

Number 148

June/July 2024

# Village Voice

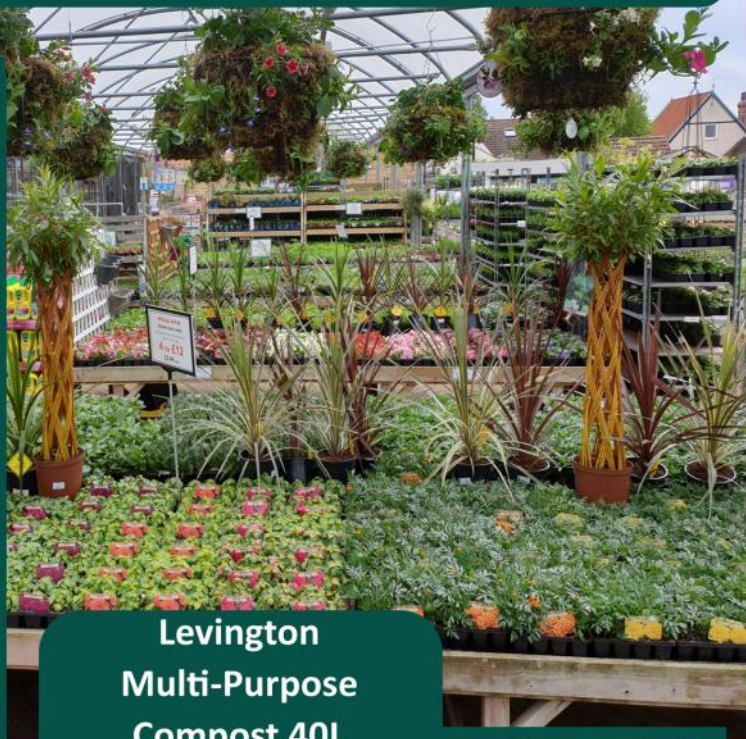
THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



Wartime around Dersingham, waiting for D-Day

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## Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



As you will see from the front and back covers of *Village Voice* the village will be commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings on the Normandy beaches on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1945. This immense invasion operation was the beginning of the Allies' advance over northern Europe which led to the end of WWII. Elizabeth Fiddick has written a most interesting piece about Dersingham and the surrounding area in wartime, the groups that were formed in case of invasion by Germany, and the build up of troops and equipment prior to D-Day. And then suddenly they were all gone – D-Day had arrived.

This edition marks the beginning of our new advertising year. Thank you to all those advertisers who have renewed their bookings for the coming year, and welcome to several new ones. We have managed to keep our rates at the same level and hope we can attract more custom!! If you are in contact with local businesses who do not currently advertise, do ask them if they would like to promote themselves in *Village Voice*!

After a somewhat quiet edition last time, we have now received a healthy batch of contributions as the village stirs from winter hibernation. Sports activities are taking off with tennis, bowls and croquet clubs getting back into their stride. There is an article on the project to revamp the sports pavilion, which is in need of major renovation and modernisation. Other pieces include one on local transport over the past century, and one on fog – perhaps the wrong time of year for this, but makes us appreciate our current sunnier weather!

Talking of weather – we are British, after all – in early April I was on holiday in Cornwall. Back in Norfolk it was 20 degrees, in Cornwall it was 13 degrees, almost constant rain, and so windy you could hardly stand. When we arrived home we drove past the church to see whether the pink blossom had come out on the tree by the Tithe Barn – I wanted to photograph it with the church in the background. During the week we'd been away it had emerged in all its glory and I intended to come back and take a picture that afternoon. Unpacking and weariness intervened. A fierce wind developed overnight. By the time I got there the next day there was a carpet of pink on the ground and not much left on the tree. But here's what it looked like!□





## Dear Village Voice



### The Elizabeth Way, and Centre Vale

#### The Elizabeth Way

Part of Brian Anderson's Butterfly Report, (VV 147) refers to the 'Dersingham Transect' and, having no idea what a transect is, I read the paragraph with its reference to the Elizabeth Way, and it reminded me that some comments need to be made about the section of the route that lies between The Drift, at Ingoldisthorpe, and Station Road, Dersingham.

I, like many other local users of the footpath, was somewhat apprehensive about the upgrading proposed by NCC, particularly with regard to the surface colour and type of material to be used. However, after weathering for nine months or so since being laid its appearance isn't the blot on the landscape that it might have become. We have to accept that the path is now part of a national route and needs to be suitable for cyclists, wheelchairs etc. as well as walkers.

The 'miniature' level crossing gates at The Drift, Ingoldisthorpe, and Station Road ends of the path are a nice touch and reflect the path's railway ancestry. What is missing are the information panels which should provide a potted history of the path's previous existence as the track bed of the King's Lynn to Hunstanton railway line which ceased operating in 1969. Before the work started, the barrier adjacent to Station Road, preventing access to the site, had notices informing users of the path what was intended. NCC stated that the route's railway history would be displayed; this has not happened.

Now that the path has been widened, there is an opportunity to install a few seats alongside the path, certainly along the section between Station Road and Sandy Lane. There is also the opportunity to convert the contractor's compound, adjacent to Station Road, into a car park for users of the Elizabeth Way.

#### Centre Vale

The section of Centre Vale which runs approximately eastwards to the narrow footpath which connects it to The Pastures is, as far as I am aware, an unadopted road used regularly by motor vehicles; however, anyone who has studied an OS map of the area will have realised that this section is marked as a Restricted Byway:

*"On these routes there are restrictions on how you can travel the route. You are permitted to use the route on foot, horseback, bicycle or horse drawn carriage. You **cannot** use any motorised vehicles along this route."* (Extract from OS website.)



At the entrance to the unadopted road are two signs – these indicate that the national speed limit, (60mph) applies. Can anyone explain why an unadopted, Restricted Byway should be subject to the national speed limit when, in theory, no motorised vehicles are permitted to use it. It would be interesting to see how the road is marked on the NCC Definitive Map.□

**Roger W. Jackson**

## Parish Council Chairman's Report

### Coral Shepherd



Looking forward to June, a reminder that June 6th this year is the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. To commemorate this anniversary the Parish Council 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 on the back cover. The event starts at 7:30 pm with the beacon lighting at 9:15 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

You may have read about the school crossing patrol (lollipop person) at the junction of Doddshill Road and Manor Road. To cut a long story short, the Parish Council and the school have helped the County Council by publicising the vacancy, and as I write I understand that interviews are taking place. Hopefully, by the time you read this, an appointment will have been made. There may be a delay in someone starting work because part of the process is to have a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check carried out. This is necessary for anyone working with children to ensure that the person appointed does not have any inappropriate convictions.

### NEW WEBSITE

The Parish Council has set up a new website, as our webmaster wanted to retire from his role. I would like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to Steve Martyn for all his sterling work over the last ten years, firstly in setting up a website for us, and then quietly and efficiently maintaining it. This included dealing with GDPR matters and helping us maintain information around all of the Covid restrictions and sources of information. He also enabled us to have very special front pages to mark the deaths of His Majesty Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh and her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.

It took us a quite a while to source a new supplier and then much work was needed to transfer information from the old website to the new and add new information. The new website is now live and can be found at [www.dersingham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.dersingham-pc.gov.uk). It contains information of all of our meetings (once completed, back to 2015), all of our policies and annual financial information. It shows the information about services that we provide and includes interactive maps. The website offers some information about the wealth of clubs and societies in the village. All editions of Village Voice back to 2015 can be found, and earlier editions are on the Dersingham History website. However, we are missing a copy of the second issue of Village Voice (early 2000). If you have a copy, we would be grateful if we could borrow it so that we can copy it to complete our archive. Please contact Geraldine Scanlon, our Assistant Business Manager if you do have edition No.2.

Please do take the time to have a look at the site, either through the above website address, or by using the QR code below, which will take you straight through to it.

For those of you unfamiliar with QR codes, this is what you do!! Point your mobile phone camera at the black and white square and take its picture. On your screen there will be a notification to tell you what to do next. Tap that and it will take you to the new website. You can use QR codes in all sorts of situations, saving you Googleing websites and selecting the right one – you are taken right to where you want to go.□





## News from Dersingham Village Centre

### Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

#### Annual General Meeting

The Association's AGM will take place at the Centre on Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> and starts at 7:00 pm. Do come along to learn what we have been doing, plan to do, and ask questions. Maybe you would like to be a Trustee and help shape the future of the Centre, or help with events and activities?

#### 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 quiches, 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. Booking is required. Call 01485 540644 by noon on the *Thursday* beforehand and also advise us of any allergy or dietary needs.

#### Village Cinema

June's film is *Wicked Little Letters*, based on a true story about poison pen letters; it does contain some strong language. In July we are showing *The Miracle Club* starring Maggie Smith and Kathy Bates.

#### Forthcoming Events

**Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>** - D-Day Commemoration events, including fish and chips in the hall and lighting of the beacon.

**Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>** - A musical evening to celebrate the arrival of summer, featuring local musicians, singers and dancers. Food will be available to purchase from Askers Pizzas, Crafty Burger Co, and Reeseys Ice Cream. More information can be found on the poster.

**Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>** - Table Top Sale and Café, part of the Village Yard Sale.

For more information about the Centre and what goes on, visit our website - [www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](http://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 businesses 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. □

**Dersingham Village Centre**  
Presents a  
**Midsummer Musical Miscellany**  
An Entertaining Evening  
Celebrating the Arrival of Summer with  
Local Musicians, Singers and Stage School Students

**Saturday June 22nd**  
**7pm**

**Tickets: £4** available in advance from  
**Dersingham Post Office; £5 on the Door**  
**Children, up to Year 6, FREE**

Food will be available to purchase from:  
Askers Wood-Fired Pizzas  
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Dersingham Village Centre Association  
Registered Charity no 1178462  
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## Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron



The weather gods were very kind to us on April 6<sup>th</sup> for our green opening day. We had a great turnout to see our Club President, Keith Richardson, bowl the first woods of the season to officially open the green. This was followed by a roll-up, in glorious sunshine, and lots of chat in the tea break, catching up with fellow bowlers who we perhaps hadn't seen since the autumn last year. It felt so good to be back!

Our ground staff are still doing battle with the rabbits. As fast as we block up access holes, the darn critters find or dig a new

one. In spite of this, the green looks lovely and, bearing in mind the wet weather we have had, bowled really well. In fact, when we played our opening Albert Victor match, a cup game against Massingham 'B', they complimented us on our lovely green. Well done Allen and team, and all the volunteers who come to give a helping hand when needed.

As for that cup game, we came out winners by 54 shots to 40, so will progress to the next round. Our first league game will be on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> away to Marham, followed by games against Shouldham, Searles, Sandringham 'A' and King's Lynn 'B'. This takes us to the end of May.

Our Open Day was held on a fine, but cold day last Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>. Well done to those who braved the biting wind, and came along to have a go. Our coach, Gerry, supervised our guests, taking them through the fundamentals, and showing them the ropes. There were some very promising bowlers, and we do hope they enjoyed it enough to come along to Gerry's coaching sessions on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am. Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits were available, the hot drinks being very welcome.



I have spoken about the Albert Victor League being under way, but we have yet to start our campaign in the Countryside League. I am writing this at the end of April, and the following will have taken place by the time you get this magazine. Our first match is at home to Heacham 'B' on May 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by games against Ingoldisthorpe, Houghton 'B', Searles and Snettisham. We then play Searles again, this time in the Knockout Shield on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Good luck to our teams in both Leagues.

The draw for the 'Birds' League takes place on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>, usually during the Roll-Up tea break. That gives the various team captains a week and a half to get their teams organised in time for the first matches on Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup>. On Bank holiday Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be playing for the Edie's Memorial Trophy, and on the late bank

holiday Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, the Centenary Institute Cup will be played for. Between all these, we will be hosting a friendly match against Cliff Parade on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Also in May, the Knockout competitions will be getting under way.

June sees the first round of the very popular Ladies v Men competition, when I'm sure the men will be out for revenge after their loss last season.

As you can see, we are a very busy club, and try to pack a lot into the short bowls season. Hopefully we will be joined by some new members, who will be made very welcome.

I think that's enough for now, results and more news in the next issue.□

## **Paying for Care**

**Angela Gifford, Managing Director of Able Community Care**



*Here are some questions and answers that may be helpful for those finding out about paying for residential care.*

**Q - What is a Deferred Payment Agreement?**

**A –** A Deferred Payment Agreement (DPA) is meant to ensure you are not forced to sell your home in your lifetime if you need to pay for residential care. By entering into a DPA, you delay paying your care costs until a later date, usually by having a legal charge placed on your property by the local Council. The cost of your care will then be repaid by you or your estate. Many families are then able to rent the property out if they so wish or sell at a later date. As this is a loan, agreed interest and charges are added to the cost of your care fees, which are paid on your behalf by your local Council, whom you can contact for further details.

**Q –** How can you find out if in an earlier working life, one or more contributions were made to a pension scheme, details of which might have been forgotten?

**A –** Visit Gov.UK Pension Tracing Service where it advises that there is over £400 million in unclaimed pension savings. The Pension Tracing Service is a free government service. It searches a database of more than 200,000 workplace and personal pension schemes to try to find the contact details you need.

[www.ablecommunitycare.com](http://www.ablecommunitycare.com). □

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# **Dersingham Sports Pavilion – Our Vision**

## **David Collingham, Chair Dersingham Sports Ground Association (DSGA)**

### **Background**

Dersingham Sports Ground has been an integral part of the village for over seventy-five years. Centrally situated, it has 3.9 hectares of level grassed playing fields, which support three adult football, two junior football, and two cricket teams, including junior cricket and a tennis club (with two all weather hard courts with floodlights). Dersingham Rovers FC has been a major sporting success and currently tops West Norfolk League. They are on the verge of promotion to Anglia Division I. A typical winter Saturday could see two teams playing on the two full-size football pitches, alongside junior teams.

Despite these superb on-field facilities, there is a serious lack of other facilities, including sufficient car parking. The sports pavilion was erected in 1967 (opened by the Duke of Edinburgh) and was extended to its current footprint in 1998. Originally built with two changing rooms, the extensions mean that the pavilion has four changing rooms, communal showers and WCs, in addition to a kitchen and social area. Nowadays it does *not* conform to current sports and social guidance and the internal layout is confused. The building is in very poor shape with no heating, insulation or disabled access and the layout means that it is difficult to ensure adequate safeguarding provision. At around 200 sq metres external measurement, this existing footprint is deemed sufficient for user needs, though the internal layout and condition means that the building will soon become unusable.

### **The objective**

Until November 2022, a committee comprised of users managed the sports ground and pavilion. Despite a desire to improve the pavilion, very little had been achieved since 1998. It is the pavilion that needs investment and to achieve the desired and essential improvements, Dersingham Sports Ground Association (DSGA), a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO), has been recently established.

The Sports Ground is owned by the Crown and is leased to the Parish Council, who then sublease it to the DSGA.

The primary aim of the DSGA is to provide and manage a first-class sporting facility for the benefit of the residents of Dersingham and surrounding villages. The aim is to increase overall community engagement by providing a new purpose-designed pavilion, supporting the increasing numbers of sports users, with emphasis on building on youth and women's sports involvement.

### **The new sports pavilion – the goal**

In 2023 a plan for a new two-storey pavilion, sited to the north of the existing structure, was developed to the point of submitting for Borough Council planning approval. In December 2023, the Trustees of the newly formed DSGA decided, after careful consideration, to abandon this plan in favour of retaining the existing location and footprint, to construct a new, improved, totally compliant sports pavilion to serve the needs of the community for the next fifty or more years. The biggest factor in this decision was our assessment of the realistic ability to raise sufficient funds within the timeframe.

The headline components of this plan are:

- To re-build or renovate the existing single storey building to modern standards to provide adequate changing facilities for up to four sports teams and officials.

- The design will incorporate everything necessary for health and safety, Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding, disabled access, together with facilities such as kitchen, storage and social space.
- Changing, toilet and shower facilities will meet all statutory, FA and ECB requirements.
- Good communal and social space will be available, together with modern kitchen facilities.
- Front aspect to pitch-side, will have a covered space for social use, (barbecue, seating, etc).
- Enhanced parking and vehicle access.
- Designed for environmental sustainability, with attention given to appropriate levels of insulation, modern heating, solar and heat source energy and designed also to conform to Sandringham Estate architectural standards.

### Action

The DGSA intends to press ahead to attain the goal outlined above in 2024/25.

- Redraw plans for single storey pavilion on existing footprint (or remodel interior of existing)
- Further liaison with Norfolk FA and ECB on facilities requirements in order to increase chance of successful grant awards
- Obtain structural surveys and building estimates, to enable decision on rebuild or renovation to be made
- Grant applications – separate funding committee to be formed, and application made during 2024
- Community and user engagement and consultation, to include donor fundraising
- Publicity to be increased with new website and press articles.

We would hugely welcome ideas, comments and fundraising possibilities from all those in our community, in anticipation of greeting you in the new pavilion in 2025.□



## The Cactus and Succulent Society

Noel Mellish

The local branch of the British Cactus and Succulent Society meets on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month, from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm at the Albert Victor Bowls Club, just off Manor Road in Dersingham near the junction with the Lynn Road – look out for a little sign.

Last month we had our first table show contest for 2024, where members bring in examples of their collections. These shows will now feature regularly at our branch meetings. We also hold a monthly Judge's Choice competition and the photo shows the winning entry for April.

On June 4th we are hoping to have a talk on *Parodia* and *Notocactus* plants, whilst July 2<sup>nd</sup> should see the group having a look at what cacti and succulents are found in Texas.

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 information: [kingslynn.bcsc.org.uk](http://kingslynn.bcsc.org.uk) □



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## Dersingham Tennis Club (DTC)

Rosie Russell

It's now mid-April and we're all eagerly awaiting some warmth, sunshine and dry weather to be able to enjoy the outdoors. Included in that is Dersingham Tennis Club. For details look at the website [clubspark.lta.org.uk/dersinghamtc](http://clubspark.lta.org.uk/dersinghamtc).

Tennis is a great sport which can be played at many levels: family fun, friendly knock arounds, friendly competitive, league and coaching. All this is available to members who can book the courts whenever they wish, once the membership fee has been paid.

Membership fees of many sports clubs have increased by 5%, but we are not making any increase to encourage new members to join. Membership fees are very reasonable and competitive with local clubs and enable players to join in all club activities.

DTC members play in the West Norfolk League if they wish, and the results of 2023 are below:

Ladies are in Division 1 and came a very close 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mixed A team, Division 1, came 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mixed B, Division 2, finished mid table.

Men's A & B teams, both in Division 1. The A team came 3<sup>rd</sup> (missing out on 1<sup>st</sup> by just 2 points), and the B team 4<sup>th</sup>.

If you wish to try the tennis club, visit the website and give someone a call.□



### Dersingham Choir's next FREE concerts are in July

#### 'Beyond Borders'

- songs from near and far -  
'Myfanwy' to 'Pokarekare Ana' and  
others representing nations around  
the world

Performances are on  
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We are looking for a volunteer Chair at Little Discoverers. All training for the role would be provided and you would receive support from all other members of the charity committee.

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- ★ Chairing monthly evening management meetings at Alive Lynnhart.
- ★ Working with the 4 other charity trustees and 5 committee members.

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## Making Gardening Easier May Davey

Spring is here! The fruit trees are laden with blossom. The daffodils are over, but tulips are glowing. On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024, thirty-two of us had a coach trip to Wyken Hall at Stanton, near Bury St Edmunds. We enjoyed strolling through the many gardens, surrounded by low hedges and filled with tulips. The old Suffolk mansion, painted with terracotta washes, sat among these lush gardens and was surrounded by other red-brown washed outbuildings. It was a damp afternoon, but the sun was shining by the time we left for home at 4:00 pm. The restaurant was packed with visitors sheltering from the rain. Peacocks, chickens, llamas, sheep and lambs came to the fences to view the visitors.



The Annual General Meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> March at Dersingham Village Centre. A survey about the club was distributed. Ninety-five percent of members were happy with the way meetings are run. They liked cakes and biscuits for tea. They were happy to support the raffle with donations of goods. The Committee was re-elected. Then Ash Murray gave a very well-illustrated talk about Norfolk Wildlife Trust and stayed for tea to answer questions.

On 21<sup>st</sup> June there will be a **FREE** trip for members to mark Chris and May Davey's Golden Wedding Anniversary. We will be taking a coach to Peter Beales' Rose Gardens and having tea there. Visitors are welcome if there are free spaces. They will pay £10.00 each.

We usually meet at 2:00 pm at Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has been arranged. Entrance is £3.00, which includes tea and a raffle ticket. Visitors are always welcome. Our Secretary, Gloria Pantling, will be happy to answer any queries about meetings or outings. Her phone numbers are 01553 671912 and 07570 262766. Her e-mail address is [gloriapantling@btinternet.com](mailto:gloriapantling@btinternet.com).

Come and see how you like us!□



Our 'International Lunch', held at OLSE Hunstanton, on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April was a great success. There was a good variety of food which was enjoyed by all. As usual thanks go out to the many volunteers and helpers who worked behind the scenes to make it such a very good parish social occasion.

Our next parish social event is the very popular Strawberry Tea, which, as usual, will be held at St Cecilia's, Dersingham on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June. For further details please see the weekly church bulletins or the parish website.

The Pope's prayer intention for **June 2024: For migrants fleeing their homes**; we pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them. The Pope's prayer intention for **July 2024: For the pastoral care of the sick**; we pray that the sacrament of the anointing of the sick confers to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

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.

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](mailto: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 Sundays. 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 tel. 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](http://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](http://www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org) **Email:** [hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:parishpriest763@gmail.com) □

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## Dersingham Duckling Parable

### Rev Mark Capron

A mother duck appeared in our garden with a large brood of twelve cute small ducklings. Mother duck led her little ones around the garden, in and out of neighbouring gardens, providing an opportunity for her brood to explore, gradually becoming aware of their mother duck's voice. She quacked and most of the time the ducklings responded. However, storms came in and because the ducklings weren't close enough they couldn't hear Mother duck. The ducklings had scattered - she quacked loudly but to no avail as not all the ducklings heard.

I saw two of them the other side of a bush, unaware that Mummy duck had gone somewhere else. I did try to herd like a sheep dog, eventually guiding the ducklings in sight of Mummy duck. But they needed to hear the voice which is so much more effective. The stormy winds increased so much during the day that they couldn't hear Mummy duck's voice, and many got lost, losing the direction and safety of Mummy duck. Predators in the area no doubt visited, but with no Great Shepherd figure of a caring mother duck in earshot, there is no protection. The voice is not heard and Mummy duck, after a couple of days, is left with one lonely duckling.

### What do we learn from this Dersingham Duckling Parable?

A parable is an earthly story with a Godly meaning. It is a modern take of when Jesus said: "I am the Good Shepherd" (John 10). The severe wind reminds us of the storms of life that we need to be close enough to Jesus so we can continue to importantly hear his voice and guidance. The Dersingham Ducklings didn't have wolves as of the Bible, but no doubt they had birds of prey and other predators who would take the opportunity when the ducklings weren't close enough to Mummy duck. As Christians we need to continue to read God's word (the Bible) and to pray so that we become increasingly familiar with God's voice. Spending time listening to God is important, as well as time with other Christians in fellowship together.



Through the Mother duck in the Dersingham Duckling Parable we are reminded of the importance of being able to hear God's voice, being close enough in a relationship with God and through it making time for God. Christian faith is not static, it is relational and living. Communication, i.e. prayer, is a big part of the creation of the relational encounter with God. Growing in faith in Jesus takes time but is life transformational and life giving. I can certainly recommend it: Jesus as your Good Shepherd.

Blessings  
Rev Mark Capron

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

[www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk](http://www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk) **YouTube Channel:** 'Dersingham Online Worship'

## Wolferton Village News

### **Coffee Morning - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

People started to arrive ten minutes before we opened, so it was all systems go. There was a constant stream of people, and the Social Club had a wonderful buzz with lots of laughter. Thanks to everyone for their support and a huge thanks to the fantastic helpers; they all worked so hard to make it such a success, and the icing on the cake was raising the amazing sum of £1,305 for Happy Memories Group (people living with dementia and their carers) and St. Peter's Church, Wolferton. **Jacques Dennis**

### **Social Club calendar – June and July**

#### **Cash Bingo**

Sunday 2nd June: doors open 7.00 pm, eyes down 8.00 pm

Sunday 7th July: doors open 7.00 pm, eyes down 8.00 pm

#### **Prize Bingo**

Tuesday 18th June: doors open 6.30 pm, eyes down 7.30 pm

Tuesday 16th July: doors open 6.30 pm, eyes down 7.30 pm

All very welcome!

### **St Peter's Church**

Services at Wolferton are planned for the following dates and times:

- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June – 9.15 am Family Service
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – 6.00 pm Holy Communion
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July – 9.15 am Mattins
- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July – 6.00 pm Holy Communion

All very welcome! ☐



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## Dersingham: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1924

Ben Colson

We live in a fast-changing world now and become used to things around us ever changing. But it wasn't always that way, which is why I am writing about something that happened exactly one hundred years ago. It was something of note to the people of Dersingham – and more so in Ingoldisthorpe or West Newton – but today it would almost go unnoticed, maybe at best bringing on a bored yawn. Yet that something had a major social impact.

The railway line from Lynn to Hunstanton opened in late 1862; only a few trains a day to begin with, and there were stations locally at Dersingham and Snettisham. Small though that was, it was transformational to people's lives, for suddenly Lynn could be reached much more quickly than by walking or, for those that could afford it, in a horse and trap. Important enough though that was, the arrival of the train opened up new opportunities to reach destinations well beyond Lynn. Norwich, Cambridge, Peterborough and even London had, as if by magic, become accessible, because the railway provided a system, a network of routes. That meant that families, once nuclear and close, could disperse and yet still stay in touch. Business could be done further afield too, bringing the potential for a better local economy with the benefits that would bring. Today we call it connectivity.

Yet for all that, the early railway was largely exclusive, in the sense that it was of little use if you lived distant from the nearest station, or more importantly for a larger number of people, it was only of any use if it was affordable. The problem was that since 1844 the government had introduced control over railway fares (and prices to send freight and parcels too) and through the 1860s and



thereafter increasingly tightened those controls. They had been introduced because of concern that, having seen off the mail coaches, the railways had a complete monopoly on transport and, left to themselves, would abuse that monopoly. So, the controls meant that every fare between every pair of stations throughout the country was controlled by government. Not quite true, in that they were maximum fares, but that meant in practice they were the fares charged. So, if you couldn't afford the arbitrary government-controlled fare, with no alternative means of travel, you were left behind. There is a picture depicting just that: it shows what is now the A149 near the Sandringham crossroads, soon after the train line was opened in 1862 – a train can be seen crossing Dersingham Bog in the background – yet with people walking to Lynn.

We all know of the loss of life in World War One, and locally the fate of the Sandringham Company in particular, but we know less about infant mortality at that time, which in 1917 took twelve infants in their first year of life for every nine soldiers killed on the front line. Then, following the end of the war – the surrender terms of which the French General Fochs said at the surrender ceremony would certainly lead to a further war within twenty years – came the Spanish flu pandemic, which was especially virulent amongst younger adults.

So the end of that war opened an era of very considerable economic and social upheaval. Officers and men were returning from the front in search of work against the background of a broken economy and massive social upheaval. There were, of course, innovators and entrepreneurs, some of whom were actively converting surplus war

vehicles into trucks and then, by adding seats, into very early omnibuses. The concept of the omnibus, taken from the Latin word, is that it is available for all, meaning it could, or should, be affordable by all.

There were already horse buses in the area and some early experiments with petrol-engined ones – of course with solid tyres – but it was on **2nd June 1924** that the first regular bus link was provided between Lynn and Hunstanton, running to a fixed timetable. There were eight buses a day (more on Saturday) and they ran seven days a week. The business, with premises in King's Lynn, was named Norfolk Motors Ltd and the owner was a Mr Fytch. He also provided a less frequent route from Hunstanton along the coast to Wells.

Imagine what this meant for people. In Dersingham, it was a fair walk to the station (still further if you lived in Ingoldisthorpe) and the fare you paid was set by government far away in London. The bus would very likely have a stop much closer to your home and take you closer to the centre of Lynn and Mr Fytch was deciding locally what the fare would be, and it wasn't surprising that, across the country, bus fares were being set below the railway price. So, closer to home, closer to where you wanted to go, and for less. What's not to like – and it beat walking any day. Sure, the bus took one and a quarter hours from Lynn to Hunstanton, slightly under twice the time it took the train, but it was still hours fewer than walking the whole journey, and the time difference was much less when the local walk to and from the stations at each end of your journey was taken into account. If nothing else, that made travelling to work both more affordable and more feasible and so it opened up the prospect of commuting from the villages to better paid jobs in Lynn. In turn, that would start to benefit the local economy, until the stock market collapse in America in 1929 wrought fresh havoc on the local community, especially affecting agriculture, then still massively the main employer in rural areas.

So, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1924 really was a red-letter day in Dersingham and the villages around here. It must have sounded a warning siren to the railways, who were stuck in a straitjacket of the government's making. Increasingly, the railway would become less relevant for local trips but would rely on being the first or last leg of longer journeys. Harry Saward, the stalwart Stationmaster at nearby Wolferton – a station later described by Sir John Betjeman as 'unique in England' – retired this year after forty years loyal service to both the Monarch and Royal Family on the one hand, and the Great Eastern Railway on the other. He had been appointed to this prestigious post in 1884, chosen at the young age of 25 from 110 applicants for the job.

And 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1924 was the day my mother was born!□

### **Dersingham Tennis Club gets a facelift on court two** **Judy Collingham**

The surface of the second court which had suffered badly from underlying water has now, thanks to a generous grant from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund at the Borough Council, been rendered level and new surface material laid. Early May will see the area repainted and lines redrawn. This will mean the Club can confidently offer tennis training and playing on both courts safely and without danger of slipping. We are indebted to the above scheme which means so much to our playing community.

We welcome any new players to our club and hope to run training sessions in the summer months. Please contact either myself: [jcairnscol@gmail.com](mailto:jcairnscol@gmail.com) or visit our website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/dersinghamtc> □

## West Norfolk Singers

Do you know that Heacham has had a choir for many years and committee minutes go back to 1983, so that is more than forty-one years.



Do you have a desire to sing? Do you like to sing in the shower, in the car or alone in the house to the radio? Why not come along and join the The West Norfolk Singers and have some fun.

Jean Hornbuckle is now the musical director and has been with the group since 2019. Jean studied at the Royal Academy of Music and worked with the Scottish Opera, English National Opera and companies in France and Holland, as well as touring abroad with British groups. Jean has broadcasted and recorded both as a soloist and with the BBC singers and other professional groups.

Loc-Mai Yuen, the accompanist, is a classical pianist (qualified as LRAM). She has enjoyed sharing her music as recitalist, teacher and accompanist over the years to choirs, operatic societies, vocalists and instrumentalists. Now based in King's Lynn, Loc-Mai also takes pleasure in playing on a regular basis as pianist at National Trust properties, and for afternoon teas, taking pride on being a versatile and sensitive performer. She is currently very much enjoying being accompanist to the West Norfolk Singers.

Rehearsals are every Wednesday from 7:15 pm to 9:15 pm in Heacham Methodist Church, Station Road, opposite Boots chemist.

Soprano, alto, tenor and bass singers are all welcome to come and join us. There are no auditions or requirements to read music, although a little knowledge of music helps. Our wide range of repertoire includes music from Mozart, Gilbert and Sullivan, medleys of songs from the shows, calypsos and folk songs. We hope to include things that can appeal to all different musical tastes. Last term we learnt Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Melody*, *Walk them Bones*, *Peers and Fairies*, *Londonderry Air*, *Teddy Bears' Picnic* and

Christmas carols and songs.  
Jean has a desire to add newer, more modern material to our repertoire and this term we are learning *The Rhythm of Life*, *Mamma Mia*, *Coconut Calypso*, *The Goslings*, and *Two for the Price of One*, to name but a few.

Last year we were invited to sing for the King's Coronation concert in Hunstanton Town Hall and sang at a number of other venues. We look forward to doing more concerts this year.

You are welcome to take part in some free taster sessions which can be arranged by contacting our Chairperson Anne Davis either by email: [Anne.davis@outlook.com](mailto:Anne.davis@outlook.com) or phone number 01485 571315; or Vice Chairman Julie Watson either by email [Julie.watson7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Julie.watson7@yahoo.co.uk) or phone number 07749 928753.

To learn some more, visit our website at [www.westnorfolksingers.org.uk](http://www.westnorfolksingers.org.uk) □



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## Dersingham Walking Group

### Tony Bubb

Our walks are as much a social gathering as out and out exercise. We even have been known to take advantage of purveyors of ice cream or other refreshments, should opportunities arise. Being led sometimes means that one has no real idea of the route taken, so it can be repeated, but leaders are always eager to point out the way.



Our next walks are:

#### **Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2.00pm**

We have got such lovely woods around us, filled with beautiful trees, wildflowers and rhododendrons and 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 13<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm**

A walk around Ringstead Downs, which was part of the Le Strange estate, 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.

#### **Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm**

Footpaths, lanes and farm tracks make up this circuit starting from East Rudham village green. Start point near The Crown pub on the village green. TF 827281. About 4.5 miles. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

#### **Wednesday July 10<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm**

Fields, woods, common and fen are all to be enjoyed on this walk around Roydon and its environs. About the usual 4 miles starting at TF 701228 - the car park off Chapel Road. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

#### **Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm**

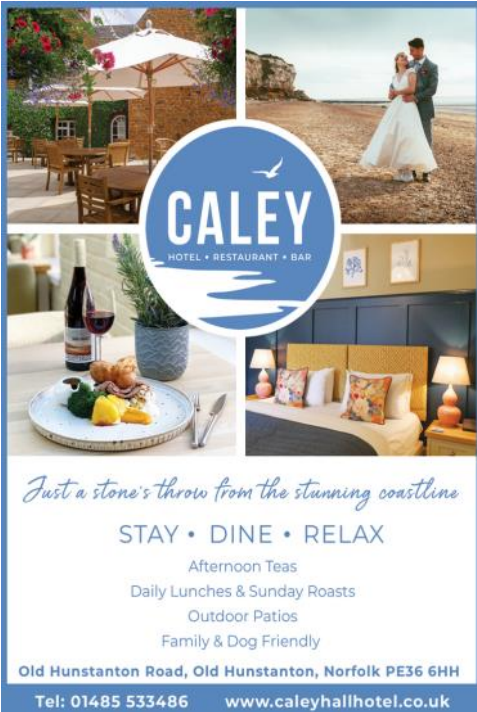
A figure of eight circular walk along peaceful paths and lanes, including the ruins of Coxford Abbey and the old East Rudham railway station. Start from near Manor Farm, Old Fakenham Road, Coxford, just off the A148. TF 847294. About 4.5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

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](http://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 afield 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](mailto:frostytrees@btinternet.com) □

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## Fog - A Personal Reminiscence and Some Musings

Brian Anderson



I rather think that anyone twenty or so years younger than I will not have any memories of the kind of fog that I'm talking about - the dense yellowish kind that you can taste. The kind usually referred to as *smog* - a mixture of fog and smoke. We lived in Finchley in north London where it wasn't usually quite as bad as further towards the centre of the city. When we visited my grandparents in Holloway - towards the centre - foggy days were much worse, with the visibility bad and a constant sulphury taste in the mouth.

In the early pre-laundrette days, washdays were a nightmare for my Mum if it was foggy. All the washing was done by hand, wrung out and then passed through a mangle. If it rained, the washing would just get wet, but in fog it was often marked with black smuts necessitating a rewash. Usually on such days the washing would be put over a clothes horse in front of our (one) open fire. Four years ago I wrote about my Dad's time as a trolleybus driver in London. Here's what I wrote:

*Other times, when my Dad was late home, were generally due to fog. Because of the widespread use of coal fires, fog was a frequent hazard in winter. One day he came home and said that he'd completed his journey and returned the bus to the depot. When he got out of the cab there was a car behind the bus - the driver had simply followed the tail lights in the murk! The story sounds apocryphal, but he swore it was true.*

In 1952 the worst smog in London's history occurred. On 4th December an anticyclone formed over London, creating a temperature inversion with cold, stagnant air confined under warm, almost stationary air. Smoke from the almost ubiquitous domestic coal fires, power stations (there were six power stations in the capital at that time) and vehicle exhausts was trapped over the city. The railways were almost entirely equipped with coal-burning steam locomotives. The cold weather exacerbated the situation as many people had lit their fires and the coal they were using was called "nutty slack", an inferior grade with a high sulphur content. Later analysis showed that the smog contained (as well as smoke particles), sulphur dioxide, hydrochloric acid and noxious fluorine compounds. On the worst days public transport (apart from the Underground) in London ceased. Cinemas closed as the audiences couldn't see the screen. Sporting fixtures were abandoned. It was one time when "you couldn't see your hand in front of your face." Braziers were lit on some streets as an aid to the few vehicles and pedestrians who ventured out.



***The 1952 fog***

On 9<sup>th</sup> December the fog started to clear. Later, it was estimated that the fog had led to 4,000 excess deaths in the London area. Subsequent re-analysis revealed that the death toll was around 12,000, mostly from respiratory and cardiac failure, some succumbing months after the fog. This was the worst bout of air pollution in British history. This smog affected me personally as my Mum had a bout of bronchopneumonia following a persistent cough during the winter, which led to her being taken to hospital. My Dad still had to work so I was packed off to my Auntie Edie in Redbourn in Hertfordshire (still quite rural in those days) and went to the local school with my cousin Carol. When Mum

was discharged, she and I spent two weeks in a sanatorium run by the Transport and General Workers Union at Hythe in Kent. My Dad was a member (obviously!). It was here, in a beautiful Kentish spring, that I became interested in butterflies after seeing Small Tortoiseshells on the flower beds of the sanatorium.

The smog of 1952 led to legislative changes such as the 1956 Clean Air Act - eventually, coal burning in London was effectively banned, although it took some years before coal was replaced by gas fires and ultimately central heating. There was another serious smog in 1962, the year I started work at University College London. The fog was really quite bad and persisted for a few days (4th - 7th December). It percolated down to the Underground lines and was quite visible on the platforms.

I have another memory of fog. I had a friend who lived a couple of miles away and I went to see him one foggy evening. One of the roads I passed was called Hobbs Green, a name I had paid no attention to previously. But I had just been watching the televised serial *Quatermass and the Pit*, set at Hobbs Lane and had a shiver or two of apprehension about what horror might come out of the fog. I was twelve years old.

Finally, I have a memory not *of* fog but *about* fog. Some twenty years ago, I went to a memorial meeting for the mother of a friend of mine. She was Professor Kathleen Tillotson, an expert on the works of Charles Dickens. One of the speakers, for whom she had been the PhD supervisor, described a tutorial with her and said, "I had just discovered the fog in *Bleak House*" to general amusement. I was mystified, even though I had read it. I shall return to this later.

London fogs have been a cause of complaint since at least the thirteenth century. In 1661, the diarist John Evelyn (a contemporary of Samuel Pepys) had written about "the inconvenience of the aer and smoak of London" in *Fumifugium*, the first book written about air pollution. London's fog was often referred to as a "peasouper", partly as a reference to its yellowish colour and also as a "London Particular", reflecting its unique awfulness.

London's fogs have earned their place in literature and the arts. To return to *Bleak House*, re-reading it made it obvious that Dickens was using fog as a metaphor for the workings of the Court of Chancery, a now defunct court that dealt with disputes over inheritance, wills and probate. The court moved with glacial slowness - one real-life case took sixty-two years to resolve! The novel involves a case brought by Lord and Lady Dedlock. Dickens' use of fog can be illustrated in two quotes;

*Fog everywhere. Fog up the river, where it flows among green aits and meadows; fog down the river, where it rolls defiled among the tiers of shipping and the waterside pollutions of a great (and dirty) city.*

*.. at the very heart of the fog, sits the Lord High Chancellor in his High Court of Chancery. Never can there come fog too thick, never can there come mud and mire too deep, to assort with the groping and floundering condition which this High Court of Chancery, most pestilent of hoary sinners, holds this day in the sight of heaven and earth.*

The concept is given a nod in Margery Allingham's *Tiger in the Smoke*, although it probably refers more to the city than the fog. C J Samson's alternative history *Dominion* uses the 1952 fog to enable the escape of Resistance fighters. The story is set in a Britain where Halifax rather than Churchill becomes Prime Minister in 1940. Halifax concludes an armistice with Germany, leading to Britain becoming a vassal state of the Nazis.

Finally, on the literature front, it is strange that Sherlock Holmes has an aura of fog about him...but there is very little mention of fog in the stories.

Claude Monet painted a very atmospheric (literally) picture of London fog in 1904. Many other artists have done similar work but obviously require *some* light for painting!

The smogs of London have gone, but all is not well. Air pollution is present, less visible but still malignant. Oxides of nitrogen and particulates from vehicle exhausts are a serious risk for those with complaints such as asthma. Coroners' courts are now willing to put "air pollution" as a cause of death on death certificates. The need for more low-emission zones is pressing. □



**London fog (1904) by Monet**



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## From your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



Spring has arrived, though given the temperature outside as this is being composed, you would be forgiven for thinking it has not.

Various issues around planning applications have kept us busy. As ever, in the first instance it is always a good plan to speak to your neighbours if you are planning exterior changes to your home.

Having spent some time with the residents of Hill Close, Ingoldisthorpe, it is good to learn that the Borough is taking direct action and finishing off the roadway within the development which had been left in a poor state by the developer, Windborough Homes. A cautionary tale - advice might be to ensure that, prior to buying on any new development, ensure that the site is to be finished off as per the plans presented in terms of roads, landscaping, hedging, fencing, etc.

We continue to see progress towards completion of the various schemes under the Levelling Up Funding which will be such a boost for King's Lynn. We have much to be proud of and need to make the most of opportunities to promote our communities and the natural world which surrounds them.

Some controversy has arisen around the pathway outside the school in Admiral's Drive. We have received assurance from our County Councillor that a barrier will be erected to ensure the safety of children, preventing them from rushing out onto the road.

Since it was built, the road down to the beach where it crosses the bypass has only had warning signs on the A149 warning of tractors. But now we have prevailed upon the County Highways, with the help of Stuart Dark, to have signs warning of pedestrians. We get there in the end.

If there is anything you feel we should be looking into, do get in touch. □



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For further details please contact Alison or Jonathan on 01553 7776030.

E-mail: [alison.schultz@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:alison.schultz@oddfellows.co.uk) □

Telephone: 01485 600777

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# What a busy term for the Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides! Lynne Wheeler



This term, the Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have been very busy enjoying a range of activities, having fun and earning badges during their weekly meetings. However, in February they had the chance to join together with the Rainbows (4 - 7 years), Brownies (7 - 10 years) and Guides (10 +) from the surrounding villages to celebrate Thinking Day. Thinking Day is on the 22nd February - Lord and Lady Baden-Powell's birthday - and is a chance to celebrate that Girlguiding is part of a worldwide family of guides.

If anyone would like to join Rainbows, Brownies or Guides visit <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk>.

## 1st Dersingham Rainbows

This term, the Rainbows have gained their Be Well Theme Award where all the badges and activities are linked to being healthy and keeping the natural world healthy. Their Fruit and Veg badge involved the making and TASTING of different smoothies, creating portraits using pictures of fruit and veg for the features and finally creating sculptures. They have enjoyed different fitness activities and lots of singing, as well as making bird feeders to look after the birds visiting their gardens. They celebrated Easter with a visit to Park Farm to see and feed the newborn lambs, collect the eggs and meet lots of other animals.



## 2nd Dersingham Brownies

The Brownies have been very busy this term completing the Express Myself Theme Award, which involved a wide range of different activities. The girls created mimes in their sixes, made and decorated biscuits using only certain colours, created pictures using only dots and designed a six-shield representing all the Brownies in their six. They also took part in a range of celebrations - as well as Thinking Day, they made pancakes, and celebrated Chinese New Year, Mothering Sunday, Easter and St Patrick's Day. For St Patrick's day, the Brownies made soda bread and coloured a snake mobile, as well as playing a range of games.

The big event of this term was getting ready for our annual pack holiday with the 1st Dersingham Brownies. At the start of the Easter holidays, fifteen Brownies and their leaders descended on



Patteson Lodge - a guiding holiday home in Coltishall, for a Little Miss themed holiday. We all had a great time! The girls helped prepare the meals, laid the table and washed up afterwards. They had inspections to ensure their bedrooms were tidy - they slept in bunk



beds - enjoyed time in the craft room making a variety of crafts, as well as games outside, singing, marshmallows and badges. Our special activity was a visit to the Girlguiding Norfolk ARC, or Archive Resource Centre in the grounds which has recently acquired museum status and contains a wide variety of Guiding objects from the past. The girls enjoyed a fascinating afternoon finding out how Brownies (and indeed Guiding and Scouting) began and how they got their name, how the uniform has changed, took part in games Brownies played in the past and heard the Brownie story. They also got the chance to dress up in the different uniforms and put on a fashion show before seeing how the ARC looks after all its objects.

A Brownie pack holiday is a very special experience for the Brownies and everyone had a wonderful time.

### 1st Dersingham Guides

Just like the Rainbows and Brownies, it is amazing how many different activities the Guides have enjoyed since the start of the year.

The year started with welcoming new Guides moving up from Brownies and the challenge to create human crocodile wheel tracks (like on a tank) using newspaper and



move successfully around the room. There was much laughter during this meeting! As the Guides are working towards their Skills for my Future Theme Award, they spent an evening at Morrisons in King's Lynn. Here they were challenged to create a menu and then go shopping for it, but they randomly had to pick the meat they needed to include, a dietary requirement and a maximum price. They then travelled up and down the aisles finding what they needed before going through the checkout - everyone succeeded.

The half-term ended with a sleepover at Jimmy's field in Snettisham, where the activities all had a computer theme, as Google sponsored the activities. Not to forget - marshmallows and not much sleep!

In the final weeks leading up to Easter, the Guides began their Investigating badge with a Science Evening - they extracted DNA from fruit, created a Rainbow in a glass and turned cream into butter. Another badge involved learning about forensics and we were lucky to have a visitor who used to be a Police Forensics Officer and who also volunteers with another Guide unit to come and run a very exciting forensics evening for the Guides. In preparation, the Guides all had to create a forensics kit, including all the different things they would need. When they arrived at the HQ, they discovered that a crime scene had appeared. They learnt about the different types of trace evidence and how to collect them, as well as how to take fingerprints. They then had to draw a picture of their crime scene before collecting all the trace evidence they could find.



A very busy term ended with an evening of Easter fun, games and chocolate!□

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## Hunstanton Music Festival 2024

The sixth Hunstanton Music Festival will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July. This annual summer event is extremely popular and attracts large audiences of local people and visitors to the town. This year for the first time there will be two days of live music on The Green.

There will be many different acts and bands performing, with a wide variety of music to suit all tastes. The entertainment starts at noon and runs through until 7pm with the headline acts '2<sup>nd</sup> Sunset' on the Saturday and 'The Melody Beats' on Sunday on stage at 6pm.

Music Director of Hunstanton and District Festival of Arts (H DFA) Ian Wells says, 'The festival is a great opportunity for young talent to gain experience and have the opportunity to perform on a large stage. There will also be more established bands entertaining the audience and a whole range of music from folk and metal through to rock and roll, acoustic covers and rhythm and blues. The two headline acts are well-known and always put on a great show.'□

### Spring COVID-19 Vaccinations

You can now book your spring COVID-19 vaccine online or on the NHS App if you are eligible.

Appointments will start from 22 April. You don't need to wait to be invited.

Find out more about who is eligible and how to book here: <https://nhs.uk/book-vaccine>



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## Events for June and July

**MONDAY 3rd JUNE: 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, plus raffle. For information email [anmer.club@outlook.com](mailto:anmer.club@outlook.com).

**FRIDAY 14th JUNE: FILM NIGHT.** *Wicked Little Letters (15)*, starring Olivia Colman and Jessie Buckley in a riotous mystery comedy set in a 1920s English seaside town which bears witness to a dark, absurd scandal. 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](mailto:films@anmerclub.co.uk)

**SATURDAY 15th JUNE: SUMMER FIESTA.** 7.30 p.m. Come along and enjoy Strawberries and Cream and Pimms. Musical entertainment with MIKE TERRY - Guitar and vocals. Tickets £6 in advance. To book please contact Jennie, either call or text 07708 769114, or email [jennie\\_martin5@hotmail.com](mailto:jennie_martin5@hotmail.com) by Monday 10th June. Fully licensed bar, plus raffle.

**FRIDAY 28th JUNE: QUIZ NIGHT.** Club opens at 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts at 7.30 p.m. Entry £2 per person. Licensed bar, plus raffle.

**MONDAY 1st JULY: 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, plus raffle. For information email [anmer.club@outlook.com](mailto:anmer.club@outlook.com)

**SATURDAY 6th JULY: AN EVENING OF CLASSIC BOARD AND PUB GAMES.** 7.00 p.m. Plus optional fish and chips supper served at 8.00 p.m. - £10.50 per person. To book fish and chips call or text 07899 872351 or via the website [www.anmerclub.com](http://www.anmerclub.com) by Thursday 4th July.

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

**Hunstanton  
u3a**

At our meeting at the Community Centre, Avenue Road, Hunstanton at 2:00 pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June we will hopefully be welcoming Philip Caine who will be providing various anecdotes as a raconteur!

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July we will be joined again by Saffron Summerfield with the subject "Meet you There." You will be most welcome to join us.

For further information please see our website [hunstantonu3a.org](http://hunstantonu3a.org) or telephone 07443 763679.□



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## The Garden Assassins

'Twas quiet with flashes of many busy wings,  
Feeders hanging with fat balls, seeds and other things.  
I sipped my tea, and watched for a minute or two,  
Brown, black, blue birds, and pigeons, quite a few.

Suddenly, silently and deadly, the sparrow hawk chose its prey,  
With lightning speed it dived upon one of the birds of grey;  
Nature's work goes on in all kinds of weathers.  
I turned away, unable to watch the fight of flying feathers.

A pigeon left its nest to find quick food and a drink;  
A grey coated watcher scurried up, as quickly as a wink,  
Its practised paws quickly scooped up one of the nested eggs.  
Too late the bird returned distressed with outstretched legs.

The ground was damp, the mild air had only the slightest chill,  
A blackbird, head cocked to one side stood absolutely still.  
Then with a downward dipping head and splayed legs, so fast and firm  
With backward stretch, out of the ground it pulled a wriggling worm.

As I walked down the garden towards the compost heap  
I saw the neighbour's cat clear the fence in one huge leap.  
Birds on the tree feeder and birds on the ground  
Scattered wildly, with warning chirps, tho' cat hadn't made a sound.

Late evening I went to give the pot plants some water to survive.  
To my dismay, I discovered that with aphids they were alive.  
As I stood wondering what my next move should be  
A liveliness of ladybirds landed on them for afternoon tea.



Hyacinths, Hebes and Hollies, the munching muntjac kills;  
Strangely enough tho' they don't touch the daffodils.  
The dismay of seeing round the garden an array of mole hill tumps,  
The rage of finding that rabbits had nibbled vegetable shoots in clumps.

The colourful flowers, the trees, the butterflies and bees -  
Stop and look around, it's amazing what one sees.  
From the other side of the coin that glorious Nature spins  
From high to low she creates the balance of her assassins!!!

Lorna MMXXIV

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

Maggie Ponder

The last couple of months have been good. Firstly, we have some new members. We have also taken part in The Docking Church Umbrella Festival. For this we decorated an old umbrella with artwork contributed by our members. Our umbrella was one of a number decorated by other groups which lined the aisle of Docking church. It made an interesting and unusual display. Now we are busy decorating the old chair that I mentioned in the last magazine. If anyone feels they would like to come and join us, please drop in any Thursday.

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. Some of our members are very skilled but others of us just enjoy having a go.

If you think you might be interested in joining us or helping to run the club, come and visit us between **10:00 am and 2:00 pm 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 including blankets, baby clothes, gloves, hats, gifts etc. for sale. Drop in any Thursday between 10:00 am and noon to see what we have. □



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## June 6<sup>th</sup> - A Date to Remember

### Elizabeth Fiddick

There are certain dates throughout the year that have a special personal significance for everyone: anniversaries of all kinds, some happy, some not, remain long in the memory. There are some dates that gain worldwide significance, like 9/11, for instance. November 11<sup>th</sup> will always be Armistice Day. As this edition of Village Voice is published we are approaching another of these dates, June 6<sup>th</sup>, always thought of now as D-Day, when Allied troops landed back on French soil in 1944 to fight their way to ending the horror of WWII.

It was 11 am on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1939 that Neville Chamberlain announced that we were at war with Germany. The fact that the news everyone had feared had come about would have been a shock nationwide and was almost immediately felt here.

On September 11<sup>th</sup> the school opened and the log book records that evacuees were attending. Gill Griffin, a child at the time, remembered the evacuees arriving by train from London. Several were accommodated in The Alexandra Hotel opposite the station, whilst others went to the White House on the Main Road. Most, however, were taken in by local families, and Elizabeth Neale remembered the little girl from the East End of London, who came to live with them, who was in a terrible state and that her mother had to be very patient with her. She recalled another little boy at school who was so terrified when an aircraft flew over that he wet himself. The fact that the school recorded a case of scabies found in one evacuee family underlines their poor state of health. They must have thought our lovely village was a wonderland. The school was packed out with all the new arrivals and one report showed as many as sixty-three children in a class.

There were many new lessons and activities. Both the girls and the boys learnt how to knit socks for the soldiers, using four needles and following a chart on the wall which showed in beautiful copperplate writing how to turn a heel. The boys also worked in the school garden to grow vegetables and, perhaps even more importantly, dig trenches there and in the garden of The Emblems, the house next door. They often spent more than half a day on this, although some of the time was spent play jumping in and out of them and getting filthy as a result. It was all much so much better than lessons! If an air raid was sounded the whole school were to evacuate to these trenches in the top garden to shelter until the danger was passed. They practised for this regularly.

The children had to get used to their gasmasks, practising every day how to put them on and remembering to carry them everywhere in a little satchel. It was quite an occasion when the gas van visited the school and parked on the playground. The children had to walk through to have their masks tested. It was perhaps a little frightening though when Superintendent Woodeson, the local Police Officer, came to demonstrate anti-personnel bombs and to warn the children of the dangers.

In 1941 the school received stirrup pumps for water, which the older children were taught how to use, but perhaps January 5<sup>th</sup> 1942 was the more memorable day for the school, as the log book records in large capital letters WATER LAID ON. Until that time all water had to be collected from the village pumps.

An entry in the logbook in 1940 that Mr. Waring, a popular teacher, was absent having been called up for Army Service, reveals the sadness and worry felt as so many young men of the village - sons, brothers, fathers, uncles - gradually left to join the fighting forces. Many remembered walking to the station to wave their fathers goodbye.

The whole village joined in the war effort. Vital work on the farms continued. Mr. Linford, whose grocer's shop still stands at the crossroads, and Mr. Tuck were the first of the Air Raid Wardens to be appointed, led by Mr. Lloyd Pratt who lived at The Oaks, a large house that used to stand next to Dersingham Pottery. Wardens' posts were established there and at The Feathers and in Mr. Linford's shop. First Aid posts were established in The Feathers and The Dun Cow Inn (The Co-op is now on that site).



*Wardens*



*Special Constables*

Villagers joined the Casualty Service to train as stretcher bearers. Others became canteen workers, or Savings Collectors, whilst some became Special Constables enforcing the blackout, and watching for parachutists. Whatever role they took on, they all attended regular lectures and training to deal with air incidents or gas attacks.



*First Aiders*



*Canteen Workers*

The Local Defence Volunteers, who eventually became The Home Guard, at first had no uniforms or rifles but proudly wore an armband bearing the insignia LDV. There was a shepherd's hut up on Mill Road which they manned to watch for parachutists. Dick Stanton remembered his father going off at weekends with men from the farm on exercises.

At the time some villagers were trained for an underground Home Guard guerilla movement - 202 battalion. In the event of an invasion, they were to hide in an underground bunker in Sandringham woods where weapons and explosives had been hidden for them to use to disrupt the invading forces. They were not to carry family photographs or letters that could link them to nearby towns or villages. Thus, if they were captured the enemy could not hold their families hostage and force them to reveal details of these sites.

The greatest effect on the village was of course the arrival of the Canadian soldiers, always affectionately referred to as The Newfoundland Boys. They took over the newly built St. George's School, where their hobnailed boots would ruin the freshly laid parquet floors. They were billeted in the Drill Hall and in tents in Dersingham Hall, where they

had a canteen in the building next to the entrance. Many were billeted with local families and Gill Griffin remembered they housed three. One taught her to ride a bicycle on the playing field and another made a swing in the woods for the children.

The house that is now the funeral parlour was then the Chestnut Tree Guest House, owned by Mr and Mrs Fisher. Soldiers were billeted there, but as it was one of the few houses in the village that had a bathroom, it was requisitioned by the military. Soldiers from other billets were sent there for a bath at 6d. a time. The Fishers were compensated with an extra ration of coal. They laid on tasty suppers for the men and Mr. Playford the baker remembered cooking twenty turkeys for the soldiers' Christmas dinner.

Villagers recalled dozens of tanks at the top school and more in the grounds of Dersingham Hall and how they would drive down the Main Road to the common to practise on the Heath. There were naval guns on wheels at Wolferton and a favourite occupation on a Sunday was to sit up on the common and watch them firing at targets out in The Wash.

Attack from the air was always a concern. In a field off Ling House Road a powerful searchlight was erected to search for enemy aircraft. A field near the Shernborne crossroads was prepared as an alternative landing site for planes from Bircham airfield. Docking began the war as a decoy airfield for Coastal Command Station RAF Bircham. There was a dummy flarepath and dummy aircraft lined up. The enemy was fooled and did bomb it once, but the only casualties were a few rabbits. There was another decoy field at Sedgeford.

Many villagers recalled the German prisoners of war who used to walk through the village from their prison camp on Snettisham beach to work on the farms or tend the stock kept on the marshes.

Nearly everyone here had allotments or gardens to grow food and most kept chickens, so their diet was quite good. The War Agricultural Executive ordered that the marshes be drained and the fields squared up. These were ploughed for food production, grazing was diminished and the concrete road was laid down for easy access.

It is hard now to imagine the village filled with soldiers on exercises, tanks rumbling down our roads and prisoners of war working on the farms. As most of the local boys had left to serve it was also a very worrying time, but the villagers kept cheerful. Most recalled taking part in Mr and Mrs Houchen's Dersingham Premiers Concert Party. They gave performances nearly every week to raise funds for the war effort in all the nearby villages, with singing, dancing, comedy sketches, and music. They made all the costumes and scenery from whatever they could find, and Mr. Houchen used his coaches to transport them everywhere.



So it was in June of 1944 that villagers began to notice things were changing. The woods all round were filled with tanks and lorries, well hidden from above. Ivy Lines and her family went to visit relatives in Ickburgh and Ivy remembered on the way seeing all the tanks and convoys of troops hidden in the woods. At one point the sky was black with aircraft flying out, which frightened her.

Then when they returned home all the tanks and troops had gone. There was nothing on the roads. The village was quiet and still. Bill Playford remembered that it was early one Sunday morning when all the tanks slipped away, rumbling down Post Office Road never to return.

On their return, Ivy's mother remarked, "Something is happening today. I know that." Quite right, Mrs. Lines. It was D-Day. The beginning of the end.



Go to [dersinghamhistory.info/interviews](http://dersinghamhistory.info/interviews) to listen to the interviews and the account of Dersingham in Wartime. Any help in putting names to the photos would be greatly appreciated.□

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## **Dersingham Library**

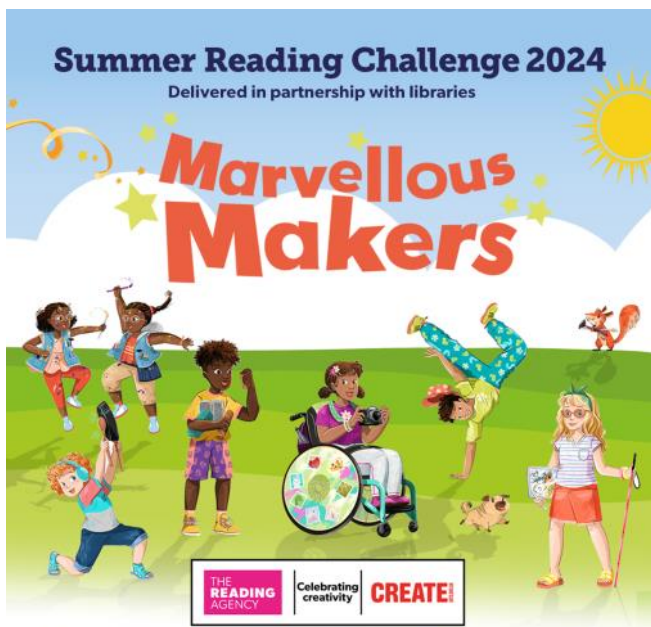
**Mary Grogan, Library Manager**

### **Get creative with the Summer Reading Challenge**

Children can get creative with this year's Summer Reading Challenge, Marvellous Makers, which launches in Norfolk libraries on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a FREE holiday activity for children aged 4-11. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's reading skills and confidence. Children can read anything they like (really – anything!) and collect free rewards for their reading. For under 5s there is a mini challenge, so they don't miss out.

Just pop into your local library or visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge) to sign up. Children will need to be a library member - you can do this in a library or online. It's free of charge and children will receive their own library card for which there are no overdue fees.



Illustrations by Natelle Quek and logo artwork by Lizzie Everard. All © The Reading Agency 2024.

This year's Challenge is all about creativity. From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there's something for everyone! Children will be able to find new reads linked to their favourite creative arts and join in with free activities at their local library.

The Summer Reading Challenge is developed by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries. This year's theme has been developed in partnership with Create, a leading charity bringing the creative arts to those who need it most.

Find out more at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge)

### **Dersingham Library Job Club**

This takes place every Wednesday from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Our Job Club volunteer is here 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.□

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## Dersingham Evening W.I.

Katrina Mundy, President

April started with a coffee morning in Pam's home which, although attendance was small, was enjoyed by all who attended. Six members enjoyed a free crafting morning at Babs' at which we made a decoupage box. This was a peaceful relaxing occasion with the occasional chatter, but most of us were concentrating on our sticking of tissue paper. (Mine now has a room diffuser standing in it.) Many thanks to Babs for instruction, for holding it at her home and of course the coffee.



April 17<sup>th</sup> saw us celebrate our 62nd birthday as we started in 1962. We were wonderfully entertained by singer Joan Hocking. Joan started her performance leading us in singing *Jerusalem* (it has never sounded so good before.) Joan is a classically trained mezzo soprano who has performed in many venues all over Norfolk, and as an actress has performed with many Norfolk societies. Her songs ranged from classical and musical theatre to contemporary. We all enjoyed joining in with those we knew the words to, although some of us did struggle to reach Joan's range of musical notes, and when she sang *O Sole Mio* we joined in when she then changed it to Elvis Presley's *It's Now or Never*. She sang beautiful songs from her Something Wonderful selection, including classics like *Que Sera Sera* by Doris Day, the powerful *Never Enough* from *The Greatest Showman*, and the uplifting *You'll Never Walk Alone* from *Carousel*, which ended her evening with us all joining in as well as the usual hand waving from a few members. We

had quiche and salad followed by birthday cake and members brought their own liquid refreshment for the evening.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> a group of members enjoyed lunch at The Ancient Mariner in Hunstanton. Our Book Club met on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Their book for April was *Cry of The Kalahari* by Delia Owen. This is a most interesting book about the Owens who lived and worked for seven years in the Deception Valley in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, studying the game of the area and how they survived the dangers of living in this the largest pristine area of the world. The craft group is still going strong and have made some lovely cards using very different techniques. We hope to organise a trip to Wolferton Station later this year and a trip to Peckover to see the lovely rose gardens there.

The committee has now started planning next year's programme as some speakers do get booked up quite early and we are asking members for their ideas for future trips/ workshops.

By the time you read this we will have held our May meeting, which will be our Resolution Discussion meeting and the topic is "Dental Health Matters", which I am sure will lead to some lengthy discussion. We all know there is a chronic shortage of NHS dentists and people are suffering health issues as a result. The NFWI calls on the Government to increase investment in the training and retention of dentists and to review the current inadequate NHS contracts to ensure everyone can access an NHS dentist wherever they live. We will then vote as to whether we support this and then instruct our delegate how to vote at NFWI's annual meeting in June at the Royal Albert Hall.

June will see us having a talk from Hazel Gillingham on the "Three Amazing Women of the W.I." This is a talk about Octavia Hill, Mary Seacole and Millicent Garrett Fawcett, and more on it in the next issue. A future date for your diaries is our Autumn Fair on September 7<sup>th</sup> at St Cecilia's Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with various stalls and refreshments on sale.

Our monthly meetings are mostly held on the third Wednesday of every month in St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham at 7:15 pm. 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 01485 542847.

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## Dersingham Yard Sale

After last year's success we are planning another Village Yard Sale this year, so if you need to have a clear out or want to earn yourself some extra pennies it would be great to have even more people participating this year. You can either add your name to the lists that will be available in the Co-op and the Post Office from 18th May or by contacting Julie or Alex (our details are in the advert).

Maps will be available on the day from the Co-op and the Village Centre.

The Village Centre will have a tabletop sale in the main hall and will also be running a pop-up cafe, like last year.

There is no fee to participate, but please remember this is being organised entirely on a voluntary basis, so we are just asking that you make a small donation to our chosen charities: Safe Rescue for Dogs and Ryston Rachel's Hedgehog Hotel. There will be a collection tin provided with the lists when you sign up. The lists will be removed on 14th July to allow us time to collate all the addresses and print the maps. You will still be able to join in after this date, but we won't be able to add your address to the map.

We hope it will be a great day for everyone.□

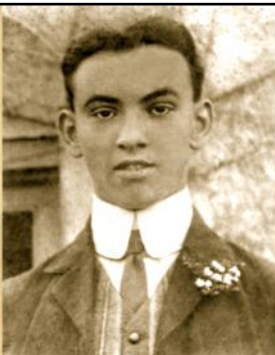
# DERSINGHAM YARD SALE

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Maps will be available on the day from the Village Centre & the Co-op for £1

If you would like to join in, a list will be available in the Co-op & the Post Office from the 18th May for you to add your name & address. A small donation to our chosen charities would be much appreciated

Any further queries please contact:  
Julie Plummer 07834 349946  
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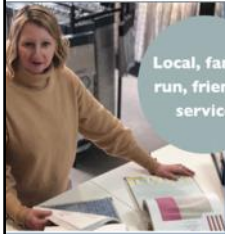
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## **Dersingham Methodist Church**

**Elizabeth Batstone, Church Secretary**

The March coffee morning was well attended, with people sitting and chatting over coffee, sausage rolls and cake. Many thanks for helping us raise £340.60, which has been divided equally between Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged.

The next coffee morning is on 27th July and will be for Methodist Mission in Britain and World Mission. We look

forward to seeing you.

By the time you read this we will have just finished the Flower Festival and 134th church anniversary, we hope to be able to give a donation of £500 to the Matjinge Fund.

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit is fundraising for a new borehole to be drilled at Matjinge High School, which is a Methodist boarding school in Matabeleland South, Zimbabwe, attended by 125 children from poor rural communities. This is the school which was attended by our minister, Revd Dr Richman Ncube. The project will ensure a supply of water for the school. We will keep you updated on the project.

We feel blessed to know that the witness of the Methodist Church has been continuing for 134 years. We look forward to the 135th anniversary.

[stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com](mailto:stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com) □

## **Snettisham Gardening Club**

**Addie Thompson**

Our monthly meetings are held in the Memorial Hall in Snettisham. However, there is not a meeting in July. Our June meeting on Wednesday 26th will see Fay Jones telling us about the wonderful work of nettles! Not generally recognised as a gardeners' best friend, but perhaps Fay can change your mind!

Schedules and entry forms are still available at Stockley's Chemist for our Open Show on Saturday 13th July. Classes include flowering plants and flower arrangements, vegetables, cookery and preserves, through to crafts and photography. There are classes for children and adults with prize money for winners. Entries close on Wednesday 10th July, so there's still time to prepare and enter.

If you are unable to take part, the show is open for visitors in Snettisham Memorial Hall from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm, admission via a raffle ticket. There will be cream teas!

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

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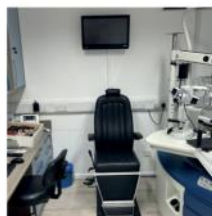
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## Hunstanton Croquet Club

Caroline Harper

At the time of writing, our hardy members have been braving all weathers to play - including fifteen brand new players whose introduction to the wonderful summer game of croquet began with gale force winds and freezing cold showers. Undeterred and thus showing the perfect temperament for the brutal/beautiful game, they graduated with flying colours at the end of April. Well done to the 2024 cohort!

Our 'Come and Try' afternoon took place on Wednesday, 17th April. Although the forecast was dire, twenty-six lovely people braved the wind and cold to have a go. Fortunately, the rain held off and for the last half hour the wind dropped and the sun came out! We were lucky to have about fifteen members who generously gave their time to mentor small groups. I don't want to risk offending anyone by missing out their name, but a special mention must go to Pat who kept the tea and coffee flowing to help thaw out the players.



By the time this goes to print, we will have hosted the first major tournament of the season for three days over the early May bank holiday. There will have been visitors from all over competing for the Robert Prichard AC (Association Croquet) trophy. Fingers crossed that it will have warmed up a bit by then!

With twenty-nine tournament days on the calendar, as well as four club sessions a week, we are looking forward to another packed season with something for all abilities - from complete beginners to experienced skilled players. All are welcome.

[hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk](http://hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk) □

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## Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Easter was a busy time at school, with the PTA organising an Easter egg hunt, with hundreds of eggs donated by them, Year 5 putting on a wonderful Easter service at St Nicholas' Church, and an array of classroom activities, including making Easter gardens and retelling the Easter story. St Nicholas' Church also donated some of their left over chocolate eggs to use with the children at school, so a very big thank you to them! The PTA organised a free Easter Creation competition, with each entry receiving a gift and a chocolate egg for the overall winner from each class. The Easter Bingo was a huge success at the village hall and the PTA were delighted with the super attendance. They would like to extend a big thank you to Mark Mitternacht for being the caller and to Dersingham Social Club for hosting the event for the community.

There were a whole host of sporting events last half term, including a Year 4 girls football tournament, where the girls finished second and went on to compete in the finals at Goals in Norwich. Their fine performance saw them finishing third overall. A truly wonderful achievement!

Year 6 took part in the West Norfolk Quicksticks tournament, where they were crowned champions. They went on to play in the county finals and finished in third position, a very well-deserved accomplishment.

Lucy Rollason took a dance troop to the festival at the Corn Exchange, where the children put on a fantastic show with other schools from West Norfolk. Their musical themed, street dance routine was truly fantastic and performed to a packed audience of parents and children.

Our Year 4 netballers took part in a fun 'Bee' festival at Lynnsport, where they learned to hone their skills and improve their performance across the course of the morning.

Football was high on the agenda again, with Year 4 boys taking part in a cluster competition at Glebe, seeing them bag third place. The Year 1 and Year 2 children played in a mini-festival at the same time and Dersingham was very well represented. They played non-stop for two hours!



World Book Day is always a much-loved event at Dersingham School and this year saw a fabulous array of book characters. Costume winners from each key stage were chosen and given book voucher prizes. The children took part in a carousel of activities throughout the day, including art, IT, drama, role play, story writing and reading, exploring different themes through well-loved books. The PTA launched their first Wonderlicious chocolate bar event, where the children were able to buy a special chocolate bar in search of a Golden Ticket to win a prize. The PTA and school would like to thank Tesco in Hunstanton for supporting this fundraiser.

This year the school took part in Neurodiversity week. The children explored the different ways people learn and respond to the world and how we can all support each other, both at school and at home. They took part in a poster competition, which highlighted our unique brains.

Red Nose Day was another excuse to dress up, this time in something red! The children really went to town and a winner from each class was awarded a unique red nose! Year 2 held a pre-loved toy sale and used the activity to improve their money skills, as well as raising more funds.



Reception had some special visitors to look after last half term. Dotty and her lambs Dinky and Dougal arrived to stay for the week. The children fed, watered and looked after them in the school grounds, then they returned to the farmer. They learnt how their coats are made into wool and how they regurgitate their food. All classes had the opportunity to visit them, and everyone was very sad to see them go!

Year 1 had a rather chilly half term learning about the North Pole and the animals that live there. They enjoyed exploring a story set in Canada about a rather obnoxious rabbit and a friendly bear. They enjoyed using clay in forest schools and pastels in art, to create the Aurora Borealis.

Year 2 spent the last half term learning about aviation history and why Amelia Earhart and the Wright Brothers were so significant. The children thoroughly enjoyed making their own paper aeroplanes. In music the children experimented with pitch and rhythm with digital music and instruments. Their forest school sessions involved making fires and safely toasting marshmallows.

Year 3 had an action-packed short half term before Easter. Their topic 'Norfolk Tales'

focused on the history of the local area. They had a fantastic trip to True's Yard in King's Lynn where the children learned about the fisherfolk of the North End. As well as looking at the cottages, they were able to take a tour around Pilot Street and learn about the buildings and their significance, including St Nicholas' Chapel.

Year 4 have been looking at the structure of The Earth and exploring tectonic plates and the Earth's core. The children explored volcanic eruptions and linked that to different chemical reactions that cause pressure to build up. They built their own volcano and watched it erupt. Archaeological remains were investigated when learning about Pompeii and the children wrote persuasive letters to the people of Pompeii, encouraging them to leave before it was too late!

Year 5 took an exciting 'Road Trip USA', with a focus on its diverse landscapes and the wild west. Their core text was *Race to the Frozen North* and the children were fascinated to learn about the arrival and settlement of the European pioneers.

Year 6 had a busy half term, studying their 'Runs like Clockwork' topic. This topic is based around the book *Clockwork* by Phillip Pullman, a children's thriller. This was used to motivate extended pieces of writing, including writing in role as either an optimist or a pessimist. In science the children studied the circulatory system, linking with the history of medicine. Please join us in wishing Year 6 well as they embark upon their SATs in mid-May.

The PTA continue to be supportive and have contributed to more class trips to help offset the cost for families, organised additional boxes of topic books for each class and Nursery have benefited from a donation of materials to construct planter areas in their outdoor space. The school are very grateful to have such a proactive team on the PTA.

We said a fond farewell to Carol Smith last month after forty years of service as a lollipop lady, with twenty of those years keeping the children in Dersingham safe. She was presented with flowers on her final crossing day, as the whole school went past on the way to church. We wish her a happy retirement!



Hopefully, when the next edition of the VV is published, we may be able to write about warm sunshine and long summer days, as we shed our winter woollies!□

### Thank you

May I express my heartfelt thanks to all the people who went to the assistance of my wife Sheila who had a fall in Post Office Road on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Although the fall resulted in a few bumps and bruises, Sheila has now fully recovered.

I am eternally grateful to you all.

**Best wishes,  
Les Francis.  
Philip Nurse Road, Dersingham**



## **Property Tax Matters: Beware 60-day Reporting Duties!**

**By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton**

The rented property sector has had its ups and downs over the past few decades. Prior to 1988 the sector was virtually moribund. Most tenants had controlled rents and security of tenure, and as a result whenever a property became vacant it was almost always sold rather than being relet. The abolition of secured tenure in 1988, coupled with a number of other factors, such as an increase in personal wealth (partly helped by inheritances from the first generation of post war owner occupiers), the demise of local authority housing and the introduction of buy to let mortgages has led to a significant growth in the private rented sector, rising from 2 million properties in 2000 to about 4.6 million in 2023. This represents about 20% of the housing sector.

A similar set of circumstances has led to the rise of second home ownership and, following the introduction of special tax rules in 1984, the Furnished Holiday Letting sector. It is now thought that there are about 500,000 second homes in the UK, of which about a quarter are used for the holiday letting market.

The current perceived political impact of all these developments appears to be that reducing the attraction of private letting and second home ownership will in some way bring down the cost of rents and bring more homes onto the rental market, presumably also bringing down the price of housing. It is not entirely clear whether both (or indeed either) of these changes will be accomplished, but fiscal legislation in recent years has removed full tax deduction on residential interest costs, increased Stamp Duty on acquisitions and, in the 2024 Budget, removed the tax advantages of holiday lets. Council Tax is also being used in the process such that second home owners may pay a higher level of Council Tax (contrasting with the position in the 1990s when second homes had a Council Tax discount). The regulatory framework is also changing with Budget 2024 bringing in a register of holiday lets and a new planning class, and the Renters' Reform Bill introducing a register of landlords, minimum quality standards and, most contentious of all, the effective reintroduction of security of tenure. With the removal of the Section 21 eviction process, a landlord will no longer be able to remove a tenant at the end of a short-term tenancy. Even where the property is required for family occupation or sale, the process will need to go to court.

The consequence of all these changes may be that an owner considers selling up and investing elsewhere. However, since most properties will have increased in value in recent years, there is likely to be some Capital Gains Tax (CGT) at stake. Here the position becomes complicated. The reduction in personal allowances over the last two years means that far more of the gain will be taxed – for example, a couple making a gain of £50,000 might only have paid tax on a little more than half that gain in 2022/3. In 2024/5 the chargeable amount would be nearly 90%. Moreover, because the effective rate of CGT depends on the level of income, inflation and the freezing of rate bands, the result is that at least some of that gain will probably now be payable at the higher rate. To some extent this was recognised in the 2024 Budget, with the rate of CGT on residential property gains being reduced from 28% to 24% but nonetheless the liability will still be substantial. Using the example above and assuming the couple had personal income of about £35,000 each, in 2022/23, the tax payable might have been about £4,500. In 2024/5, assuming the personal income had risen by £10,000, the CGT bill would be closer to £10,000. At this level it is by no means clear that the fiscal disincentives alone will be sufficient to drive the structural change which the government seem to be pursuing.

There is, however, evidence that property sales are now being accelerated to some

extent by the changing attitudes towards the sector. Where one does decide on a sale it is important not to overlook the major change in the reporting of a residential property CGT event which was introduced in 2021. **It is now necessary to report a Capital Gain on residential property and pay the relevant tax within 60 days of completion**. The rules apply to all individuals, trustees, executors, and partners, and cover residential property gains unless relieved by personal exemptions (including main residence relief) or brought forward losses. "Residential property" includes not only houses used as dwellings and their gardens, grounds, and outbuildings, but also properties "suitable" for dwelling, properties under construction and rights to properties bought "off plan". The submission of a CGT Return in this way does not always remove the requirement to complete a Self Assessment Tax Return at the end of the tax year, and any over or underpayment of tax can be picked up at that point.

The gains must in most cases be reported digitally and ideally tax paid electronically at that point. Failure to comply will result in an initial late filing penalty of £100. If the Return is three months plus late, further material penalties will be due. In addition, there is a further penalty due on tax paid late, starting at 5% of the tax due, and then repeating after 6 and 12 months.

The reporting and computation of property Capital Gains is a fairly complex process, particularly if there have been changes of ownership or enhancement expenditure over the period of ownership or if it has been used for different purposes over the years. For example, a property which was part purchased and subsequently partly acquired by inheritance, extended, used as a main residence, then as second home and then let is by no means unusual and will require some fairly complex calculations. Information may need to be retrieved from storage or from third parties and in some cases independent valuations might be required, all within 60 days of completion. Where such complexities exist, it is highly recommended that you take advice at an early stage, ideally as soon as, or even before, the property goes onto the market. It should then be possible to arrive at an estimated tax liability based on the asking price. It is usually best for us to start finalising the computations as soon as a sale is agreed, in order that everything can be completed within what can be a fairly demanding timescale.

It remains to be seen whether or to what extent the current measures will succeed in changing the face of the letting market. It is entirely possible that a shrinkage of the sector will simply push residential rents to even higher levels, but that might then lead to stronger regulation and rent controls. For those who decide to bank their profits and invest elsewhere, there will probably be a tax cost, but timely advice should enable that cost to be quantified at an early stage and should help to avoid the unforeseen penalties that we are seeing a number of people suffer from.

If you require any advice regarding the tax implications of the sale of a residential property and need assistance with the preparation and submission of the attendant 60-Day Return 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](mailto:kate@kathryngigg.co.uk). © Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants 2024  
**N.B. Article written in April 2024.**

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

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## Dersingham Day Club Bridget Risebow

We have had a busy few weeks: We were entertained by Four Steps To Heaven, which was greatly enjoyed by all. On 4<sup>th</sup> April we had lunch at United Services with some members wearing Easter bonnets. Well done everyone.

We still have spaces for more members. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with Wendy Raby on 01485 544975.□





## Full Circle Walter Dexter, Vancouver and King's Lynn

by Bob Childs with Tony Bubbs



Bob Childs moved to King's Lynn at an early age and was educated in the town, ending up at King Edward VII School. After attending Leicester University he

went on to teach over there but after retiring, due to poor health, he decided to return to this area and bought a property in Dersingham in 2015. His membership of the Old Lennians Association – old boys and subsequently girls of King Edward VII school - alerted him to the following.

The city of Vancouver takes its name from Captain George Vancouver who was exploring and naming places along the northwest coast of North America in 1792. In 1886 it was incorporated as a city, and in 1936 Mayor Gerry McGeer was very keen to mark its Golden Jubilee, partly to strengthen its links with Britain. This was despite continued economic challenges and social unrest caused by the effects of the great depression. One of the main events was to be the visit of the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Percy Vincent, bearing gifts which included a mace and several paintings. Sir Percy was a Norfolk man, born in Watton, and a guest at a special luncheon held in King's Lynn at which Walter Dexter was one of the main speakers. Walter was an artist who lived and taught in King's Lynn for much of his life and made many paintings of the area.



King's Lynn Borough Council had also decided to contribute to these events, not least because one of its famous sons, George Vancouver (1757-98), had played such a significant part in the mapping of the northwest coast of North America, including the Pacific coast of what became Canada and Vancouver Island. Having probably attended the old Grammar School in King's Lynn up to 1771, he then spent most of his remaining years at sea, first with Captain Cook on the *Resolution* and later as Captain of the *Discovery* (1791-95), sent to what was then Nookta Sound, to map 300 miles of coastline and adding names like Port Snettisham and Lynn Canal! It is worth noting that his father, John Vancouver, was Deputy Collector of the Custom House at a time when the port of King's Lynn was one of the busiest in England.



Thus it was very appropriate that the Borough Council had commissioned Walter Dexter RBA to paint the iconic 1685 Henry Bell Custom House. At a public gathering in the Tuesday Market Place the picture was presented to the Lord Mayor of London to take to Vancouver for the main ceremony. The only known local representative to attend this event was Miss Winifred Inglis, who taught French at King's Lynn High School from 1922 to 1941.

Meanwhile, Ray Spaxman, born in 1934, was growing up in King's Lynn where his father Cyril William Spaxman kept a greengrocer's business in Norfolk Street. In 1945 he entered King Edward VII School in form 1A. When he left five years later, he had passed his school certificate and was a prefect in Keene House. The school magazines record his successes in athletics, especially the high jump. Indeed, in 1949 he came first in the King's Lynn area sports for those aged 15-17 and in



1950 second in the Norfolk Sports held in Fakenham. Ray Howell, the House Captain in 1950 noted: 'We wish all members of the house who left last term every success and happiness, and especially to Spaxman who served the house so well.'

Ray's career was to progress well. On passing his Diploma in Architecture at Nottingham he spent two summers measuring and drawing the Custom House, borrowing a long ladder from the adjacent builder's yard. According to Ray this is when his love for the Custom House matured. His journey through life continued with employment in Coventry, national service in the Royal Engineers, a Diploma in Town Planning from Birmingham and work in Norwich and Liverpool. In 1966 Ray emigrated to Toronto and worked his way up to be Deputy Planning Officer.

In 1973 he applied for the post of Director of Planning for the City of Vancouver and was successful in interview. He could not fail to notice that hanging on a wall outside the Mayor's Office was the 1936 Dexter painting of the Custom House. When Ray resigned to set up on his own in 1989 (he still appears to be in practice aged around 90) he was delighted that the City Council gave him this very painting as a leaving present which he has treasured ever since. When King's Lynn staged its own 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dexter's death in 2008 it was very pleasing to have received from Vancouver a high-quality copy which still hangs in the Custom House to this day.

Ray has generously decided that it is time to return the painting of the Custom House to his home town of King's Lynn. It will sit well with the collection of other Dexter paintings on display at the Town Hall. Several Dexters have returned to Lynn over the last twenty-five years, including two in 1998 that were once the property of Dexter's friend A L Dorer. The most recent was given to the Borough by 102-year-old Emma Simmonds, daughter of Arthur Dorer, in 2016. This painting of Ely cathedral had also been abroad for many years in South Africa. Dr Paul Richards, a former Mayor of King's Lynn and Dexter enthusiast, helped bring this painting back from Nottingham. Apparently, Emma told him, 'she loves King's Lynn and wanted her picture to be kept in the town and she now felt as if she was a part of King's Lynn's history.'

It is in this spirit that we welcome back the painting after a remarkable journey, but now accessible to members of the public and visitors. Like our 2008 copy it will have an appropriately worded plaque with it to reference this story of chance and generosity. King

Edward VII School, the Old Lennensians Association and most notably Ray Spaxman have all played a key part in the return of this very special picture.

### **Acknowledgements:**

*Full Circle* has been completed with the help of the Old Lennensians Association, but in particular Michael Walker, Andrew Stephen and Peter Riches. Dr Paul Richards has been a constant source of advice and encouragement. The help of the Library Service, especially Kevin Hitchcock on local studies, has been appreciated and useful. Starting points for my research have included Charlotte Paton's *A Portrait of Walter Dexter* (2014) and Alison Gifford's *Captain Vancouver: A Portrait of his Life* (1986). The images used in this article have been provided by the OLA, Ray Spaxman or online sources. The 5,000-mile journey back to King's Lynn has only been possible because of Ray Spaxman's desire to return the painting to the town for which he has such fond memories. The practical help of Mary and John Horton to ensure safe passage of this special picture from Vancouver has been invaluable, as has the support of Councillor Simon Ring. □

## **But What Does It Mean?**

**Lesley Nadel**

**The Arts Society North West Norfolk**

The next lecture of the Arts Society North West Norfolk is on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Twigs Way who tells us about *The Divine Sunflower in Art and Culture*, casting its golden rays far and wide, worshipped by aesthetes, and cultivated by Impressionists – a history from classic myth to twentieth-century art. Our accredited lecturer is a garden historian, published author and researcher, fascinated by the past and intrigued by the role of flowers, gardens and landscape in art and culture of all kinds.

Art often asks questions and does not necessarily give the answers. Conceptual art is created to get a reaction, appearance is secondary, and ideas matter more than looks. We are now increasingly seeing this form of art in gardens at major flower shows, like the Chelsea Flower Show in May. The results can be powerful and provocative: the designer seeks to portray an idea, rather than a landscape design solution, by merging gardening with art installations. Gardens have always been a form of art, but conceptual gardens, in common with most art installations, will have a specific theme, a message, a narrative, often designed to demonstrate the tension between culture and nature. For example, the disruptive effect of homophobic abuse on our society and the experience of depression.

Cleve West, gold medal winner at top flower shows, has said that 'conceptual gardens are probably the nearest we can get to art, in that they sidetrack nature to focus on a feeling or a theme without always relying on plants.' In 1979 Martha Schwartz created what was probably the first ever conceptual garden, The Bagel Garden, designed to question the lack of artistry in her profession, created in the belief that sustainability is linked to how our environment looks. Inspiration can come from anything - local history, cultural heritage. The intention is to get a reaction which is as much about the abstract artwork as the materials with which the garden is made. Also, the designer can push the boundaries to deliver a very personal message and make the viewer think and see things in a very different way. A conceptual garden has a voice and a message to deliver. It can be heavy with imagery which can be very compelling, as opposed to the beautifully landscaped garden with the perfect colour scheme, planned to perfection for each season but seemingly without a soul. Sometimes beauty is just not enough. Gardens invite our opinions and criticisms, but art critics are not so forthcoming on the

art of conceptual 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”. However, the critical art forum, ‘Thinking Gardens’, believes criticism and analysis are vital to help any art form evolve. Perhaps when visiting gardens, and even when on our own, we should begin to see them with our minds as well as our eyes and perhaps then we will begin to understand what they mean.

‘More Art for More People’ – this is our aim and now is a good time to join us as an annual member for £45 (less when joining late in the year) and enjoy a range of benefits - nine monthly talks which cover a wide range of subjects, trips and tours in the UK and abroad, interesting in-depth study days, regular newsletters and magazines, and a warm welcome from a very friendly society. [www.theartssocietynorthwestnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietynorthwestnorfolk.org.uk)



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### Word Wall by Philip Neal

**Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 68**

|        |          |        |        |
|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| DEAN   | COLT     | NOVA   | QUEEN  |
| INTEND | CATAPULT | PADRE  | RIFLE  |
| CANON  | BOW      | KNIGHT | CURATE |
| BISHOP | PAWN     | IMPOSE | VISOR  |

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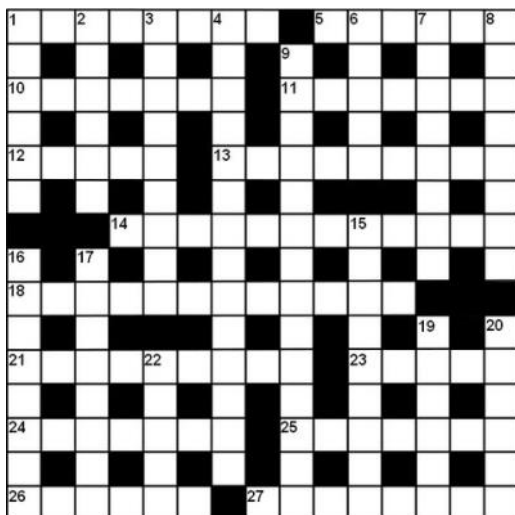
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### Across

- 1 Hanging about with Rob caught in the act on a Sunday (8)  
 5 Throws out six caught between points (6)  
 10 Give up crumpled suit to Irish (7)  
 11 Hollyhock thriving in dodgy health where car club replaces height (7)  
 12 Remnant tucked away in rare license (5)  
 13 Is she inclined to make her 'to do' schedule for recorders? (9)  
 14 Somehow cannot get round into son's implications (12)  
 18 Cost at Ascot only about same as travelling from Halifax to Vancouver (5,2,5)  
 21 Mad moaner only worked for a few minutes (9)  
 23 Disturb those living in urban Noyon (5)  
 24 Travel inside explosive weapon (7)  
 25 Told story and have siesta (3-4)  
 26 Hold out against struggle with sister (6)  
 27 Change English scent I'm wearing (8)

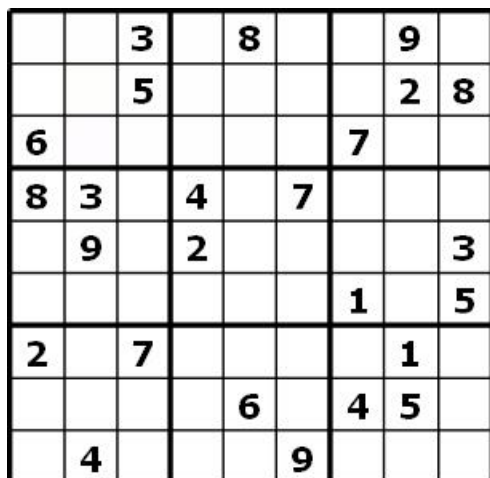


Answers on page 68

### Sudoku

### Down

- 1 Abacuses or Harry dreads snakes (6)  
 2 Whisper blight to the French and get a peculiar result (6)  
 3 Fight about cattle farm expansion (6,3)  
 4 Unknown awkward tract in a region (5,9)  
 6 Initially very important to all livelihoods (5)  
 7 So watch broadcast on the hour for conversation (4,4)  
 8 Criminally trespass to find more scarcity (8)  
 9 (3,3,3,1,4)  
 15 Last word between races follows end of pirates evidence (9)  
 16 I got into Tim's car somehow to see cutting edge technology (8)  
 17 On reflection I am surrounded by poets and those serving drinks (8)  
 19 Tell tales in school (6)  
 20 Do they have a longing inside or are they just having a laugh? (6)  
 22 Judges have energy to deal with knotty problems (5)





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## Crossword Answers

### Across

1 Acrobats. 5 Evicts. 10 Despair. 11 Althaea. 12 Relic. 13 Annalists. 14 Connotations.  
18 Coast to coast. 21 Memoranda. 23 Annoy. 24 Trident. 25 Lie-down. 26 Resist.  
27 Centimes.

### Down

1 Adders. 2 Rustle. 3 Branch out. 4 Terra incognito.  
6 Vital. 7 Chat show. 8 Sparsest.  
9 Has not got a clue. 15 Testament.  
16 Scimitar. 17 Barmaids. 19 Inform.  
20 Hyenas. 22 Reefs.

## Word Wall Answers

**Super ...:** ...impose, ...intend, ...nova, ...visor  
**Chess pieces:** Bishop, Knight, Pawn, Queen  
**Churchmen:** Dean, Canon, Padre, Curate  
**Weapons:** Catapult, Bow, Colt, Rifle

## Sudoku Answers

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

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

| Issue                   | Copy deadline midday on | Publication date       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 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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The Production Team for this edition of Village Voice consists of  
Editor: Jo Halpin Jones Assistant Editor: Rob Smyth  
Layout & Administration: Geraldine Scanlon  
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