

Number 149

August/September 2024

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



Alex, the Suffolk Punch, helping
with woodland clearance on the Commons



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August

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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



Logging

It's great to see that there can be a return to more traditional methods of managing woodland when it is appreciated that there are substantial benefits to this approach. The sturdy Alex, the Suffolk Punch on our cover, worked by Jeff, is being used to help thin out trees in sections of Dersingham's Commons which would not be easy for tractors, nor as damaging: the ground is not so churned up, nor compacted; and a horse can slip through the trees more easily than a tractor, minimizing impact on the environment.

People ask why trees are being cut down on the Commons, when we are urged to plant more of them. It's all about keeping the habitat as diverse as possible – where the trees are being thinned out it allows open spaces to emerge which encourages a wider range of plants and animals. On the Fen to the west of Lynn Road trees will be removed from the edges to stop encroachment onto heathland, which is becoming more and more rare across the country.

Read further details about all these plans in the article inside by Alex Coombs, Clerk to Dersingham United Charities.

Other content

We hope you enjoy the other content in this edition of *Village Voice*: Brian Anderson tells us all about hydrogen, how it's created, different types, what it can be used for, all of which I was totally ignorant of before!! Lorna has written another heart-felt poem, very pertinent to current times. We were so pleased to hear from Rev Mark Capron about the success of the abseil down the Church tower, which has meant work can begin on the toilets and kitchen. Do read the article from the Big Meadow Search and keep your eyes open for local meadows to give feedback to them.

And take note of the article on how to protect hedgehogs from strimmers and mowers. I apologise for the rather gory photograph, but it does get across the message of the dangers faced by these creatures which do a great job of keeping down the slug population.

New website

Have you taken a look at the Parish Council's new website yet? It contains a wealth of information about the village. Just Google **dersingham-pc.gov.uk**.

Yard sale

I am busy going through all my junk to see what I can get rid of at the yard sale in a couple of weeks' time, which will be after this is published. Let's hope it's not as wet and windy as last year, with gazebo lifting off. It is very satisfying to have a good clear out!! If it's anything like previous years, the village will be humming.

Councillors

Coral Shepherd, the Parish Council Chairman, is once again letting us know that there are vacancies for Parish Councillors. It's a very rewarding and valuable role in which you can help make a difference to the life of the village.□



Dear Village Voice



Sandringham Trees

I have recently read that 300 trees are to be cut down on the Sandringham Estate to make way for glamping. This is horrendous. I was shocked to read this as I thought HRH King Charles was for nature and wildlife.

The Sandringham Estate is turning into a theme park. I thought at least this part of the countryside would be protected from any changes. Especially as King Charles is supposed to be organic etc.

I have sent an email to Sandringham Estate and asked for it to be forwarded on to the King. Hopefully they will oblige.□

Marian Harper

Transects

Roger Jackson said he didn't know what a transect was (VV148). The formal, simple definition is "A **transect** is a path along which one counts and records occurrences of the objects of study." In our case the objects of study are butterflies - what species, how many and other salient details. The transect is the route of old railway line from Ingoldisthorpe to Dersingham. We have walked this route weekly (weather and circumstances permitting) from April 1st to September 30th every year since 2012. It has yielded large amounts of data that have been sent to Butterfly Conservation.

Brian and Yvonne Anderson

Dersingham Bog and Dogs

July 1st, 2024

Good evening. We have been staying at the Pinecones Campsite so that we can enjoy the fantastic walks and natural areas surrounding the village. You are lucky to live in such a beautiful area and the Sandringham Estate seem to make an effort to combine farming with managing wildlife.

Today we visited Dersingham Bog, a wonderful haven for wildlife, but we were upset to see two women walking approximately seven dogs which were not kept on leads. They claimed that the dogs would not leave the path, but we witnessed one dog run into the heather to chase a bird whilst we were speaking to them. We don't know whether these people were locals, but this is just an appeal to your readers to respect the rules, which are there to protect biodiversity which is important for all our futures. There are plenty of places for dogs to roam without allowing them into spaces preserved for wildlife.

Mel Edwards

Shirley Phimister

On behalf of the family, it is with a heavy heart to share that Shirley Phimister passed away peacefully yesterday afternoon (26/06/2024). Shirley lived in Dersingham most of her life and loved her little village and community. She worked as a dinner lady in the local primary school and also worked in hospitality at the Sandringham Estate. Shirley was moved to Hertfordshire in March of 2021 so we could care for her. We wanted to share this as we are sure lots of you may have known her.

Cory Kattenhorn



Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd



A huge thank you to all those who attended and helped to make the D-Day events successful – the fish and chip supper and beacon lighting. Now we start to look forward to the 80th anniversaries next year of the end of World War II - VE day on 6th May and VJ day on 15th August. We will start to progress ideas in September.

You will see some work at the recreation ground over the coming weeks – in the children's play area there will be replacements for the broken swing seat, the broken backing board on the multiplay and the running board on the skate trainer. In the main part of the recreation ground the old goal mouths are being restored and then repositioned so that they can be used for games. Finally, since the skatepark opened, the soil around it has settled and exposed the foundations in one or two places, so additional soil will be added.

Elsewhere in the village we have replaced the defibrillator on the outside of the Social Club building. It was getting somewhat elderly and could have become unreliable, so we decided to replace it. Just as a reminder, there are seven publicly available defibrillators in the village – at the Village Centre, the Spar Shop, the Social Club, Hanover Court, Holyrood Drive, on the sports pavilion and at the Library. If you wish to see their exact locations, please visit the Parish Council website www.dersingham-pc.gov.uk and look under services.

Finally, **YOUR PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU**. We have three vacancies for Parish Councillors and are looking to co-opt people who are interested in local current affairs, want to serve the local community and be a voice for residents. The role is to listen to and understand the views and needs of residents and to identify issues. Part of our role is to make policies to govern the way we work, to bring about improvements through local projects, such as building the Village Centre and skatepark and providing new defibrillators, lobby other service providers and vote to make decisions. We are responsible for managing the money raised through the precept (part of the Council Tax bill). The services we provide include streetlights away from bus routes, grass cutting (some is carried out by the Borough Council), dog waste bins, looking after the recreation ground and The Warren and providing a website. Our work is mainly carried out in committees – Environment, Finance and Administration, Communications, Planning and Staffing.

There are no particular qualifications, but you must be on the electoral register and live within three miles of the parish boundary and be prepared to attend monthly Council meetings (usually the last Monday in the month, starting at 7:00pm) and also to serve on at least one of our committees. If you are interested, please look at our website, attend any of our meetings, or email or speak to me or Karen Orgill, our Business Manager. Our contact details are on our website, address above. □





News from Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

Annual General Meeting

The Association's AGM took place on Tuesday June 11th, and the current committee members are continuing in role.

Garden Group – help please

A small group of keen volunteers look after the landscaped areas around the Centre. They would appreciate some more help, so, if you can spare an hour or two on a Monday afternoon, please get in touch.

Summer Closure Period

We will be carrying out some maintenance in August, so the Centre will be closed on a few days during the week commencing August 26th (Bank Holiday Monday). Some groups take a break during August, so it is the ideal time. Please check with group leaders, and notices around the Centre, for more information.

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

In August the film will be a week earlier on the 20th, due to the closure period mentioned above, and we are showing *Mrs Lowry & Son*. In September the film will be *A Call to Spy*, which is about the creation of the S.O.E. during World War II.

Events

We had a great turnout for our first Midsummer event on June 22nd, with some great performances from local artistes. Thank you to all of them, and Tropics for helping with the hot food. We hope to stage a similar event next summer.

Date for your diary: October 19th – Barn dance with Whirlygig. Tickets will be on sale at the beginning of September.

For more information about the Centre and what goes on, visit our website www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk where you can sign up for regular updates.

We have a Facebook page and also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group.

Event posters are displayed in various locations around the village; we are grateful to local business for their support.

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

Best wishes from all at the Centre.□

VILLAGE CINEMA
at **Dersingham Village Centre**
Presents on
Tuesday August 20th at 7:30pm

MRS LOWRY & SON (PG)

Starring Vanessa Redgrave, Timothy Spall



Laurence Stephen Lowry, a British man, pursues an artistic career while living with Elizabeth, his overbearing mother, who makes an attempt to dissuade him from following his passion.

Entry £6; Under 16s £3
(Entry includes tea/coffee/squash)
Licensed Bar



Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by
Dersingham Village Centre Association
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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron

The bowls season is now well under way, with only a couple of postponements or cancellations due to bad weather.

The Saturday roll-ups continue to be well attended, and apart from an afternoon of fun bowls, these serve as an introduction to playing in the various team positions, and learning the idiosyncrasies of each green, which is part of the appeal of outdoor bowling.

The Edie's Memorial Trophy was played for on the early May bank holiday, and this was a closely fought match. The eventual winner was Dave Graves with Les Allen the runner up.



The late May bank holiday saw the battle for The Centenary Institute Cup. Terry Thompson was the worthy winner in a closely fought final against Gerry Bhagat.

I mentioned the draw for our internal 'Birds' League in the last issue. This was duly done and the League is now well under way. This league is (generally) played in a spirit of friendly rivalry and is a good preparation for moving on to the Countryside and Albert Victor Leagues. At the time of writing, the League leaders are the Wrens, closely followed by the Swans, but this could all change as the season progresses.

Saturday June 22nd saw the first round of the Ladies v Men challenge which ended with a win for the men by 116 shots to 104. I feel I must remind the men that they were ahead at this stage last year, when the ladies beat them in Round 2, and came out overall winners. This match will take place on Saturday July 27th, and will be followed by a fish and chip supper.

The Knockout competition draw has been made and matches are starting to be played. We lead such full lives, even in retirement, and it sometimes proves difficult to get people together to play. But it's a nice problem to have as it shows we are keeping busy.

Now, on to the external leagues; Countryside captain Terry Thompson reports that we have made a reasonable start to the season, having played eight matches so far,

amassing 39 points. League information is pretty sketchy, so we are not sure of league positions. The Knockout shield, which we won last year, has not gone so well, having lost our game to Searles by a large margin, and although we beat them in the home leg, the deficit was too much for us to continue. Good luck to them going forward.

The other knockout competition, The Eddie Hipkin Cup, went well at Houghton, winning through to the second round. As yet we do not know who we will be playing.

Albert Victor Captain Gerry Bhagat reports that progress has been a bit slow, but we hope to improve now that the weather is better, and the greens quicker. We are faring better in the Knockout cup, having beaten Downham Market in the quarter-finals. We have yet to find out who our opposition is in the semi-finals.

Of course, none of the above would be possible without the ongoing work that Allen Toppin and his green keeping team put in week after week. We seem to have the rabbit problem under control and are constantly on mole alert. The green is bowling really well, and the club surroundings always look very smart. Well done to all involved.

All that remains now is to wish our league teams well in their upcoming fixtures, and hope everyone keeps fit and healthy. □



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Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb

Summer is well under way now with the likelihood that we will encounter hardly any muddy routes. Our leaders take much trouble to find interesting routes for us to follow, but if you think there is a walk we should do please let us know.

Our next walks are:

Wednesday August 14th at 2.00pm

A circuit of paths and lanes around Fring, including the Peddars Way national trail. Start point Fring Church. TF735348. 4.5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 07879 885516.

Wednesday August 28th at 2.00pm

There are thousands of trees in the Sandringham Woods and Brian is going to take us past some of them on this 4-mile walk. We might even get to see some early fungi on our travels. Start point is the car park on Heath Road, Dersingham. TF 686298. Leader: Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

Wednesday September 11th at 2.00pm

See the glory of late summer in the Norfolk countryside with this circular walk around the footpaths of Courtyard Farm. About 4 miles of delightful country. Start from the car park on the left of the minor Ringstead to Burnham road about 0.7 miles east of Ringstead. TF 722404. Leader: Stephen Martyn 07879 885516.



Wednesday September 25th at 1.45pm

A walk beside the Great Ouse and an exploration of West Lynn, starting with a trip on the ferry (£1.40). Note the earlier time as the ferry runs on the half hour, so we will be aiming for the 2:00pm sailing. Start point at the free ferry car park in West Lynn. TF 613203. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday October 9th at 2.00pm

A visit to the peaceful village of Syderstone from which we walk around Syderstone Common, up to Barmer and back down Jack's Lane. 4 miles-ish. Start point St Mary's Church, The Street, Syderstone. TF 833326. Leader: Stephen Martyn 07879 885516.

The new Walking Group website is now live at Dersinghamwalking.co.uk As some of you may have noticed, the Parish Council now has a new website, so I felt that it was time the Walking Group had its own site too. As you will see, it is very similar to our old page, but it has its own new address. I will endeavour to keep it up to date and to add more information about the individual walks, such as car parking information, going underfoot, etc. So, please use the new site from now on. Thanks, and keep walking.
Stephen Martyn

All our planned walks will appear here in Village Voice and can also be found on our new website.

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 Bubbs** Tel: 01485 542638 Email: frostytrees@btinternet.com □

4 Steps 2 Heaven Graham Hitchcock



We are 4 Steps 2 Heaven, a singing group of four people from Hanover Court on Holyrood Drive. We did a concert on the 19th May to raise funds for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. We also ran a raffle, with prizes kindly donated by local businesses, local people and residents of Hanover Court.

The concert was well attended, and in the interval people could enjoy the tea/coffee and the cakes.

I am so pleased to announce that we raised a total of £330. I would like to thank all the businesses and people who donated prizes and who gave so generously on the day.

Photograph: Back row Polly and Robert, front row Graham and Sue.□

Wolferton News

Wolferton Church

We were blessed with the most beautiful sunny day for our Grand Plant Sale in May; what a great turnout of people, keeping us busy both at the plant stall and serving refreshments. Thank you to all who helped and supported this very successful event. Our organ at St Peter's is nearing completion - we have enjoyed the sound of the keyboard in the interim, but look forward to once again enjoying the grand sound of the organ pipes!

Save the date - our annual Harvest Quiz will take place at Wolferton Social Club on Friday 25th October. Details to follow.

For our church services in Wolferton please visit www.sandringhamchurches.org.uk.

Wolferton Social Club

Cash Bingo

Sunday 4th August Doors open 7.00 pm, eyes down 8.00pm
Sunday 1st September Doors open 7.00 pm, eyes down 8.00 pm

Prize Bingo

Tuesday 20th August Doors open 6.30 pm, eyes down 7.30 pm
Tuesday 17th September Doors open 6.30 pm, eyes down 7.30 pm

Note, on Tuesday 24th September we're hosting a special Prize Bingo in aid of Happy Memories Club. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm. □



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Sandringham Parish Council

The Parish Council held its quarterly meeting at West Newton village hall on May 8th.

Several matters discussed:

- Rob Timmins (Sandringham Estate Manager) was congratulated on getting Open Reach to remove telephone poles on the B1439, with cables now to be laid underground, thereby maintaining the beauty of the area and removing a potential traffic hazard.
- 30 mph speed limit in village of Wolferton is now awaiting a feasibility study by Norfolk County Highways regards the siting of the signs.
- Alterations to the permitted use of buildings in Wolferton old stables courtyard has been approved.
- Location of the bus stop in Wolferton for the school bus was approved - to be located on the eastern side of Rectory Road near the entrance to the camping site. Highways Agency has allocated funds for base and sign. **The Parish Council is interested to hear from anyone on how to fund the structure of the bus shelter.**
- H.M. Queen Elizabeth II memorial bench received favourable reviews as both comfortable and very well sited for views over the fields, looking out onto the Wash and Lincolnshire coastline. A brass commemorative plaque wording is now with Sandringham Estate for approval.
- State of bus shelters behind Sandringham coach houses and in West Newton were discussed. Decision was taken for committee members to spend a Saturday clearing out litter and accumulation of autumnal leaves. They are now clean and free of litter.
- An interesting proposal was received from a parishioner: that as the area was experiencing an increase in tourists and with them more litter, etc., perhaps a nominal charge could be raised through, say, the Sandringham caravan parks, for example £1 per night per caravan. Funds to be used for maintaining the beauty of our local area, which is an AONB. In other words - beautiful.

Date of next meeting: 14th August 7.00pm,
West Newton Village Hall.

For views on the above or anything else regarding the Sandringham Parish, please contact Stephen Thompson (Chair) on 07956 638313.□



Hunstanton Croquet Club Caroline Harper



Finally, summer has arrived - just in time for the solstice. From playing in the cold and wet we had a transition to cold drinks and factor 50!

Since the last edition of HCC news we have welcomed even more new members - so many, in fact, that we have decided not to hold another Come and Try Day until next season. All 'newbies' have quickly settled in and are a welcome addition to our club.

The lawns continue to be in great condition thanks to Jonny's hard work; drawing admiration from our visitors - including one from Hong Kong who had been told he must check out Hunstanton lawns when on his travels in the UK!

Terrey Sparks and Gary Lewis have been expertly managing our tournaments - ably assisted by the volunteers who put out lawns, serve refreshments and clear up at the end of the day. Members, please continue to be involved in helping.

Chris Ward has been hard at work updating our website, so you may find not all features are fully functional during this 'Work in Progress' stage, but do check it out for more information on our club. Hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk

Below is a selection of photos from our recent tournaments and events. There are too many individuals to name everyone, but a special mention for our local members: Colin (who has now won through to the finals of GC B level in Dorset), Roger, Lucy, David and Gary who have either won or been finalists in national competitions.



Charity donations by The Heacham Songsters to the Hunstanton Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and the East of England Air Ambulance (EEAA)

The Heacham Songsters were delighted to be able to make charitable donations to these two locally based rescue and lifesaving charities. Each organisation sent a representative to our Wednesday morning Songster practice sessions (in Heacham) on 8th May and 22nd May 2024 when cheques of £200 and £300 respectively were handed over. The accompanying photographs are of these cheque presentations.

The RNLI representative, Water Safety Officer Kate Craven, outlined their work enabling voluntary crews to reach people who need them at sea and around the coast in all sorts of weather conditions, returning them safely to their families. She pointed out that each year the RNLI rescue an average of 26 people per day from waters and rivers around the coast of the UK and Ireland. 140,00 lives have been saved across 238 stations since they began in 1824. It costs £250,000 to keep these stations and all 458 vessels across the fleet in tip top condition. Kitting out each crew member costs £1,400 and training them £1,000 a year. Each 'shout' costs the RNLI £3,000.

The EEAA representative, Trevor Dane, explained that it costs eighteen million pounds a year to run their life saving charity and that each helicopter tasking costs £3,800. The EEAA are tasked across their Norwich and Cambridge bases on average five to seven times per day. He added that the EEAA were the first air ambulance in the country to attend helicopter emergency medical incidents in the hours of darkness to unknown and unlit sites. They also have the capacity to send cars to site following assessment of the likely best possible outcome for patients.

The Heacham Songsters have been delivering concerts to local retirement homes and other community groups for sixteen years. Our songs comprise our take on popular music from the later 1950s through to the early 1990s using electronically produced backing tracks. We do not charge, but donations received are sent on to local charities as evidenced above.

If any such local organisations are interested in receiving a concert from us, please let Peter know on 01485 534031. We would also be interested in welcoming new singing members (and particularly men for tonal balance) to our Wednesday morning sessions. You do not need to be able to read music. □





From Your Ward Councillors Tony Bubb and Judy Collingham



Activity at the Borough has necessarily been curtailed as a result of the recent election, but we still had the usual planning considerations and regenerative activity taking place.

As ever, residents of the Ward are keen to improve their properties, but it is always a prudent first step to discuss any major building works with your neighbours. Remember, they may have bought their home just because they have a fine view of the tree (and the privacy it affords) that you are about to chop down.

A plea from Judy that dog walkers on the sports ground keep their dogs on leads. Money and time are spent preparing the ground for various sporting activities (currently cricket) and it is dispiriting to find either dog turds or that the ground (particularly the cricket 22) has been scuffed up.

You will read a report from the Chair of the newly formed Dersingham Sports Ground Association about plans to renovate our old sports pavilion, which would be such an asset to the village. Not only for players, but their families, visitors, and volunteers, the latter who currently give their time to keep the pavilion in as good a condition as the old building will allow. With improvements to the church (new disabled access toilet, new kitchen), a modern much used Village Centre and a revived Social Club, the pavilion is the last piece (hopefully!) in the jigsaw of presenting our village to the outside world as a fine, caring place to live and work. We urge you to support this project.

The Councillor Community Grant funding has allowed the tennis court lighting to be upgraded to LEDs (greener and a considerable energy saving) and to repair the ball firing machine for those tennis players who need to refine their game. It has also part paid for the repair of the guttering around the pavilion to keep the building going until next year when the new pavilion project can begin. Hopefully the guttering will be re-used.

The Borough has a new Chief Executive appointed, taking over the role in September. Kate Blakemore, née Watts, comes to us from East Suffolk, but was born in Dersingham. Does anybody remember her?

We wish everyone a happy and sunny summer.□



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Dersingham Day Club

We have had a very busy few weeks. On May 8th we had entertainment by Merv and Steve. On May 22nd we all enjoyed a visit by Daisy the Shetland pony and owner Nicky, from Miniature Dreams for Tiny Tots.



We went to the United Services Club on July 3rd for a roast lunch, and on July 17th we had entertainment by 4 Steps 2 Heaven, from Hanover Court.

Our last day before the summer break was July 24th and we shall be returning on September 4th.

We still have a few remaining places for new members if anyone is interested - please contact Wendy Raby on 01485 544975 or Maggie Langridge on 01485 543264.□

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Question – Are next of kin responsible for care home fees after a family member dies?

Answer – When a resident dies in a care home, next of kin will not have to pay any outstanding care home fees, this will be taken from the deceased person's estate unless a specific contract has been signed with the care home, saying you will pay instead.

Question – I have a diabetic friend and I would like to make her an iced cake. Is there a sugar free substitute for ordinary icing sugar?

Answer – Canderel Bake is an icing sugar alternative and is available in most supermarkets.

Able Community Care Ltd. The Old Parish Rooms, Whitlingham Lane, Trowse, Norwich NR14 8TZ

Web: www.ablecommunitycare.com

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Telephone: 01485 532662



Phobbies - Hobbies club for those with and without physical difficulties

Margaret Ponder

Our membership has increased again over the last two months, which is very pleasing. We now have an active little art group who all inspire each other. The rest of us do a variety of different craft projects. These include paper crafts, knitting, sewing, crocheting and rug making.

Some of our members are very skilled but others of us just enjoy having a go. In the afternoon several members enjoy card games and every couple of months we have musical entertainment. The club has people with all sorts of disabilities and none, but everyone enjoys each other's company.

If you think you might be interested in joining us or helping to run the club, come and visit us between **10:00am and 2:00pm any Thursday** at the Social Club on Lynn Road or contact **Maggie on 07967 799816**. Even if you wouldn't want to come regularly, you are very welcome to just come and visit.

We have a stock of handmade items for sale, including blankets, baby clothes, gloves, hats, gifts etc. Drop in any Thursday between 10:00am and noon to see what we have.

We are running throughout the summer but will be closed for the first two weeks in September.□



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Pictures at an Exhibition

Exploring how musical terminology can enhance our visual experience

Barbara King

Can a painting be described as a Rhapsody? In music the term is used to describe something irregular in form, an improvisation. So, yes. If George Gershwin can use the colour blue to describe his rhythmic, jazzy 'Rhapsody' then 'Rhapsody in Green' can be used to describe my painting of barleycorn blowing in the wind.



I'm Barbara King and I'm re-examining my paintings with music in mind. It is a well-known fact that some people see colour when they hear sounds. Known as synaesthesia, this is a fascinating process whereby the brain engages two or more unrelated senses to process information. Duke Ellington claimed to see different colours for the exact same note when played by different musicians and even experienced textures in his perception. For example, he described the note of D as 'dark blue burlap'. On the flip side of this, Kandinsky, the famous 20th century painter, could hear colours. A high trumpet note sounded when he used lemon yellow, and he actively set out to paint pictures which would stimulate both aural and optical senses. For him his highly orchestrated and richly coloured abstract paintings must have resonated like a powerful symphony.

I don't have synaesthesia, but I like the idea of the symbiosis of visual art and music and how there can be a crossover between the two disciplines, as exemplified by Whistler, whose beautiful portrait of a 'pre-Raphaelite' girl is titled 'Symphony in White'. Both Joan Miro and Chopin had their 'Nocturnes'. Debussy had two 'arabesques', utilising a word used to describe the intertwining plant and abstract designs of Islamic art for his sinuous and flowing piano melodies. Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition' (from where I pinched my title) is a piano suite with ten movements, each inspired by artworks seen at an exhibition by Viktor Hartman.

Of course, certain words such as harmony, tone, resonance, and expression are neutral terms mutually beneficial and useful to both visual artists and musicians alike. But can words such as tango, sonata, adagio, be used to describe visual art? Can a painting incorporate a crescendo, a legato - a walk in the park? Musical terminology is such a rich and expressive resource, drawing on our fundamental instinct for music, that I think its employment in the description of paintings can be nothing short of transformational and enhancing.

And so my 'concerto' of paintings, in which I play the lead, will include alternative musical titles as part of my homage to a suite of spectacular native wildflowers, amongst other subjects. There will be a red hot 'Tango' of Valerian and Meadow Cranesbill, a

'Crescendo' of Rosebay Willowherb full of 'bravura' with undertones of Creeping Thistle, and in contrast a muted (con sordino) 'Pastorale' of Cow Parsley on a Frosted Winter Morning. A sonata, maybe even a scherzo or two with a glissando from left to right. All designed to encourage the observer to engage their visual and aural senses to enrich their experience of the paintings.



Alongside the wildflower paintings will be 'major' and 'minor' harmonic landscapes, nocturnes with fireworks, and some 'symphonies' abstracted from the dancing, patterned-reflected images of boats on water – expressive and 'agitato'.

I am also hoping to create a 'fugue' or two, (a theme repeated and developed by different parts throughout the piece) and some new experimental works painted for the exhibition for which I will take the musical definition as the starting point - the vehicle on which to load visual elements.



Definitions of the terms will be included on the labels along with 'etudes' from my sketchbooks, showing the initial ideas and sketches for the paintings – preludes to the final composition.

Poetry, that lyricism of words, will also be represented with individual poems by Michael King shown alongside some of the paintings to further enrich your experience. His book *Passing Shadows* will also be available to read and buy. (www.fabtimes.com for further information).

I hope I will have the pleasure of both seeing you and hearing your thoughts on whether the addition of evocative musical terminology enhances your understanding, appreciation – or otherwise – and your all-round experience of these 'Pictures at an Exhibition'. Why not bring your favourite piece of music and we will try and match a painting to it!

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION by Barbara King
 Thursday 22nd to Monday 26th August 2024 10am to 4pm
 Ringstead Village Hall, High Street, Ringstead, West Norfolk PE36 5JU
<http://www.barbaraking.co.uk>
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Continuing a recent annual tradition, the Dersingham Guides challenged the Scouts to two events at the start of May. This year's competition was a very competitive, but highly enjoyable rounders match which was narrowly won by the Scouts, 18 - 16. The Guides and Scouts then moved inside their HQ for a biscuit decorating competition where the decorations had to be co-ordinated, presented in an interesting way and then explained to the judges. This was won by the Guides.



Honours were even.

The score now stands at 3:2 to the Guides, with previous competitions being indoor shooting matches, cookery competitions and quizzes.

Scouting good service award presented to Dersingham Scout Leader

Dersingham Group Scout Leader, Tom Wheeler, was presented with the Scout Award for Merit. This is awarded for Outstanding Service and recognises keen, imaginative and dedicated service over a period of at least twelve years. Tom was presented with the award by the Scout District Commissioner. Congratulations Tom!

Anyone interested in joining any of the Dersingham Scout Units (Beavers, Cubs or Scouts) should contact the Group Scout Leader email tom.wheeler@nwnscouts.org or Guide Units (Rainbows, Brownies or Guides) email le_wheeler@yahoo.co.uk



Fifty years of the Dersingham Scout and Guide HQ

This November, it is fifty years since the Dersingham Scout and Guide HQ was built and officially opened. The young members would love to hear from anyone who has memories of the HQ being built or was a member themselves in 1974.

Contact: tom.wheeler@nwnscouts.org □

The Cactus and Succulent Society

Noel Mellish

Do you like cacti and succulent plants? Have you a collection? If you do or have, why not come along to our meetings at the Albert Victor Bowls Club on the first Tuesday of the month from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. From Lynn Road look for the sign on the right and follow the track.

We are a friendly group and if you have any questions about your plants, there will be plenty of good advice available. Meetings include a guest speaker and a slide show of plants in habitat plus tea and biscuits!! August 6th will be a visit to Brazil and September 3rd will see us visiting Argentina.

We are a branch of the British Cactus and Succulent Society and our members are from local villages as well as a bit further afield, but we all have one thing in common.....a love of cacti and succulent plants. Come and join us. kingslynn.bcscs.org.uk □



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Following the success of the delicious Strawberry Fair at Dersingham, our next parish social event is the parish BBQ, which, as usual, will be held in the garden at Hunstanton on Saturday 24th August. You will need to buy a ticket so that numbers can be catered for. For further details please see the weekly church bulletins or the parish website. There are also plans for a Harvest lunch at St Cecilia's in the third week of October. Look out for more details.

We are very blessed in our parish to have two churches, which is convenient for Sunday and Holy day services. However, all our social events aim to celebrate us as a single parish, so regardless of which church you normally attend, please try to come to the events, wherever they're held. If you are unable to get there, you can contact the organisers who will try their best to arrange a lift, so that you don't have to miss out on these enjoyable social occasions.

The Pope's prayer intention for August 2024 is ***"For political leaders"***; we pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs. The Pope's prayer intention for September 2024 is ***"For the cry of the earth"***; we pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the earth and the victims of natural disasters and climatic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2:00pm. 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. 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.

For parish news, including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the **Parish News** page on our website. For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters see the **Links** page of our website at www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org. The Sunday Masses are at 9:00am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11:00am at OLSE, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. Daily Masses are at 10:00am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 10:15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

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

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The Planned Works on Dersingham Commons and Fen – Fourth Update Alex Coombs, Dersingham United Charities

Well, this year seems to have split itself into two distinct halves:

The season begins

We started the season with what has become almost routine. Our contractor cleared some more scrub from the Fen which is now looking very good and shouldn't need much more work doing to it in this regard. However, reducing the reedbed to 5% of the Fen area by this year has proved wildly optimistic (we always thought it would be.) This was pointed out to the Natural England inspectors in January and subsequently to the RPA inspector a week later, and a formal request to extend the deadline to 2030 was submitted. Unfortunately, whilst awaiting their decision they issued us with a £303 fine! However, they have now formally agreed to extend the deadline for this work so the fine should be cancelled and the work will continue.

Our trusty (and most efficient) volunteers continued to remove the rhododendron on the Shut-Up Common, clearing the southern and eastern ditch lines, even though we had only planned to do the southern one this year. The last of the rhododendron along the northern section will be tackled this coming winter. I'm sure you have noticed that where the rhododendron has been cleared foxgloves have started to colonize the streamheads and our only crab apple tree has flowered prolifically for the first time that we can remember. We will shortly try and get quotes to dig out the eastern ditch to encourage the water to flow away more effectively.

Clearing the streamlines last year has encouraged the flow of water to such an extent that it, along with the excessive rainfall, may have contributed to flooding around the village sign in January, but despite the rain the paths at the top of the Common have been much drier than previous winters. The Highways Department has promised to clear the partially blocked culvert under Lynn Road to prevent the flooding happening again.



We also had a day clearing our 'mire plot' on the Fen. This is a small area that had had *molinia* tussocks removed in 2020 and had started to vegetate over. A small band of very hardy volunteers cut and removed the regrowth, in subzero temperatures, and this area is now being successfully colonized by specialist bog plants, especially cotton grass.

The season ends

We finished the season with the woodland thinning work that had been described in detail in my Third Update (issue 142). Hopefully, this will improve the woods by encouraging a healthier,



more diverse woodland environment. As more space is opened up, sunlight can reach the understory, which stimulates the growth of different grasses, flora and young trees, and will give us room to plant some different types of tree to further help diversity.

I know many of you took the time to talk to the horse logger, Jeff, and his two horses: Alex, a Suffolk Punch who did most of the work, and Arco, an Ardennes/Comtois cross who was on light duties only, convalescing from a hoof injury. Jeff said he had been made very welcome and one day only managed about forty-five minutes work due to the number of people saying "hello".



Similar tree thinning work is also planned for the Fen, hopefully this September. But this is for a completely different aim - that of preventing any further woodland encroachment onto the heathland mosaic. It remains to be seen whether Jeff, Alex and Arco will be working on the Fen too.

In addition to the planned woodland work, we also had two tree emergencies. In December a silver birch on the Fen split in high winds about seven feet up, toppling onto another birch that threatened (with the extra weight) to fall across Lynn Road. This was felled safely. And then in April we were advised about a large, multi-stemmed oak, badly split at ground level with two large stems threatening to fall across Heath Road. This was partly felled and the remainder pollarded to reduce the strain on the base of the tree. As deadwood is an important part of a healthy woodland environment, we left the large trunks to mark the layby and act as 'bug hotels', but they have since been stolen.

You may have noticed a few bird boxes have been put up around the Common and we have plans to erect a few more across all three Commons later in the year.

If you have any queries, or indeed spot anything dangerous, please let me know - Alex Coombs, clerk to Dersingham United Charities: ducclerk@gmail.com. □

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Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone, Church Secretary

The Church's 134th anniversary turned out to be very special, as we celebrated with our annual flower festival – Songs of Joy and Wonder. The thirteen displays were based on hymns we enjoy singing, and the arrangements of the flowers and other articles in the displays were appreciated by everyone who came.

Year 1 of Dersingham school gave us an excellent start - we were impressed by their singing and also their display on the hymn '*If I were a butterfly*'. The Reception class of Dersingham school came on Friday morning and sang songs about growing and plants. Mums and Dads and others present all enjoyed their happy singing and the actions.

The hall was very busy with people buying from the stalls and enjoying refreshments. Friday afternoon was very quiet, but Saturday definitely made up for that!

The flower festival raised £2,212 and we have given £500 to Matjinge High School, Zimbabwe, towards a new borehole, and the remainder is for Church funds.

The collection at the Sunday afternoon Songs of Praise raised £181 and this too has been given to Matjinge. Thank you for all your support, it is much appreciated.

The coffee morning on Saturday 28th September will be raising funds for Mary's Meals, an organisation providing school meals for children in many countries, and Church funds.

We look forward to seeing you at any of our activities. □



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

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Towards a hydrogen economy?

Brian Anderson



It all seems so simple: put a couple of electrodes in some water and pass a (renewably generated) electric current. Hydrogen bubbles up from one electrode and oxygen from the other. Capture the hydrogen and use it as a fuel. But it's a bit more complicated than that.....

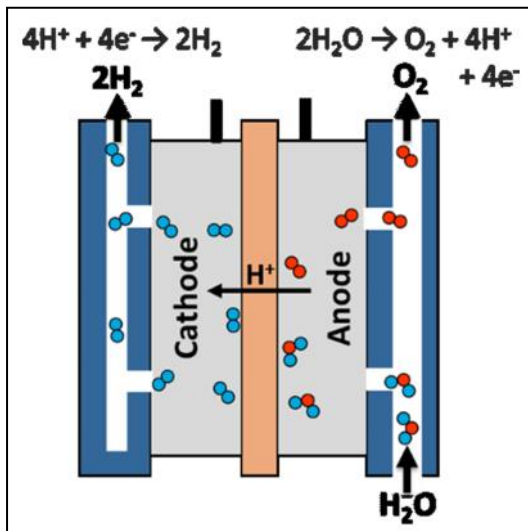
The value of hydrogen in tackling the climate crisis and reducing air pollution depends on the method of production. There are several methods of producing hydrogen - the resulting gas is classified as green, blue, grey, brown, black or white hydrogen (with some hybrid methods producing turquoise hydrogen). I'm sure I don't need to say that the colours are not those of the hydrogen, which is a colourless gas!

Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysis. The water has to be purified to some degree (an obvious add-on cost) and the electrodes are normally made of platinum or iridium - also not cheap. It is by far the cleanest technology for hydrogen production.

Grey hydrogen is produced by reacting methane (from natural gas) with water (steam) at high temperature. The products are hydrogen and carbon

dioxide, which negates to some degree the motive for hydrogen production. If coal is used rather than methane, the hydrogen produced is dubbed **brown** or **black** hydrogen. If carbon capture and storage is used, thus removing CO₂ from release, the hydrogen is designated **blue** hydrogen. Very high temperature (over 1000°C) pyrolysis of methane also produces hydrogen, but without carbon dioxide - the waste product is solid carbon, which can be used in other processes or sequestered. This is known as **turquoise** hydrogen. Methane, irrespective of the manufacturing method of producing hydrogen, has another problem. Leakage from extraction wells and distribution systems is a minor but significant contributor (actually the second worst after CO₂, being 84 times more effective as a greenhouse gas but with a significant shorter atmospheric dwell time) to the tally of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. **White** hydrogen (sometimes dubbed **gold** hydrogen) is obtained from natural deposits produced by geologic processes.

Eight different processes have been identified, although two have partial biological elements. The *Financial Times*, quoting expert sources, said there were approximately 5 trillion tonnes of potentially available white hydrogen in the Earth's crust. Reserves have been discovered in Russia, France, Mali, the United States and about twelve other countries. If these deposits can be used at scale, the effect could be significant. Currently, less than one percent of hydrogen is produced by low-carbon methods. So, if hydrogen is to be used as a fossil fuel replacement, we have a way to go!



Electrolysis of water

USES:

Industrial processes

Most hydrogen is used in industrial processes. The largest user is the oil refining industry, which uses hydrogen to "crack" heavy hydrocarbons into lighter fractions. It is also used in ammonia production for fertiliser manufacture, for the production of methanol and in carbon-free iron extraction. Low carbon hydrogen would be useful in such cases.

Energy storage

It has been proposed that hydrogen can be produced by electrolysis when renewable electricity output exceeds demand, then used to supply the grid when demand rises, either by conventional turbine generation or fuel cells.

Space heating of domestic and commercial buildings

There are two approaches here. The first is the direct use of hydrogen as a replacement in natural gas networks. The second is to use hydrogen to produce electricity, which would be used to power heat pumps for space heating. This is currently the favoured option, as using blue hydrogen to replace natural gas would require three times the amount of methane to produce the hydrogen; and using green hydrogen would need two to three times as much electricity as heat pumps. It is possible that hybrid systems might be used in some areas where upgrading the electricity network would be expensive. In such cases, hydrogen boilers might be used in conjunction with heat pumps.

Transport

This a topic with many stems. The conversion of cars has generated much discussion. The first option is the direct conversion of the internal combustion engine. I do not believe any cars with this option are being commercially manufactured. The second is using fuel cells to provide the motive power. Suffice it to say that a fuel cell is a device which, using a fuel, catalysts and an electrically conductive solution, produces electricity. Unlike a battery, it will not "go flat" and will continue to provide electricity as long as there is fuel. These haven't really caught on. It is estimated that

in 2022, there were 70,200 fuel cell cars in the world, compared with 26 million plug-in electric cars. There seems a better prospect for hydrogen-fuelled heavier road vehicles, such as buses and trucks. It is expected that by 2050, 90 per cent of rail traffic will be electric, compared with 2 per cent for hydrogen (in areas where grid electricity is difficult and costly to provide). Shipping is an area where decarbonisation via hydrogen could be really significant - the replacement of heavy oil by hydrogen (either by gas turbines or fuel cells) would greatly reduce the carbon emissions.



Fuel cell

Air travel is an area where I thought there might be a prospect of reduced-guilt flying. But I was wrong! So far, no prototype hydrogen-powered aircraft has been successful. Beyond the operating difficulties, the storage of the fuel is a big problem for aircraft (and

indeed for some other potential applications). Hydrogen has to be stored liquefied or under pressure. For aircraft in particular, this puts an excess weight constraint on aircraft. But it doesn't end there - although the aircraft would be zero-carbon on outputs, there would still be water vapour at high altitude, where water is a greenhouse gas. The burning of hydrogen at high temperatures also produces oxides of nitrogen. One of these, nitrous oxide (N_2O), is also a greenhouse gas. The other two are pollutants injurious to health.

RISKS

I have mentioned storage problems above. Hydrogen is a very flammable and explosive gas. In a confined space an explosion could be devastating. In more open conditions, the risk is less than that of petrol as it disperses more quickly. If it is stored as a liquid, its temperature is at or below -252.879°C . Accidental release could cause cryogenic burns. If stored under pressure, there is a risk of explosive decompression. Gases under pressure are normally stored at 200 times atmospheric pressure. Hydrogen also makes some metals brittle, which could lead to leaks.

So, what of the future? Quite frankly, I don't know. The pace of technological change is so great that it would be a brave person who claimed to know where hydrogen use might be in twenty years' time.

One afterthought. Fusion power has been mooted as an (maybe *the*) answer to world energy needs. It has been forecast since the 1950s. It uses heavy isotopes of hydrogen as fuel - but that's a whole different article!□



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Success

A very successful community day was enjoyed as fifty-three abseilers descended down St Nicholas Church tower. It was great to see hundreds of people watching and cheering on from the bottom of the seventy-foot tower in Dersingham. The abseil raised an incredible £14,500 for the new accessible toilets and kitchen facilities. This, along with other gifts, generous donations and grants, means that I am pleased to say that the

work is starting on Monday 8th July! This has taken many years of hard work behind the scenes to get to this point and is also testament to God's faithfulness in his provision.

While the work is ongoing the church will still be open each day for private prayer and available for Sunday worship, funerals and weddings, although please do bear with us, as naturally the church will look



slightly different during this time. Also, time will stop still for a while, as the electrics of the church clock will need to be switched off temporarily as the electrical work is done down below in church. This will mean that for a brief time the clock will be stopped and won't chime. Please don't worry as it will resume as soon as the electrical supply allows! We look forward to the kitchen and accessible toilets being completed by the end of October and to the benefits this will make to so many people.



This year's Alpha course starts soon! An opportunity to explore the Christian faith and what the meaning of life is. Last year's Alpha was a great time together and we look forward to offering it again, with complimentary barista drinks, homemade cakes and puddings. It starts on Thursday 26th September at 7:30pm in the Well Café, Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall. Please contact Debbie to book your place: admin@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk or on 07396 743042.

Blessings

Rev Mark Capron

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

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



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Dersingham Choir Glenys Owen

Another successful year completed for our choir, singing in three concerts for the community. All of these were different and showcased the many talents of the choir, stretching their musical knowledge and repertoire - there was a second Christmas concert with a selection of choral works and carols for the audience to join in with, followed by a spring concert of many 60s favourites and classics, and the summer concert highlighted songs from around the world.

We are grateful to our Musical Director, Simon, and our Accompanist, Matthew, for getting to grips with all the different styles and, more importantly, guiding the choir through all the music and building their confidence to perform in public.

We are also grateful to Steve on guitar and James on drums, who gave the 60s music an added dimension.



Our work doesn't finish here, however, as we are already planning our third Christmas concert, to be held in December 2024.

So, if you fancy a new hobby or already enjoy singing and want to give something to the community, or would like to volunteer in the background, come along and see what we do next term, which starts on:

September 5th at 7:00pm at St Cecilia's Church Hall, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham PE31 6YE.

More details can be found on our website: www.dersinghamchoir.com

This is a Creative Lives Know Your Neighbourhood Project funded by UK Government and Arts Council England. □

Snettisham Gardening Club

At our August meeting on Wednesday 28th we will welcome Johnny Walkers of Walkers' Bulbs, RHS winning growers. There may also be some to purchase.

On September 25th we will welcome Nick Grounds, NAFAS demonstrator, who will show us how to make arrangements using material from our gardens.

Meetings start at 7:30pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham and all are welcome. Any further information about our club can be obtained from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754. □



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Traditionally, we end our season in Norfolk, where our concerts always take place at the same time as the Sandringham Flower Show, as we, too, celebrate the glories of the late summer. This year we mark this in particularly grand style. We have two concerts in the impressive St Nicholas Chapel, King's Lynn. You will not forget the wonderful interior of this magnificent church which will resound with the music of two fantastic concerts.



July 30th at 6:30pm

On the first evening, join the English Chamber Orchestra – one of the UK's most beloved cultural institutions – for "Brilliance and Virtuosity", a programme featuring music by Mendelssohn, Strauss, and Mozart. The talented young performer José Matias (a prizewinner of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama) will perform Richard Strauss's violin concerto – not often performed, but well-known for its stunning virtuosity and beautiful lyricism.

July 31st at 6:30pm

On the second evening, The Cardinal's Musick and their director Andrew Carwood present "Sweet Music", a concert to celebrate Sir Charles Villiers Stanford who died 100 years ago. During his life and since his death, Stanford's choral music has been much-loved, and this concert celebrates not only Stanford's music itself, but also some of the music which influenced what he composed.

Full programmes and tickets available from <https://bit.ly/49xzRil> □

Dersingham Tennis Club Judy Collingham

Update on our tennis club, which welcomes all comers. With the help of Borough Council support we have renovated court two which was suffering badly from flooding during wet weather (see below); replaced old lights with LEDs which are clearer and use much less power; and have given the ball machine a new battery. So, we are all ready for the sunny (!) tennis-friendly weather which we hope the summer will bring. Do join us; you would be most welcome, either as a club member or as pay and play. Details on: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/DersinghamTennisClub> or contact Judy Collingham on 07425 138160.



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Dersingham Sports Pavilion – an Update

David Collingham, Chair, Dersingham Sports Ground Association

Over the past months the Dersingham Sports Ground Association has met monthly to discuss and draw up plans for a major renovation of the existing pavilion. If all goes well with fundraising and achieving grants, we should be in a strong position to start the renovation in 2025.

We have had consultation meetings with the sports users and clubs, including Dersingham Rovers Football (senior, junior and ladies), plus the cricket and tennis clubs.

By the time you read this we will have launched our website, which will encourage involvement by our community.

Key goals achieved so far:

- Architect selected and plans to be drawn up for planning approval.
- Further meeting with the Norfolk FA taken place and very favourable feedback obtained.
- Funding plans ongoing, with donations received from Borough Council and from a raffle held at the village midsummer event.
- **Buy a Brick** campaign launched.
- Website launched, allowing individuals and corporate partners to participate in funding. To see progress go to www.dersinghamsportsground.org.uk, or for further information and contact please email info@dersinghamsportsground.org.uk □

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Dersingham Sports Pavilion Project

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We need you to be on board!

Go to: dersinghamsportsground.org.uk/

How To Donate



Find us on the [Dersingham Village Facebook page](#)



[Dersingham](#) Sports Ground Association – Charity No: 1205119

Big Meadow Search

In 1987, some research was published* in a scientific journal which showed that since the Second World War, 97% of meadows in the UK had disappeared. Previously, most farms were mixed farms but even those specialising in arable crops needed horses for ploughing and pulling carts; they and other livestock (sheep, beef and dairy cattle) were fed on hay during the winter when the grass doesn't grow. The hay was produced in hay meadows, and for many centuries, every farm in the UK had one or more such

meadows. Before the time of artificial fertilisers, these fields contained not only grass but many species of flowering plants as well, and they supported lots of insects and other invertebrates.

Post-war, horses were replaced by tractors, and hay was replaced by silage as winter feed – it contains more calories and protein weight for weight than hay, and highly fertile silage fields can yield several crops per year, compared with only one hay crop. Hay meadows were now as obsolete as the working farm horses they fed during the winter, and so they almost all disappeared. But, sadly, much of the wildlife they supported has also gone. Areas of species-rich grassland are now quite rare, but they are very valuable and it's important that we know where they are. Hence, the Big Meadow Search!

The Big Meadow Search (BMS) is a citizen science project which aims to encourage people to record plants in an area of grassland of their own choice. The idea is to get them outside, to look at what they're walking through, and to learn to identify the plants they find, thus raising awareness and interest in grasslands and their importance. It began in 2021 as an initiative by the Carmarthenshire Meadows Group in West Wales and was at first only intended to be carried out within our county. But it generated interest beyond Carmarthenshire, and beyond Wales too, so we are now looking for participants all over the UK.

The BMS species tick list is based on the National Plant Monitoring Scheme grassland indicator species, plus additional species of interest from meadows and grasslands. Any type of species-rich grassland can be searched: meadows, churchyards, road verges, amenity grassland. Obviously, if it's not public access land, make sure to get permission!

To take part:

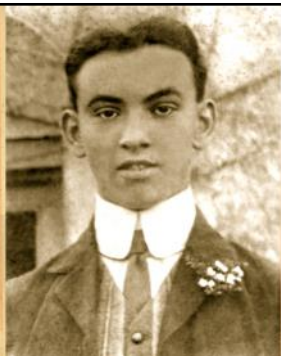
- Select your grassland
- Record the location name, grid reference and date
- Walk around and write down all the plants you can see
- If you aren't sure on a species, take photographs from multiple angles of the flower heads, basal and stem leaves, upper and lower leaf surface, leaf base shape and either post on our social media or email to us and we will try and help to identify the species
- Enter your results on our website, and once we have finished our BMS analysis, we will send them on to your local environmental record centre (LERC).

You can find lots of information on our Facebook page Big Meadow Search, or on our Twitter account @bigmeadowsearch, or you can get in touch via email on bigmeadowsearch@gmail.com. Our website (www.bigmeadowsearch.co.uk) has lots more information, and you can enter your findings directly. This year's BMS will run from June 1st until August 31st.

* Fuller, R M (1987) The changing extent and conservation interest of lowland grasslands in England and Wales: a review of grassland surveys 1930-1984. *Biological Conservation* 40: 281-300 □

Carmarthenshire Meadows Group

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Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy, President

We started June with a trip to Wolferton Station by the kind permission of Mr R Brown. The weather was beautiful, and ten members enjoyed a look around this historic setting which had been the destination for many a royal train over its long history as a railway station until its closure in 1969. They then journeyed the short drive to Castle Rising Tea Rooms. I am told that the courgette and avocado cake was scrumptious. (One to try next time I go.)



Our speaker at the June evening meeting was Hazel Gillingham on "The Three Amazing Women of the W.I." This was a talk about Adelaide Hoodless, Madge Watts and Lady Denman. Hazel started her talk about Adelaide Hoodless, who started the W.I. in Canada. She campaigned for domestic science to be part of the curriculum in schools for girls in Canada. She was invited to speak at a meeting of the wives of the Farmers Institute and she challenged the wives to start something for the ladies, especially in rural areas, to broaden knowledge of domestic science, farming issues and to give them a chance to socialize. Within a month 101 ladies had created the Stoney Creek Women's Institute which is still going today. She travelled to England and toured around, but found that the ladies of England were not quite ready for the W.I.

Hazel then spoke about Madge Watts (who from her picture was not a lady to trifle with), who first came to Britain in 1913 so her boys could have an English education. She toured Britain extolling the virtues of opening a W.I. club. She was invited by the Agricultural Association to talk to ladies at Bangor University, with the first W.I. club opening in Anglesey in 1917.

The third lady Hazel spoke about was Lady Denman, who was active in Women's Suffrage. She became the first lady of Australia. She became the W.I.'s President from 1917-1946 and became the Director of the Women's Land Army in 1933. The W.I. College in Suffolk was in 1948 named after Lady Denman and became Denman College, a residential adult education college. The late Queen Mother attended a National W.I. meeting at the Royal Albert Hall to pay tribute to Lady Denman.



Hazel then invited our members in groups to have a discussion and come up with three women who they thought had been influential. This certainly provoked lively discussions on all the tables. Most came up with a list of at least fifteen women, with the main women coming in the top three being Florence Nightingale, Queen Elizabeth II, Marie Curie and Margaret Thatcher. I wonder who you would have picked?

After the refreshment break Lyn Wetherill (who had been our delegate at the National Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall this year) gave us a report on the day. The resolution for more NHS dental surgeries had been voted on and passed. The speakers for the day had been Nazir Afzal – Chief Crown Prosecutor for NW England, singer Mel B and then actor Timothy Watson, who all spoke about abuse against women. At times the meeting became quite emotional, but the one outcome everyone agreed on was that women being abused either physically or mentally should be listened to and believed by someone in authority who can then act against the perpetrator.

We also held a competition of any homemade item (we are, after all, the W.I) and these varied from painted coasters, cards, crocheted work and felt work.

The book club is reading *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, which tells the story of a young boy, Amir, who lives in an area of Kabul. It is set against the backdrop of the fall of the Afghanistan monarchy and the Soviet invasion through to the rise of the Taliban. I am sure a most interesting read.

On Wednesday 26th June we gathered at Diann's for a coffee morning in her lovely garden with the sun shining. On Thursday 27th June a small group of us gathered at Sandringham for coffee and then a gentle walk in aid of ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) which Wendy organized for us. We had hoped to start from St Nicholas Church and hopefully walk to Sandringham but decided against this due to the hot weather.

By the time you read this we will have had our speaker for July who will be Judith Key who will talk about "Painting the Landscape". Judith established her studio in Norfolk in 1987, exhibiting landscape and marine paintings. She paints on site when practical and uses both her camera and sketchbook to help with work in the studio. Judith will be giving an entertaining and informative talk on her life as a landscape painter. She will be displaying some of her works and describing some of the bizarre experiences and encounters she has had as a plein air painter. She will also reveal how the gentle art of watercolour painting is not always the peaceful pursuit that people imagine. We have quite a few members who paint and I am sure they will find this a most interesting and informative talk, as will those of us who have often thought about having a dabble (and I don't count painting the walls at home as dabbling).

July will also have seen our dining group visit The Three Horseshoes at Roydon for lunch.

Our book club will be reading *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus - a novel about



a female chemist battling a 1950s sexist establishment, who in the 1960s becomes a leading cooking show host. Her approach to cooking is no different to her approach to science experiments. Sounds a very interesting read.

Both our Book and Craft group will stop during August and resume in September.

In August we do not have an evening meeting but will be having our Afternoon Tea for members on the 21st at Orchard Close and Alison will hold a coffee afternoon at her home.

In September our speaker will be Cheryl Cade with a "Cheesy Chat" which will also include samples.

Our monthly meetings are mostly held on the third Wednesday of every month in St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham at 7:15pm. Posters advertising these are usually up around the village. If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening W.I. please contact Katrina on 01485 544773 or Ann on 01485 542847. □

Making Gardening Easier **May Davey**



Forty members and friends went to Peter Beales Rose Gardens on 21st June. This was to celebrate Chris and May Davey's Golden Wedding Anniversary. A wonderful time was had by all.

On 19th July we held our own flower show in the Village Centre, with so many colourful exhibits. Members enjoyed a busy afternoon judging the lovely entries.

We usually meet at 2:00pm 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. □



Events for August and September

SATURDAY 3rd AUGUST: Summer Fiesta - 7:30pm. 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 by Monday 29th July. Fully licensed bar, plus raffle.

FRIDAY 30th AUGUST: Quiz Night – Club opens 7:00pm. Quiz starts 7:30pm. Entry £2 per person. Licensed bar, plus raffle.

MONDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER: Bingo Night

FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER – Film Night

FRIDAY 27th – Quiz Night. Club opens 7:00pm. Quiz starts 7:30pm. Entry £3 per person. Licensed bar, plus raffle.

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ADULTS

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On August 7th, and again on August 15th there will be two Watercolour Artists Workshops for Adults. These sessions will be held from 10am till 4pm at Hunstanton Town Hall Hub, The Green, PE36 6PQ. The cost is a reasonable £20 for the expert tuition, suitable for beginners and more experienced artists. Please bring your own watercolour paints, paper and equipment with you, and a packed lunch.

If your work is good enough, you might like to display it at the Art and Photography exhibition being held at Hunstanton Town Hall in October. See our brochure or contact www.festival3bythesea.org for details.

If dance is your thing, there are two workshops you might like:

Would you love to learn how to jive? It's becoming more popular than ever, and now's your chance to learn how to do it well. It starts on August 14th at Hunstanton Community Centre from 2pm until 3pm. This one is for energetic adults aged 16 and over. Cost is £10 per session. Please wear suitable footwear.

Finally, if Bollywood Dance is new to you then there will be a chance to learn this dance style on August 22nd from 2pm to 3pm. You will find it at Hunstanton Community Centre, Avenue Road PE36 5BW. The tutor will take you through your paces. You do need to be fit and active for this one as it's a great work out. Equipment is provided but loose comfortable clothing also required. Costs £10 per session.

NEW ARTS EVENTS FOR CHILDREN THIS SUMMER

Children's workshops in the pipeline include a Space Themed Creative Words and Movement session for 6 – 11-year-olds on August 8th. Dance, drama and words and movement will be included. You will find it at Hunstanton Community Centre from 2pm till 4pm. It costs £10 per child and is guaranteed to keep everyone happy and creatively inspired - all afternoon. Please book in advance via the website. Local author Damian Carruthers is the tutor.

On August 21st there will be two ceramic tile painting workshops at Hunstanton Town Hall Hub for all the family with artist Kate Dunbar. There are two sessions from 11am till 1pm and 2pm till 4pm. These are completely FREE with all materials provided.

When your unique designed tile is fired and finished it will go up with the other panels already on the sea wall down near the Sailing Club. Themes are Norfolk Wildlife and Planet Earth. All materials and equipment and studio time are provided free of charge. Please book in advance or drop in on the day downstairs in the Town Hall. This project started in 2012 and we hope to finish all the panels this year.

Further information from Dawn Davies, Media Officer 01485 779746.□



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A Wrong Turn

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A moment of misdirection and a doctor's life was lost,
From violent men with violent weapons, he paid the final cost.

A mother heard a commotion and sounds outside on her street;
With hindsight, she should have maintained a cautious safe retreat.

Her little girl came running to see, as she opened her front door,
From a violent man with a violent weapon, the poor child was no more.

In the heat of politics and campaigning, death's the ultimate finale;
An Ecuadorian candidate was assassinated while leaving an election rally.

A hot country, in a volatile region, the crime gangs are the kings,
By violent men with violent weapons that do unspeakable things.

In Ukraine there has been damage, drones, death and devastation,
The enmity and venom coming from the Russian nation.

Is it a land grab, a power force or envy of a neighbour's productions
From violent men with violent weapons intent on causing ructions?

The Middle East has skies of fire, and bombs causing an almighty blip,
Raging trouble and a weekly exodus of the people from the Strip,
Bringing chaos, kidnappings, death squads and merciless executions,
By violent men with violent weapons preferring brutality to solutions.

In parts of Africa, a growing worry of girls' schools being raided.

Is this a misbelief that women should not be educated?

It perplexes the mind, what's being done in the name of religion
By violent men with violent weapons belonging to a legion.

Why does it start, why does it continue, why can it not stop?

With every trivial disagreement, things go so over the top.

The Sixth Commandment is disrespected, derided and ignored
By violent men with violent weapons eschewing harmony for discord.

The shadow of war grows daily, triggering alarm bells,

A little over a century ago, there were two wars....two hells.

Now today our world is full of protests, activists and profanity
Against violent men, with violent weapons committing crimes against humanity.

Human Rights to exist, get ever so much tighter

But one man's terrorist....it seems is another man's freedom fighter!!!

Lorna MMXXIV

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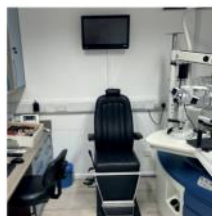
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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

As summer finally arrives, the children in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 were lucky to receive a visit from the West Norfolk and King's Lynn Bee Keeper Association, where they looked closely at a section of a hive, complete with thousands of bees and the queen bee with a red spot on her back. They discovered a multitude of facts and the whole school took part in a poster competition, which took place at the Hunstanton Town Hall. A big thank you to Phil and Jill for being so informative and making the interactive sessions fun.



It's been a hectic PE half term, kicking off with a Tri-Golf festival at Heacham Junior School, which was well represented by Year 2 and Year 4. The Dynamos Cricket Competition saw Year 6 putting in a fine performance, narrowly missing out on the Norfolk finals. The Off-Road Cycle event was attended by children from Year 2 to Year 5, although they had to race against the rain, as well as each other! The rain was also a theme at sports day, when the picnic and afternoon track events were abandoned. However, the children did take part in a round robin Olympic event in the morning, which was run by our fantastic Year 6 children and thoroughly enjoyed by all. It is hoped the sun will shine when the races are rearranged!

The PTFA put on another hugely successful movie night, which was appreciated by children from Reception to Year 6. They have been busy raising funds selling ice pops on a Friday, which is popular now the sun is shining. They are busy getting ready for the summer fair and the children had a non-uniform day to collect prizes for the event.

The Eco Council went on a litter pick in the local community and were astounded by the amount they collected on the cricket field. There is still a lot of litter in the ditches, which wasn't safe for the children to collect, so if any members of the village are willing to don wellies and get litter picking, that would be fabulous.



On a musical note, Year 5 performed in a concert playing PBuzz instruments that they have been learning with three other schools. All the children played with an orchestra with students from the Purcell Music Academy in Watford. It was an amazing experience and BBC Look East were there, so the children will be performing on TV too!

The Nursery children have been reading *The Hungry Caterpillar*, then watching for their own caterpillars to form a chrysalis and emerge as a beautiful butterfly. They have been learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, making caterpillar life cycles using materials in the environment and even acting it out! The

children enjoyed drawing and making 3D caterpillars, and then measuring them.

Nursery photos



Reception had a fantastic visit to Church Farm to conclude their living and growing topic. The children have grown beans, sunflowers and potatoes in the garden. They have been really patient and waited twenty-one days for the chicken eggs to hatch in the incubator. The children helped set up a brooder box and made sure they were comfortable at Mrs Rimmer's house.

Reception photos



Year 1 had a very busy half term learning about the Savannah and a timid little lion cub that lives there. They enjoyed playing in the safari role play area, booking holidays and searching for different African animals. The children did an amazing job opening the Flower Festival at the Methodist Church and enjoyed singing and performing to a full audience. They also had a superb educational visit to Sandringham House, where they learned about Kings and Queens of the past and celebrated the first anniversary of King Charles' reign. Thank you to Nana Lavender for a wonderful day; the children loved looking round the beautiful house and gardens.

Year 2's topic this final half term is Beside the Seaside. The children are finding out about seaside holidays of the past, human and physical geographical features, coastal

creatures, and enjoying a trip to Hunstanton prom and Sealife Centre. They are also experimenting with creating Ferris wheels in DT and made some wonderful posters after the recent beekeeper visit.



Year 1 visit to Sandringham

Year 3 and Year 4 had a busy end to last half term, when the children welcomed parents to partake in a French Cafe. Each class performed a play in French - *Cinderella* in Year 3 and *Puss in Boots* in Year 4 - followed by lots of French singing and French food! It was an afternoon thoroughly enjoyed by all. This half term, Year 3 have been learning about the Romans, exploring the spread of the Roman Empire and the importance of the Roman army. The children have been building Roman forts and learning about the Colosseum and gladiators.



Year 2 DT

This half term Year 4 have been learning about Egyptians and the River Nile. The children had a close look at mummification and wrote some brilliant instructions detailing how to mummify a Pharaoh. They wrote an informal letter to a friend, explaining about the curse of the canopic jar from the class reader and explored some of the stories surrounding the famous Pharaoh, Tutankhamun. They enjoyed learning about Howard Carter and some of the other famous Egyptologists from the 1940s. An exciting, jam-packed half term!

Last half term was an important one for the Year 6 children since they had to sit their SATs tests. They all coped marvellously with this stressful experience. Away from preparation and revision for SATs, Year 6 embarked upon their Frozen North topic, which incorporated elements of learning about the Arctic tundra, Russian history, traditional Russian fairytales (following a book called *The Girl Who Speaks Bear* to inspire and motivate writing fairy tales) and reading *The Raven's Children*, a book set in Stalinist Russia.

As the school year comes to its finale, there are still some up and coming events to look forward to. Year 1s are going to an Olympic Sports Festival run by the cluster Sports Councils. They have been having meetings and preparing since the beginning of the year. Several classes will be visiting St George's Guildhall for a concert of *Alice in Wonderland*, which has been fully funded by Classical Music Rocks. Year 3 and Year 4 have been invited to a Smithdon Sports Festival and there are numerous summer trips. Reception and Year 2 are off to the Sea Life Centre and Year 6 have some exciting activity days planned, including their annual camp out and of course the leavers' prom!

Happy summer from everyone here at Dersingham Primary and Nursery School.□

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Watch out for Hedgehogs

"No Mo May" is great! Letting grassland wildflowers grow provides nectar and habitat for pollinators which become food for birds, bats and hedgehogs. But even without No Mow May the strimming and mowing season is a disaster for hedgehogs. At Ryston Rachel's Hedgehog Hotel we've admitted over twenty hedgehogs since April. Only six survived.

It's breeding season for hedgehogs (already endangered and on the Red List), and long grass, shrubs and hedges are favourite nesting places. Hedgehogs don't run when they hear the strimmer or mower. They've evolved to freeze or curl up when there's danger, so they just freeze or curl up tighter. Without checking you may hurt or kill a hedgehog that you never even noticed.

Hedgehog rescues nationally are seeing a big increase in strimmer injuries, most too dreadful to describe. Many injuries are so severe that the hedgehogs we rescue must be euthanised. Some aren't found for hours or even days, by which time it's too late. Most upsetting are the hedgehogs which come in badly injured but are producing milk for their babies. We have to try and find those babies before they die.

We've recently bought an Ultrasound Scanner so we can see if sick or injured hedgehogs are pregnant. To rescue a strimmed hedgehog who's pregnant but dies or is euthanised is heartbreaking.

So please, before you strim or mow, take some time to check the area carefully. You could save the life or the lives of a whole family. If you do find a nest, please don't disturb it, because the mother may abandon it. Leave them be and in a few weeks they'll have moved on. You may even catch a glimpse of them foraging for food in the evening.

And if you find an injured or sick hedgehog or one you are worried about, please don't "wait and see". Call your nearest Wildlife Rescue for advice or ring Ryston Rachel's Hedgehog Hotel on:□

07724 005692



Dersingham Task Force

Dennis Weatherill

The Task Force crew have had a frustrating spring, as I'm sure all gardeners have. Frequent rain and cold conditions have curtailed our activities somewhat. Having said that, at time of writing we feel proud of what we have achieved and both our gardens (Post Office Road and the Recreation Ground) are looking very colourful.



However, we became aware that some of our long-established plants were looking a little tired and in need of replacing. So earlier this year we applied to the Parish Council and I'm now very happy to be able to report that a grant of £100 has been made available! Good news indeed, and we are very grateful to the Parish Council for helping us out.

With it being early summer and the likelihood of extended dry, warm weather upon us, we have decided to delay purchasing plants and bulbs until more suitable conditions prevail in the autumn.

We currently have only eight active members who are able to give of their time (once every two weeks), so we really do need to recruit some new members.

If you feel that you can help then please contact me, Dennis Weatherill, on 07482 913399 or denzilweatherill@gmail.com and we would make you very welcome.

Apart from an hour's fulfilling work in the fresh air on every second Wednesday at 10.00am, there is the additional bonus of tea, scones and a chat at Thaxter's afterwards!

□



Phoning HMRC – Don't hold your breath! Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

By the time this article is published we will know the shape and flavour of the Government and may even have some inkling of the tax regime for the next five years or so. One aspect which has received very little exposure in the run up to the election is the current state of interaction between HMRC and the taxpayer.

In strategic terms we know that in April 2026 many taxpayers will need to start filing quarterly figures under the "Making Tax Digital" initiative which will apply to those with untaxed income above £50,000 in 2026 and £30,000 in 2027. This is part of the move to digital communications generally, and HMRC are already trying to persuade taxpayers to engage digitally rather than by telephone or letter. According to statistics received last month, in the first eleven months of 2023/4 taxpayers contacted HMRC on 228 million occasions, and plans are afoot to expand these in the future to give greater access to employment benefits records, tax codes, reliefs and appeals. However, there are clearly areas where the online services are inadequate, and 69% of telephone callers had contacted HMRC because they could not resolve matters online.

It is at this point that communications start to deteriorate. In March HMRC announced plans to shut down key helplines, since they were unable to cope with the pressure of enquiries. This decision was rapidly reversed following pressure from the Government, but the fact remains that the historic paths to communication are coming under pressure. According to a National Audit Office (NAO) report:

- In February this year HMRC had 1 million items of unanswered correspondence
- Only 2/3rds of telephone calls are answered, after an average wait per call of 23 minutes
- Although HMRC took 22% fewer calls in 2022-23 compared to 2019-20, each call took an average of 21% longer to handle
- Between 2019-20 and 2023-24 HMRC cut staffing levels by 9%, presumably in anticipation of demand falling as a result of digitisation. It appears that this may have been somewhat optimistic
- Even the special dedicated phone lines used by tax agents are suffering (*this we know only too well!*), with only 43% of agents giving a positive rating to their dealings with HMRC compared to 65% of individuals and 74% of small businesses (although this may reflect the tendency for simple problems to be resolved by app or website, with more complex ones requiring personal contact)

Perhaps the worst statistic is that in 2022-23 taxpayers collectively spent 798 years on hold, waiting to speak to HMRC. Or putting it brutally, HMRC have cut back and digitised services to save costs, but the result is that taxpayers have to waste hundreds of years of their own time listening to music in the hope that they might eventually speak to someone before they are "timed out".

Perhaps one of the first things a new Chancellor might like to consider is creating HMRC helplines which are both helpful and accessible.

If you require any tax advice, whether personal or business, please contact us at Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

N.B. Article written in June 2024.

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 64

LINE	CHAISE	ONLINE	SANDPIPER
PONE	PLOVER	ROUST	MARK
LETTER	SEMAPHORE	NEED	MORSE CODE
AVOCET	HERON	GRADUATE	GODWIT

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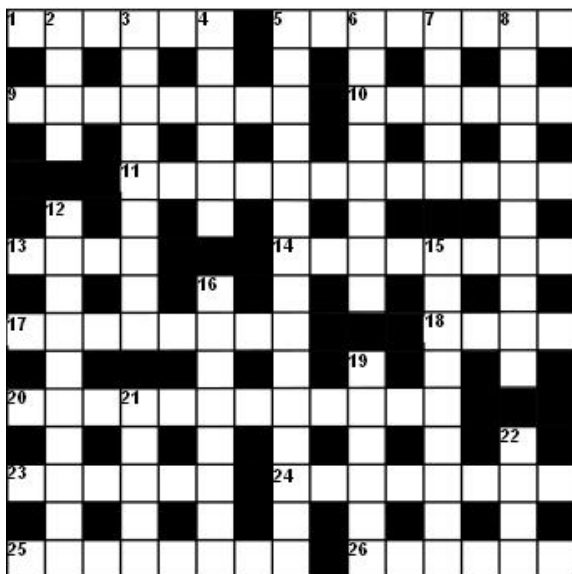
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PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword by
Philip Neal

Across

- 1 Afloat where animal features in commercial (6)
5 A staunch ground shrub (8)
9 German attracts clumsy bump from lowest level (6,2)
10 Membership held by journalists plants (6)
11 I was involved in the manufacture of iron ore and jade in Brazil (3,2,7)
13 Writer Laszlo left his mark (4)
14 Tangled hotel net caught long box show (8)
17 Chip cooked with Eton mess relates to study of speech (8)
18 Flashy forte (4)
20 Runners infection caught whilst wandering to hotel feast (8,4)
23 Smoothly we hear the French cake (6)
24 Lazy at home with a party just before Easter (8)
25 Aerostat is tested on 5 August inclusively for economists (8)
26 Outcome of Ulster broadcast (6)

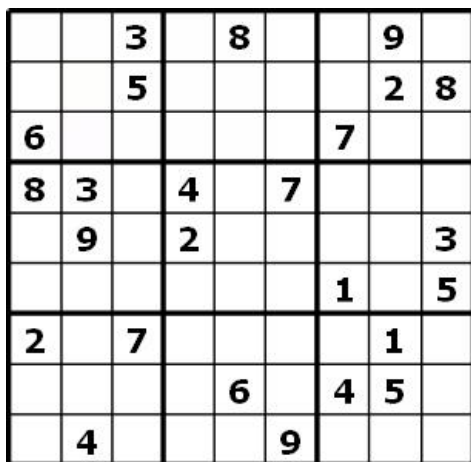


Down

- 2 Two Bishops make a spectacle of themselves (4)
3 Follow midday following – its often good (9)
4 Fruit gathered by mother and offspring (6)
5 A present participle attracts fruit on probation (15)
6 Last word can be agreeable (8)
7 There are times to pick up the French bill (5)
8 Bend in fuzzy fund score causes photo problem (10)
12 Fancy tights here (4,6)
15 But will they believe them? (4,5)
16 Original stands in boys headgear (8)
19 The red red robin rejects the flower bed (6)
21 Bounced into meadow gym (5)
22 Bent nail found in W.I. shrub (4)

Answers on page 64

Sudoku





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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Aboard. 5 Acanthus. 9 Bottom up. 10 Embeds. 11 Rio de Janeiro. 13 Biro. 14 Telethon. 17 Phonetic. 18 Loud. 20 Athletes foot. 23 Legato. 24 Indolent. 25 Statists. 26 Result.

Down

2 Boob. 3 Afternoon. 4 Damson. 5 Apprenticeships. 6 Amenable. 7 Table. 8 Underfocus. 12 High street. 15 Tell tales. 16 Stetsons. 19 Border. 21 Leapt. 22 Anil.

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

Word Wall Answers

Post....: ...pone, ...chaise, ...graduate, ...mark

Means of communication: Morse code, Semaphore, Letter, Online

Anagrams of rivers: Line (Nile), Heron (Rhône), Roust (Stour), Need (Eden)

Waders: Avocet, Plover, Sandpiper, Godwit

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Issue	Copy deadline midday on	Publication date
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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