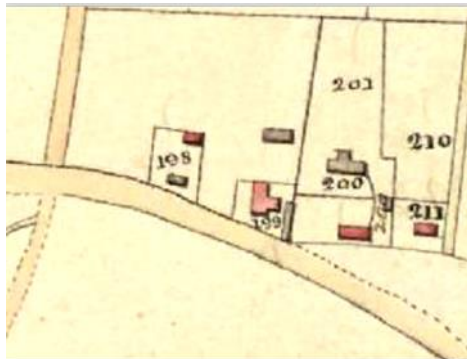
Walk down the main road towards King's Lynn and turn left into Manor Road. Continue on past a bungalow and large house on the left to the line of terraced cottages that stand at right angles. Here, after a few steps up the track on the left, you arrive at the fine seventeenth-century Westhall Manor House. It is now completely hemmed in and perhaps newcomers to our village may not have noticed it at all. It was built in 1671 when it would have had a clear view over the marshes to the waters of The Wash. 1671 was a significant date for this village as it is also the date given for the building of the Tithe barn and the early Dersingham Hall. Moreover, that was the year of the great storm and flood which caused so much damage to property and livestock. Perhaps that is why Westhall was built at a safer distance from the fury of the waves.

The Lordship of Westhall dates back to the time of William the Conqueror, and a family called Deorsige held these lands. The name Dersingham can be divided into Deorsige+ingas+ham - Homestead of Deorsige's People. (I must admit I prefer the more poetic Der(water)+ ing(meadow) +ham(dwelling) - dwelling by the water meadow.) This estate passed through many hands. Sir Thomas Paston was Lord in the reign of Henry VIII. In 1646 the Cobbe family of Sandringham acquired the estate. However, they were Royalists during the Civil War and their lands were sequestered by Parliament. Although they regained their property later, they never recovered and finally sold their estates here and at Sandringham to the Hoste family in 1686. So, it seems the present Westhall Manor House was built when the estate belonged to the Cobbes.

At some point in the eighteenth century the house in Manor Road was administered by the village Council. There are many references to the village Town House. In 1754 the overseer John Doyle ordered work on the Town House for *"2 days' work thatching on the Town House by order of Mr. Doyle..... 3s.6d."*

I believe the Town House was Westhall Manor and that in response to various Acts of Parliament, which made the Parish responsible for the relief of the poor, it was set up as the village workhouse, where the poor could be set to work. It is clearly marked as such on Bryant's Map of 1826. There are many records in the church concerning the collection of the Poor Rate and relief of the poor, such as the provision of clothing and hot meals. One entry records the purchase of twenty-four leeches for different paupers! In 1834 the Poor Law Amendment Act established Poor Law Unions and the smaller workhouses became redundant and were often sold. Dersingham inmates were transferred to the Docking Union Workhouse.

The Tithe map of 1839 shows the Manor, No. 199, with a small row of outhouses. The old House had by then been divided into



three cottages. It was owned by Elizabeth Rouse, who had inherited it from her father, Robert Goltz, a prominent Dersingham resident. Elizabeth had married Peter Rouse, the son of Richard Rouse the Miller at Letheringsett Mill near Holt and spent her married life there. The records show that Moses Grimes, an agricultural labourer with Fanny Wales as his housekeeper, occupied one cottage, but the other occupants are only referred to as "others."

Now glance to the right of the Manor to notice the terrace of brick cottages that adjoin. In that glance you have travelled forward 200 years in time, for the cottages were added on in the early twentieth century and are first recorded on the 1905 map. Turn round and you face a fine residence undergoing further alteration. In your mind's eye remove the modern windows, take away the garage and you will travel to the mid-nineteenth century to see the cottage and garden, no. 198 on the Tithe map, that once belonged to George Mann and eventually became The Albert Victor Public House. It began as a beer house and its proprietors were listed as beer retailers as it was not licensed to sell wines and spirits like The Dun Cow, and other Public Houses in the village. It is recorded as The Albert Victor Beerhouse in the 1871 census.

Albert Victor, the elder son of The Prince of Wales, (later King Edward VII,) was born in 1864, and thus second in the line of succession. He was always known as Prince Eddy. During the years 1889-92 there was a worldwide influenza pandemic and Prince Eddy fell victim to it while at Sandringham in 1892. Pneumonia set in and he died on 14th January just after his 28th birthday.

I will not list all the many proprietors that plied their trade over the years, as these can be found on our Dersingham History website, but the next important date in its history is 1937. Albert Southgate, the proprietor, presented a petition to the authorities signed by sixty persons, thirty-three of whom were Dersingham residents, complaining that they could not buy wines and spirits there. Albert said the large number of tourists visiting Sandringham were amazed they could not buy wines or spirits. He also said that when royalty was in residence, servants came to his house and asked for wine and spirits. As a consequence, the licence to sell wines and spirits was taken from The Alexandra, the Station Hotel, and awarded to the Albert Victor.

So it was now a Public House and was a very popular venue until it closed on 26th October 1981. It ran a thriving bowls club and if you walk up the track on the opposite side of the road you will still find the bowling green and clubhouse there. Older villagers remembered that it was constructed in Mr. Tuck's garden that used to be a nursery.

As the old photographs show, there was an open courtyard in front, and in their Millennium interviews many of the older villagers remembered walking past it on their way to and from the village school. It was known then as the 'Laundry Yard', as Mrs. Sears, who lived in one of the cottages, took in laundry work from Sandringham and district. The children recalled seeing the steam rising from the roof of the wash house and Mrs. Sears and family in the courtyard washing items by hand in old tin baths. They took water to fill their coppers from the stream that ran down Manor Road.



This water course came from the pastures by The Feathers, and Beatrice Roper remembered walking along by it on her way home from school. With her friends she threw in leaves and watched them race down the dyke. Their version of Pooh Sticks perhaps. George Stanton even named it as Woodhouse Creek. This stream has mostly been channelled and piped today, but you can still see it as it emerges in front of the end bungalow and flows under the Lynn Road down The Drift to The Wash.

At this time there was no mains water in the village and you had to fetch your water from the village pumps. There was a pump behind The Albert Victor and another behind the cottages. Eric Cross recalled occupants of Lynn Road using these pumps. You used to carry two buckets on a yoke across your shoulders. He never recalled the pumps running dry. Beatrice Roper remembered her granny fetching it in a pail and that it was lovely water to drink. There were pumps all over the village until mains water was laid on in the 1940s.

Kenny Martins said his father kept pigs and chickens behind the pub and he used to feed them on the way to school. Now cross the road and look closely at the house on the corner. Under the black wash you will be able to see the ghostly outlines of Hannah (Leah) Senter's shop. The children would buy their sweets here, but she sold many things and was also a milliner. If you retrace your steps a little you will arrive where Mr. Blowers the Blacksmith worked, and villagers remember watching him at work as they went to school. There is little left now of his forge.



We have now almost travelled to the present day, but not quite. Westhall Manor was still divided into three separate cottages until 1966 when a Mr. S.C. Turner bought two of them and began to re-convert them into a single house again. His sympathetic alterations were in keeping with the history of this ancient house, so we can still enjoy it, unlike the other manor houses that have long since disappeared. The Albert Victor was sold and is now the house we see today.





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Easter Hope and Joy

Rev Mark Capron

We all need hope. Hope helps us strive forward, to fix our eyes ahead. The hope of Easter is life changing; that hope is the joy of Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God, born, died, risen for us personally. The Good News is that Jesus is the rescuer, he came to save us from

our sins, the wrong in our life, so that we can be free. When our time comes on this earth, we can then be united with God in the joy of Heaven through faith. The realised hope comes through the cross of Jesus Christ and his mighty Resurrection at Easter. Easter is at the heart of the Christian faith. This Easter time do come and celebrate that joy of Jesus' Resurrection – 'He is Alive!'



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Pebbles the Donkey:

On Palm Sunday 24th March we welcome Pebbles the Donkey from Bircham Windmill. Pebbles will be available to be stroked and fed carrots in St Nicholas Court from 9:30am before leading us into church for the special 10:00am combined service. Come and say hello to the Donkey!

Easter Services and Activities: During the Easter holidays there will again be a free Easter Trail for families around the village completing clues as you go, with the route maps available in St Nicholas Church porch from Thursday 28th March. Then on Saturday 30th March there will be an Easter Activity morning for primary aged children with accompanying adults from 10:00am to 12:00noon.

Ingoldisthorpe School: Headteacher Mr Wright retires from Ingoldisthorpe Church of England School at Easter. Under his leadership the school has made significant strides in many areas, including being ranked in the top 1% of the country for Key Stage 2 SATs results, which is a huge achievement for the school community. Thank you, Mr Wright, for your hard work and commitment to the school. After Easter we look forward to welcoming Mrs Norman as the new headteacher; she comes with a great depth of experience and a passion for early years.

Abseil: St Nicholas Church Dersingham is holding the tower Abseil event on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May between 10:00am and 4:00p. Come along and watch myself and sixty abseilers from the local community abseil down the tower. There are only a few places left, so if you want a challenge contact the church quickly for application details, otherwise come and support the brave abseilers on the day!

Happy Easter!

Rev Mark Capron

Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne
and Minister of 'The Well' Church, Ingoldisthorpe.

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

Tribute to Paul Pearson

Paul Pearson was the Digital Technology Volunteer at Dersingham Library from 2016-2023, who sadly passed away unexpectedly last autumn. Paul was a hugely important part of the library family at both Dersingham and Hunstanton, helping countless people improve their

digital skills and in turn their life skills.

We are honoured that his family have donated a computer chair in his memory to Dersingham Library.



Thank you to Paul's wife and his family for allowing us to remember Paul in a fitting and poignant way and thank you to Paul for all that you did – we miss you.

Mary Grogan
Dersingham Library Manager

Another Initials Quiz

Here is another list of names that we may have to struggle to remember what the initials stand for. This set has been sent in by Alan Brooks.

C S Lewis	Clive Staples
P G Wodehouse	Pelham Grenville
W H Auden	Wystan Hugh
L S Lowry	Laurence Stephen
R N L I	Royal National Lifeboat Institute
J R R Tolkien	John Ronald Reuel
J M W Turner	Joseph Mallord William
E L James	Erica Mitchell (but known as E L)
W M Thackeray	William Makepeace
N A A F I	Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes
J F Kennedy	John Fitzgerald
P L Travers	Pamela Lyndon
W C Fields	William Claude
T E Lawrence	Thomas Edward
A N Z A C	Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (formed in 1915 to fight at Gallipoli)
T N T	Trinitrotoluene
H G Wells	Herbert George



Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb

Spring is hopefully here to stay and we can enjoy the delights it brings. We have a good variety of routes to explore, so come and join us for a stroll. Our next walks are:

Wednesday March 27th at 2.00pm

Back to summer time starting today. A suburban walk of about 4 miles around the Reffley area with woods, river, muntjac and a supermarket to entertain you. Start point is the NW corner of the South Wootton ASDA car park, TF651223. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday April 10th at 2.00pm

Starting at the big layby in Ingoldisthorpe, near the crossroads. We will walk down to the path of the old railway line before continuing to Snettisham for a circuit around Ken Hill woods. Returning to Snettisham village, our route can either be back along the Jubilee Trail railway path, or along the main road. About 4.5 miles, start point TF 683324. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday April 24th at 2.00pm

A wander around Gayton Thorpe today, traversing tracks and paths with some good views. Start point next to the church, TF 744186. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday May 8th at 2.00pm

A circular tour round Castle Rising, including some of the extensive woodlands of Ling Common. There is the option of a visit to the tearooms at Castle Rising after the walk. Start Point the Unique car park in the centre of Castle Rising, TF 667347. About 4 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday May 22nd at 2.00pm

We have got such lovely woods around us, filled with beautiful trees, wildflowers and Rhododendrons, that it would be a shame not to visit them as the seasons progress. Brian will once again lead us through the glades and bowers on a 4-ish mile walk. Start point is the car park on Heath Road, TF686298. Leader: Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

Thursday June 13th at 2.00pm

A walk around Ringstead Downs, which was part of the Le Strange estate; it has a chalk pit which is almost like an amphitheatre, with picnic benches in the centre. Just to mention, there are cows roaming the downs to help keep unwanted growth down, but they are used to people walking by. Start point is the Old Hunstanton Church car park, TF688420 (a small fee to park). The walk is approximately 4 miles. Leader: Brett Thomas 07801 095510.

All our planned walks will appear here in Village Voice and can also be found on our page on the Parish Council website and in the Calendar on that website. Our page is at www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup. Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers, plus some folk from further a field, and to explore the local area. There is no cost involved. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do their best to look after you.

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

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

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 61

SCHOOL	CHESTNUT	TURBAN	PIEBALD
BEARSKIN	DRAUGHT	ROCKING	CAP
MILD	JAR	BITTER	EXPORT
CLOTHES DRYER	BOATER	MARE	PORK PIE

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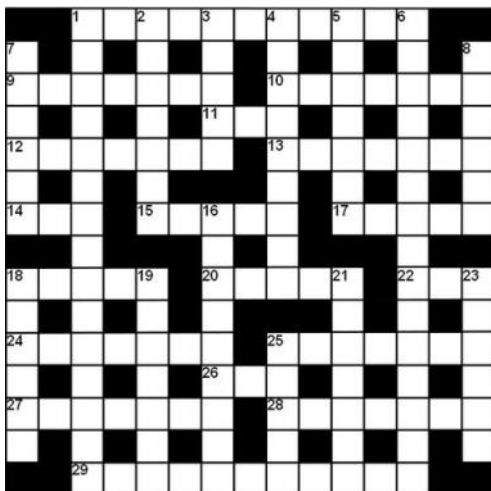
Crossword by
Philip Neal

Across

- 1 Game flyer flips over the French nest in disarray (5,6)
9 A prisoner in the string section? (7)
10 Rabbits play marbles (7)
11 Rupee concealed in a French container (3)
12 Hope Sir somehow finds the fruit (7)
13 Drunken mice end up widespread (7)
14 Self esteem recalled in the family (3)
15 Looking back at island from height of the boat (5)
17 Replicate from a single dose of chlorine (5)
18 I follow physician (with an afterthought) prescribing drops (5)
20 Check out back street for covert appointment (5)
22 Letter delivered in Athens? (3)
24 Investigate the Queen's analyst (7)
25 Captures others in the Antiques Road Show (7)
26 Tabloid tatters (3)
27 No good you and I sit in the wood suffering (7)
28 Mascot for example emerging from tunnel playing lute with more ado (4,3)
29 Flicking good game played with inebriated eye gestures (11)

Down

- 1 Box leads Scot around his oinking pig caught helping to go the distance (10,5)
2 Home at daybreak in the buriers of Burnham Overy (7)
3 Put up with each swallow (3,2)
4 Seriously premature about refuge (9)
5 Migrant detectives return to busy Sultanate (7)
6 Son wears moccasin sole uncomfortably on formal functions (6,9)
7 Rare small vehicle beside church (6)
8 Mind of a tipsy chef (6)
16 Tiger for example chases a posh car and a prince with breathing problems (9)
18 Stage plays broadcast in Madras (6)
19 Frustrated golfer or pig? (7)
21 Confused trainer drops into terrace landscape (7)
23 Mobile unit is in appropriate position (2,4)
25 Fervid silver undervalued (5)



Answers on page 61

Sudoku

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



Donations to Charity – The Gift that Keeps Giving

Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Readers will probably be familiar with the general principles of the Gift Aid scheme. If a taxpayer makes a gift to a UK charity and completes the necessary declaration, the gift is treated as tax deductible. The payment is deemed to be made net of basic rate tax, which the charity can then reclaim.

So, if we look at three individuals, Jim, Jenny and Jon, with differing incomes, we see that if Jim, who pays tax at 20% makes a gift of £800, it is grossed up as if it is a gift of £1000. Jim's position is unchanged (because the tax of £200 "deducted" is matched by the relief to which he is entitled) and the charity, which is tax exempt, can recover £200 from HMRC.

The position for higher rate taxpayers is more interesting. Using the example above, Jenny is a 40% taxpayer, and also gives £800. The charity will still claim its £200 from HMRC, but when Jenny files her annual Tax Return (or submits a repayment claim) her taxable income is reduced by the grossed up gift of £1000, the tax relief on which is £400. £200 of that will have been dealt with as above, but the other £200 will be repaid, or credited, to her as part of her year-end tax calculation.

Finally, for those like Jon, who have income between £100,000 and £124,140 the position becomes even more interesting. Not only will Jon get the higher rate relief like Jenny, but as he is in the "60% marginal band" his personal allowances will have been restricted by 50 pence in the pound. Since gift aid effectively reduces total taxable income, the £1,000 grossed up gift will release £500 of additional personal allowances, generating yet another £200 refund/credit through the annual Tax Return system. Effectively he will make a net gift of £800, receive a refund/credit of £400 and the charity will receive its £200.

For most people gift aid payments will be recorded throughout the year and then declared on the annual Tax Return so that the relief can be claimed. Beware, however, that problems can arise if gift aid payments exceed taxable income, so they should probably be avoided by non-taxpayers. However, gift aid payments are one of the few reliefs which can sometimes be claimed retrospectively. Higher rate taxpayers can elect to set back a gift aid payment as if it were made in a previous year. The claim must be made in a self-assessment Tax Return which is filed prior to the due date, and it cannot be made in an "amended" return – but, for example, if Jon doesn't realise he is paying tax at a marginal rate of 60% until he reads his March 2024 payslip or annual 2023/24 Form P60, due sometime in April this year, he could make a one-off gift aid payment at any time prior to the date for submission of his 2024 self assessment return on 31 January 2025, and hence relate it back to 2023/24 tax year.

For advice regarding the tax implications of donations to charity please contact either of the partners Kate Gigg FCA or Nicola Tarry FCA at Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

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N.B. Article written in February 2024.

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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Table tennis. 9 Cellist. 10 Rambles. 11 Urn. 12 Rosehip. 13 Endemic. 14 Ego.
15 Yacht. 17 Clone. 18 Drips. 20 Tryst. 22 Chi. 24 Assayer. 25 Arrests. 26 Rag.
27 Anguish. 28 Lead out. 29 Tiddlywinks.

Down

1 Telescopic sight. 2 Blighty. 3 Eat up.
4 Earnestly. 5 Nomadic. 6 Solemn occasions.
7 Scarce. 8 Psyche. 16 Catarrhal. 18 Dramas.
19 Stymied. 21 Terrain. 23 In situ. 25 Aglow.

Sudoku Answers

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

Word Wall Answers

Night ...: ...jar, ...school, ...mare, ...cap

Hats: Bearskin, Boater, Pork pie, Turban

Horses: Clothes dryer, Chestnut, Piebald, Rocking

Beers: Draught, Export, Mild, Bitter

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

Issue	Copy deadline midday on	Publication date
No. 148 (June/July 24)	Monday 29th April 2024	Monday 20th May 2024
No. 149 (Aug/Sept 24)	Monday 1st July 2024	Monday 22nd July 2024
No. 150 (Oct/Nov 24)	Monday 2nd Sept 2024	Monday 23rd Sept 2024
No. 151 (Dec 24/Jan 25)	Monday 4th Nov 2024	Monday 25th Nov 2024
No. 152 (Feb/Mar 25)	Monday 6th Jan 2025	Monday 27th Jan 2025
No. 153 (April/May 25)	Monday 3rd March 2025	Monday 24th March 2025

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

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- ♥ Home Help
- ▮ Companionship
- Personal Care
- ◆ Dementia Care



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