

Number 151

December 2024/January 2025

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



Many thanks to Gary Pearson for his amazing photo of the aurora borealis over Sandringham House, which we have on our cover. We were lucky in this area to have several showings of this extraordinary spectacle. On page 21 are a few other efforts of local people to capture this light show. I wonder what our ancestors made of this phenomenon, before scientists were able to explain it.

We have a bumper edition for you this time – apologies to our volunteer distributors for the extra weight!

The village is thriving with the opening, or re-opening of businesses: The Coach and Horses has had a massive refurbishment, and you can read about it on page 13 and our back cover. At the bottom of Sandringham Hill Petals Tea Room has new owners and it is now very much more than a tea room, offering meals all day. On page 15 you can read more about their expanded operation. And finally, on pages 24 to 26, is the story behind Cheshire and Oldfield, the luxury bed shop that has taken over the property that Priors Butchers used to occupy. We are grateful for these three businesses to be supporting Village Voice with their advertising.

I have just got back from taking photographs at St Nicholas Church of the opening of the new facilities there – a kitchen and toilets – that were part funded by the lucrative proceeds from people leaping off the tower earlier in the year. Well, abseiling to be more precise. There was a splendid turnout of people to witness the ceremony and a magnificent cake to be enjoyed by all (p.54). We also publish details of the Christmas tree festival and associated events in December (pages 28-29). That is always a delight to visit, with so many village groups decorating trees in very imaginative ways. And what a treat to have the church clock back in action and booming the time across the rooftops, no longer only right twice a day.

I have just joined a ladies' sea shanty singing group – "Sirens at the Helm" – who meet in the Village Centre. They are looking for a couple more ladies to join them (see page 51). It's a great way to blast out the cobwebs and give your lungs a stretch!

Plans for the new Sportsground Pavilion are taking shape - you can read about developments on page 52 and see how you can help with fund-raising.

Everybody here at Village Voice would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.



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Dear Village Voice



Open Letter from Ward Councillors re dog poo

The football season is in full swing and once again the issue of dog poo on the sports ground has come up (check out

photo below taken by Councillor Collingham). Most sports and recreation grounds in the surrounding area ban dogs as a health hazard. Diseases which can be carried in dog faeces include:

Campylobacteriosis and parvovirus, not to mention tapeworms and other worm infestations. A recorded case of a young footballer who got mud in his eye which was contaminated with dog poo resulted in the loss of that eye.



No one is suggesting that people should not own dogs or exercise them; but the sports field is not the place for dogs to run free. We are asking the Parish Council to consider an order which would ban dogs from the field which are not on a lead and an absolute requirement to pick up dog poo. The Parish Council provides thirty-one dog bins so there should be no trouble in finding a home for your black poo bag! □

**Judy Collingham
Tony Bubb**

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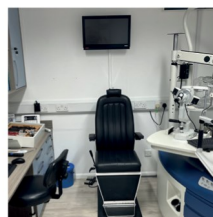
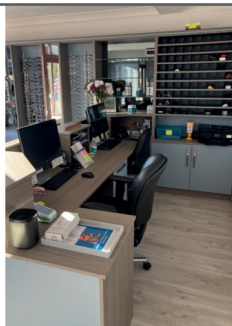
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Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



I am sorry to start with this subject but let's talk dog poo! A reminder to all dog owners who walk their dogs in the village that the Parish Council provide thirty-one dog waste bins (for their locations please check our website, www.dersingham-pc.gov.uk). These are emptied weekly for us by the Borough Council, so please ensure that if your dog poops that you pick it up with an appropriate small bag and put it in the nearest bin. Using the bins helps to keep the village clean and safe for young and old alike. If you are unsure what to do with dog waste from your garden, it can be put in your black bin. There is a letter about this subject on the letters page and I would like to take the opportunity to remind dog walkers that if you do go to the sports ground you should keep your dog on a lead and only walk around the edge of the field. This means that the pitches are clean for the players and that they don't have to clear dog waste before they start a match or training session.

Onto more pleasant news, you may have noticed that after several weeks of being missing, the goal posts have been put back at the Recreation Ground. They have been repainted and repositioned so that it is now possible to play a game of football. I am sorry that it has taken so long to sort them out and I hope the wait was worth it. It is really good to see children enjoying themselves at the Recreation Ground.

The Parish Council has recently retendered the grass cutting contract for the various areas that we maintain around the village. We are pleased to say that after careful consideration of quotes we were able to give the contract to the company that has been maintaining our grassed areas for the last five years. I mentioned grass cutting around the village in my article in the last edition, and as well as areas that the Parish Council maintains there are other areas, mainly grass verges, that are cut by the Borough Council, both land that they own and also under contract for Norfolk County Council. We have been in correspondence with the Borough about the standard of grass cutting over the summer and hope that this will improve next year. The various areas are shown on maps available on our website.

I am pleased to be able to let you know that at our last Council meeting we co-opted a new Councillor, Nigel Barker, who has lived in the village for over twenty-five years. We now have fifteen Councillors who all work tirelessly to maintain the village. If you are interested in joining us please contact myself or our business manager, Karen Orgill.

Finally, a reminder that the Parish Council has a small pot of money available to grant aid local charities and groups. Over the last few years, as well as grants to the sports ground and churchyard grass cutting, we have given small grants to the Dersingham Youth Football team, Dersingham United Charities, NARS (Norfolk Accident and Rescue Service), Dersingham Choral Society, West Norfolk Befriending and Dersingham School library. If you need some money to help with your group with a project, please speak to our Business Manager, Karen Orgill (Tel: 01485 541465).□





News from Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne

Coffee Shop

Each Thursday morning, we catch up with our regular customers and extend a very warm welcome to visitors. On offer are very reasonably priced home-baked quiches, cakes (including gluten and dairy free options), hot and cold drinks, and great banter with our baristas. We can also offer take-outs. 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.

Numbers are limited and booking is required. Call 01485 540644 by noon on the *Thursday* beforehand and also advise us of any allergy or dietary needs.

Village Cinema

There is no film in December. January's showing is *Thelma*, which tells the tale of an elderly woman who, after being conned, sets out to reclaim what is hers.

Events

- The Christmas Carols Evening will be on Tuesday 17th December, starting at 5:00pm, with complimentary mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies.
- Our New Year's Eve event returns; tickets are on sale at the Post Office. Dancing will be to 2nd Sunset and the ticket price includes a two-course supper provided by local caterers, Good Tastes, and a complimentary glass of fizz at midnight.

Christmas Closure

The Centre will close after business on Sunday, December 22nd, and reopen on Saturday, January 4th. The Friendship Lunch will take place on Tuesday, January 7th.

Thank you everybody who has supported activities and events at the Centre over the past year.

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 businesses for their support.

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

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year□



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

at
Dersingham Village Centre

**Tuesday
December 17th
5-7pm**

Light Refreshments provided

Dersingham Village Centre Association
Registered Charity No 1178462
www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org




New Year's Eve

at
Dersingham Village Centre

Two course Supper & Dancing to 2nd Sunset
Complimentary Glass of Fizz at Midnight

8:30pm

Supper Served at 9:15pm
Catering by Good Tastes

£30

ENTRY STRICTLY TICKET ONLY
Available at **Dersingham Post Office**

For more information, or to reserve a table for a group of 4 or more, call Graham on 07901 896102. (Tables seat 6.) Also, please advise of any dietary requirements.

Licensed Bar

Dersingham Village Centre Association
Charity No 1178462
www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk





**Dersingham Choir
Free Christmas Concert 2024**

Our free concert is on Saturday 14th December at 2:00pm. Doors will open at 1:30pm and there will be light refreshments during the break. There will also be an opportunity to join in with the carols in the second half.

We look forward to seeing you there.

If you like to sing, there's still time to join us as a member. Rehearsals take place every Thursday at St Cecilia's, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham. (7:00-9:00pm with a short break for refreshments.)



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at **Dersingham Village Centre**

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THELMA (12)

Starring: June Squibb, Richard Roundtree, Fred Hechinger, Malcolm McDowell

Thelma Post is a 93-year-old grandmother who loses \$10,000 to a con artist on the phone. With help from a friend and his motorised scooter, she soon embarks on a treacherous journey across Los Angeles to reclaim what was taken from her.



Entry £6 Under 16s £3

Entry includes tea/coffee/squash
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Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by
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Rainbows
1st Dersingham Rainbows



Brownies
1st Dersingham Brownies

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Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Lynne Wheeler

The Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides ended a very full and exciting half-term with adventures away from their usual meeting place.



The Rainbows - the youngest members of the Guiding family - had a wild evening at Farmer Fred's. There was lots of fun and laughter as they raced down the slides, jumped into the ball pit and climbed up and down, before pausing every so often for drinks and biscuits!

The Brownies started their half-term break with a space-themed sleepover in Hunstanton. The girls enjoyed lots of space-themed crafts and games as well as

enjoying Smores! There was an indoor campfire singsong with lots of badges to add to their badge blankets. After "sleeping", the Brownies all helped to pack away their belongings before eating lots of cereal and toast (with chocolate spread) for breakfast. There was then time before their families arrived to finish off creating a glow-in-the-dark door sign and play some more games. This has been a very successful half-term for the Brownies as the girls have all gained their Grow your Own, Collecting and Skills Builder badges.



The Guides finished off their half-term with a trip to Bowlers in Hunstanton. There were lots of strikes and near-misses, but it was a lovely way for the Guides to start their half-term by having an enjoyable evening with their friends.

The Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides would also like to invite people to join them celebrating Christmas at their Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 14th December at the Scout and Guide HQ, Manor Road.

If any more would like to join Girlguiding for lots of fun and adventure, please visit <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk> and click Register a Child, or contact 01485 544753 for more information. □





Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy, President

Our October evening meeting was a talk by Susan Parry about "The Tragic Case of Florence Maybrick". Florence was an American lady of some wealth who married James Maybrick whom she had met on her voyage to England. She was seventeen years old at the time and James twenty-three years her senior (who also had a mistress with whom he had children). James was a hypochondriac who took arsenic in a tonic and believed it was an aphrodisiac. James became very ill in the April of 1889 and in the May he died. The doctors involved in the case performed an autopsy in his bedroom and stated that he had died of arsenic poison.

Unfortunately, James's brothers had moved into the house with them and the eldest, William, hated Florence. A letter from Florence to her lover Alfred Brierley was shown to William by his brother Edwin (who was also rumoured to be a lover of Florence). Florence was arrested for James's murder and a court case ensued. It was not proved that the arsenic was administered by Florence and three eminent doctors testified that he had not died of arsenic poisoning. However, Florence was found guilty and was sentenced to death, but this was commuted to life imprisonment as public opinion was that this was a miscarriage of justice. There was no Court of Appeal in those days. Florence spent fifteen years in jail before she was released and returned to America where she lived alone and penniless until her death in 1941.



A footnote that Susan informed us about was that in 1999 a diary was found hidden in the Maybrick's old home in Liverpool, supposedly written by James Maybrick, in which he announced that he was Jack the Ripper! Although Michael Barrett, who "found" the diary, has since stated it was a hoax.



This was our last Open evening of the year, and we were joined by members of Ingoldisthorpe and Anmer W.I.s.

October 18th saw more than sixty members of our Group W.I.s meet at South Wootton Hall for a most interesting talk by Mia Hasson who is embroidering a copy of the Bayeux Tapestry. This meeting was the last one in which Mia will bring the tapestry with her, as it is now becoming too big and fragile to carry around, being forty -eight metres in length. Mia started this in 2016 and has also written a range of books. These are musings about her replica project, tales and fairy tales, and colouring books.

Sharon very kindly held a coffee morning at her home for members and our November one was held at

Thaxters Coffee Shop, which also gave some members a chance to go round the lovely Christmas displays in the garden centre.

Our craft group made a box of stamped cards with a box of crayons to give to a friend and in December will be making Christmas cards. Our new crochet group started in September and will now meet on the last Monday of the month. Although small, we had a very enjoyable afternoon mastering the art of starting a row (not that easy when never attempted before) and totally different from knitting, so one hint is don't try to hold your crochet hook like a knitting needle. I have persevered and hopefully one of my daughter's Christmas presents will be a handmade scarf. Onwards and upwards!

Eleven of our members enjoyed a lovely meal at the King William in Sedgeford where we put the world to rights, as women often do when chatting together.

The book club in October read *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. Soon to be a major motion picture produced by Reese Witherspoon, *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* is the smart, warm, and uplifting story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and unconscious wit make for an irresistible journey as she realizes that the only way to survive is to open your heart. November's book was *Dissolution* by C J Sansom, which is his first book to feature Matthew Shardlake and was recently dramatized on television. The book follows the lawyer Shardlake in his attempts to solve the murder of one of Thomas Cromwell's commissioners in the fictional town of Scarsea on the south coast of England.

November is now back as our annual meeting month when we will give a report to our members on our events from March to November and an update on our financial situation. We have a few bylaws to vote on and then will have a talk by Susan Cranmer on Christmas Traditions. Just in time for Christmas - who knows what new traditions we will learn that perhaps we can adopt into our own.

December 12th is our now annual Mince Pies and Mulled Wine get together morning for members, which this year we are holding at Orchard Close Community Hall. Our December meeting is in the afternoon when members will bring a plate to share, and we will have a talk and display of decoupage by Debbie Perris.

A party of us will be off to the Panto in January (Oh yes, we will) and members will also enjoy our annual New Year's Lunch – destination unknown at this time.

I have included a photo of our four intrepid members Sharon, Ruth, Jackie and Janet who braved a very wet windy day to have a game of mini golf up at Sandringham before it closed – much fun, and I am sure no cheating (haha), was had by all of them.

Our programme is all done for 2025 and includes talks such as: "Leave No Stone Unturned"- Burial places of the famous and infamous - How to become a Roman Empress - "The Darker Side of King's Lynn" – Magpie Riding for the Disabled – Medical Detection Dogs - Reflexology.



We are hoping to have a few different competitions for our members in 2025: Decorate a stone and Easter Bonnet, to name two. So, a full year ahead for Dersingham Evening W.I.

Our monthly meetings are mostly held on the third Wednesday of every month in St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham at 7.15pm. Posters advertising these are usually up around the village. If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening W.I. please contact Katrina on 01485 544773 or Ann on 01485542847.

Dersingham Evening W.I. would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all best wishes for 2025.□



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The Coach and Horses re-opens

The much-loved Dersingham pub, The Coach and Horses, is back after reopening on October 22nd 2024. Following a comprehensive refurbishment and extension, this traditional pub has been brought into the modern age with a revamped on-site restaurant and bar, and new luxurious hotel rooms.

After purchase by new owners, the pub shut its doors to undergo major renovation back in October 2022. With its doors now open again, this relaunch retains a local favourite pub for the village and introduces a beautiful new restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday roasts. Along with updated rooms, this pub, restaurant and hotel will encourage more people to travel to Dersingham and its idyllic countryside setting.

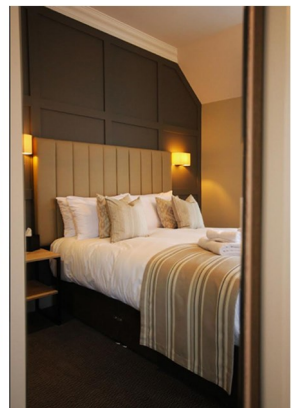
Under the new ownership of Nick and Tom Suiter – local brothers with a shared dream of running their own pub – this relaunch is just the beginning for this Norfolk business. Originally established in 1845, The Coach and Horses is no stranger to serving its community and travellers from further afield, and this relaunch promises the same commitment to quality that was seen all those years ago.

Alongside the new restaurant, The Coach and Horses serves as a boutique hotel with eight individually decorated, characterful rooms. Created as part of the recent refurbishment, the rooms, restaurant, and bar area have all been lovingly updated in sympathy with the original building's history and charm.

As a family-run, local business, this establishment places a high priority on customer service, creating a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere that allows guests and diners to feel comfortable and appreciated. With local partnerships, such as fresh meat from the Sandringham Estate, artwork provided by local artist Marty Griffin, and dog treats for this dog-friendly establishment produced by Pooch's located just five miles away, visiting the Coach and Horses is an enjoyable experience that supports Dersingham people and businesses.

Explore the website and book your next visit, or just drop in to experience this revitalised local pub.

Coach and Horses, 77 Manor Road, Dersingham, PE31 6LN. Tel: 01485 522745
www.coachhorses.co.uk reservations@coachhorses.co.uk



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Petals Tea Room

It has been a fantastic first month for Petals Tea Room. Under the new ownership of local couple, Richard and Caroline Cross, customers have enjoyed over 800 breakfast baps, more than 2,000 cups of coffee and enjoyed eating over 2,400 slices of cake! This has been made possible by opening up the Dersingham based business six days a week - Tuesday to Sunday 8.30am-5.30pm and also making the venue available for private hire on Mondays.

Their new menus are now available. For breakfasts you can choose from a full English (with vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options) through to pancakes, or granola, yoghurt and berries. Lunch continues with a warm and welcoming bowl of soup, quiches, jacket potatoes and daily specials. Obviously they also serve delicious traditional afternoon teas with a wide variety of cakes. If you are in need of a celebration cake, then talk to their friendly and experienced staff and they will take your ideas and create something truly special.

The extended opening hours also mean that you can now enjoy a variety of 'pop up' themed nights, such as pie night or Italian night which are proving to be very popular.

At Petals the emphasis is on sourcing the very best local produce, with their aim being that 80% of everything you eat, drink or buy is local. The tea room also supports local businesses selling their products, which make perfect Christmas gifts. (Hampers will soon be available to purchase.)

Talking of Christmas, there are many more exciting things on offer. A full Christmas dinner menu is available throughout December. There will also be a decoupage coaster craft evening and both wreath and cracker making workshops.

Petals has kept its friendly, cosy atmosphere where you can relax and chat but now you can choose to buy or take away and they will also come to you. Popular party platters are created to delight your guests and full catering options can be accommodated. If you haven't visited Petals tea room yet, it really should be your next food destination. You will receive a warm and friendly welcome.□



Kings Lynn and West Norfolk District Branch of Oddfellows. 7 Lynn Road, Gaywood, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 4PR

The Oddfellows meet on the third Thursday of the month at Thaxters coffee shop at the garden centre, from 11:00 am onwards, for coffee and many stay for lunch if they wish.

We are a friendship group that offers two activities a week, so pop along and see what we have to offer.

For further details please contact Alison or Jonathan on 01553 7776030.
E-mail: alison.schultz@oddfellows.co.uk □

Dersingham Runners



This is a newly formed social running group based in Dersingham, with participants from around the area, including Docking and Heacham. The group meet on a Wednesday evening for approximately a 5K (3.1 miles) run, and a Sunday morning for approximately a 10k (6.2 miles) run. The group often meet on Saturday mornings for the Sandringham Parkrun.

You are guaranteed a warm welcome and all abilities are catered for. No membership is required for this non-affiliated running group. Whatever your age, there's strong scientific evidence that being physically active can help you lead a healthier and happier life. Research also shows that physical activity can boost sleep quality and energy, as well as reducing your risk of stress. Simply going for a run can help improve your health in multiple ways

Come and join us! For further information or to sign up for one of the running events, the website is: <https://dersinghamrunners.wixsite.com/runsocial> □

Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club Carol Edwards

The Club has been running for 20 years now and we celebrated this with a "Tea Party" with food, a quiz and games for all, which was enjoyed by everyone. A big thanks to all involved in the catering and games.

We had our AGM, and as the Club is thriving with a healthy membership, it was decided that we again give a donation to a local charity; a vote decided that this year it would be Rudham Children's Ward at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn. This year we have also purchased a new set of bowls, a new carpet, and in the pipeline is a new Target Bowls game.

A trip is being organised by Maureen for any members wishing to go to the Pantomime in Hunstanton on December 7th for the matinee performance.

We will again have our Christmas party on Tuesday 17th December, with food, games and a quiz. The singles competition will be in January.

Thank you to all members old and new.□



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HILLIER FLOWERS *Dersingham*

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOPS - Create and Take Home

Join Fiona for a couple of hours of fun and creativity making your own traditional fresh foliage door wreath or table arrangement. Each class runs for approximately 2 hours, all materials are provided, with step-by-step demonstrations, and you take home everything you create. All our workshops are suitable for beginners and competent amateurs with a love of fun and creativity.

Door Wreath Workshops @ £40.00

Tuesday 26th November 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 26th November 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Friday 29th November 12.30pm - 3.00pm
Thursday 5th December 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Dersingham Village Social Club
Dersingham Village Social Club
Sculthorpe Moor Nature Reserve (£45.00 non-members)
The Norfolk Deli Cafe, Hunstanton

Table Arrangement @ £40.00

Tuesday 10th December 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 10th December 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Thursday 19th December 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Dersingham Village Social Club
Dersingham Village Social Club
The Norfolk Deli Cafe, Hunstanton

For private parties of 5 or more – Baby Showers, Birthday Specials, Hen Parties, Team Building... Our workshops can be tailor-made for you and your friends. The hostess receives a free workshop!

Full details are on our website. You can book and pay for your place either on-line on our website www.hillierflowers.co.uk or call 07952 229796.



Night Mail Brian Anderson



Night Mail is a documentary film commissioned by the General Post Office in 1936 and describes the journey of a travelling post office (TPO) from London to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. So, what was a travelling post office? It was a train whose only function was to move mail long distances and to sort, drop off and collect mail *en route*.



The idea is surprisingly old, coming in not long after the start of railways in Britain. November 1830 saw the introduction of mail movement by rail between Liverpool and Manchester. By 1838, the Railways (Conveyance of Mails) Act required all railway companies to carry mail and also stipulated that mail carriages had provision to sort mail *en route*. The first TPO was a converted horse box, but it wasn't long before specialist rolling stock was developed. The first railway company to run a TPO was the Grand Central Railway.



Initially, trains had to stop at intermediate stations to drop off and collect mail, but in 1866 apparatus to collect and drop off mail without the train stopping was installed on the Great Western Railway at Slough and Maidenhead. The idea had originally been patented by Nathaniel Wordsell, carriage and wagon superintendant at Crewe Works. In the decades following, up to four sets of arms were installed on each carriage to allow pick-up and drop-off. The apparatus is quite ingenious - a system of nets, scoops, latches and arms allowed the drop-off of sorted mail and the collection of unsorted mail, often at the same location. The Apparatus (as it became known) became widespread but gradually declined as time went on. It remained in use until October 1971

when it was finally discontinued. It was never popular with the crews as the carriages had to remain open for long periods of time and were very cold in winter. Rain and smoke from the locomotive would blow in and crews would stand with their feet in empty mail bags to help ward off the cold. There were dangers too. Falling through the door was a risk, as was the danger from a mail bag weighing up to 100 pounds skipping off the capture net at over 60mph.

Some TPOs were fitted with letter boxes that could be used by the public when the train was stationary at major stations. I have wondered what happened to a letter posted this way in Stoke addressed to Truro when the TPO was bound for Scotland.

TPOs continued with major rail hubs acting as distribution centres for onward movement of post by road. Gradually, the number of TPOs fell and the final journey was made in January 2004, with occasional use of rail for pre-sorted mail during pre-Christmas periods.

So, now to the film (about time, some of you will be saying).

The film was made by John Grierson, the pre-eminent documentary film maker of the 1920s, 1930s and later. He made over fifty films and was responsible for coining the term "documentary". *Night Mail* is one of his best. It begins with the weight and length of the train being telephoned up the route and then moves to the mail bags being loaded. The film cuts between the postal workers doing the sorting on the moving TPO, signalmen setting the route and the intermediate stations preparing the bags for *en route* collection. The film was made with different activities being filmed at different times and then edited together to make a wholly satisfactory result. The use of The Apparatus was shown and was quite startling - quick, loud and dramatic. The sections where mail is being sorted were filmed, I was initially a little disappointed to find, in a static TPO. Trying it live didn't give such good results, so the crew were asked to sway gently in time with a hanging plumb-bob (out of shot). The film is composed of many sections, filmed at different locations and different times - the loading and unloading of mail, the plate-layer gang, the signalmen, the aerial shots and all then edited and stitched together into a seamless coherent whole. The cast were Post Office workers and employees of the LMS railway company. Put like that, it seems mundane, but it is a charming, almost elegiac record of a bygone era. The occasional shots of the countryside, with small fields, hedgerows and stately elms, recall a landscape now largely lost. By any standards, this is a very good film but what makes it outstanding is the poetic commentary, written by W H Auden. Here are two sections:

This is the Night Mail crossing the border,
Bringing the cheque and the postal order,
Letters for the rich, letters for the poor,
The shop at the corner and the girl next door.
Pulling up Beattock, a steady climb:
The gradient's against her, but she's on time.
Past cotton-grass and moorland boulder
Shovelling white steam over her shoulder,
Snorting noisily as she passes
Silent miles of wind-bent grasses.
Birds turn their heads as she approaches,
Stare from the bushes at her blank-faced coaches.
Sheep-dogs cannot turn her course;
They slumber on with paws across.
In the farm she passes no one wakes,
But a jug in the bedroom gently shakes....

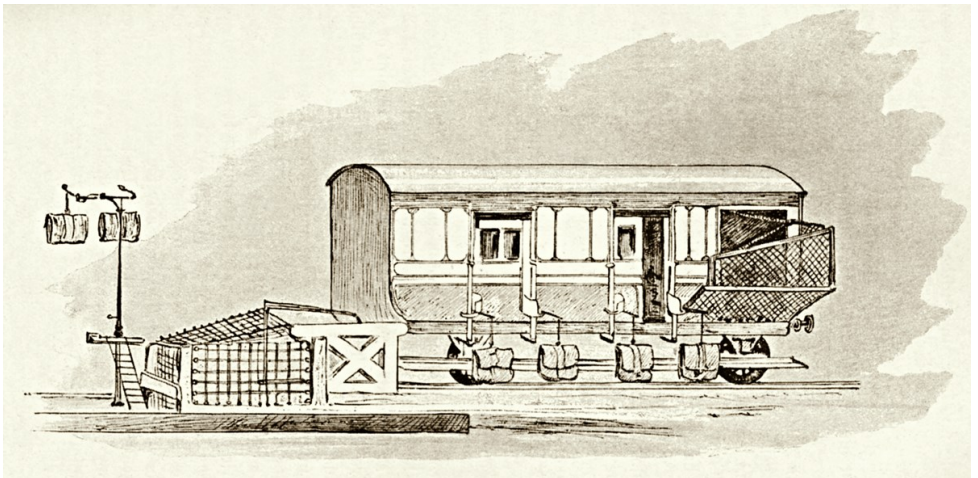
Letters of thanks, letters from banks,
Letters of joy from girl and boy,
Receipted bills and invitations
To inspect new stock or to visit relations,
And applications for situations,
And timid lovers' declarations,
And gossip, gossip from all the nations,
News circumstantial, news financial,
Letters with holiday snaps to enlarge in,

Letters with faces scrawled in the margin,
Letters from uncles, cousins, and aunts,
Letters to Scotland from the South of France,
Letters of condolence to Highlands and Lowlands
From overseas to Hebrides,
Written on paper of every hue,
The pink, the violet, the white and the blue,
The chatty, the catty, the boring, the adoring,
The cold and official and the heart's outpouring,
Clever, stupid, short and long,
The typed and the printed and the spelt all wrong...

The first section has a definite rhythm. I invite you to read it out loud and you will find, I hope, that it matches the rhythm of the locomotive pounding up into the border country and (if you're old enough to remember) the *clickety-clack* of the wheels on the unwelded rails. In the second section the rhythm doubles, matching the train's descent into Strathclyde and Glasgow. After I came to that conclusion, I discovered that Auden had rewritten the poem several times in order to get the rhythm exactly right. The film was voted "The best railway film of the century" at the *Festival International du Film Ferroviaire* in 2000. For rail enthusiasts, the locomotive used was LMS Royal Scot Class 6115 *Scots Guardsman*.

In 1986, a sequel was made - *Night Mail 2*. It is not a bad film, but does not really stand comparison with original, perhaps because the role of the TPO was much diminished in the face of mail movement by road and air.

I have a feeling of nostalgia when I watch *Night Mail*. This is slightly odd as it was made a decade before I was born! But as Simone Signoret once said, "Nostalgia Isn't What It Used to Be". □



2024 - The Year of the Aurora Borealis

It was an exceptional year for the Northern Lights to be seen so far south in the UK, resulting from a major shift in the sun's magnetic field. Cameras popped out all over West Norfolk to capture this extraordinary light show. Here are some of the results taken locally.

Photos, clockwise from top right:

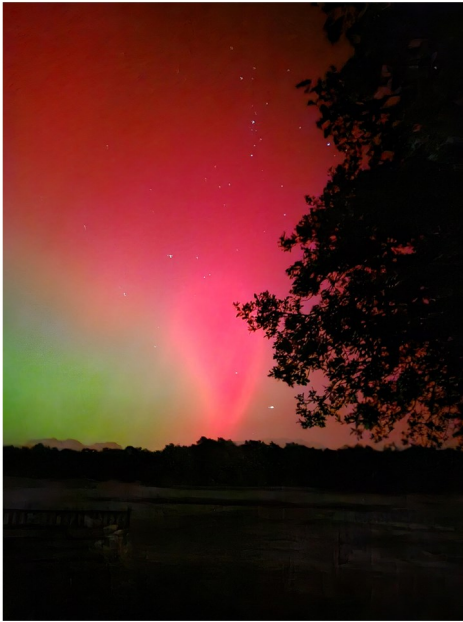
Gary Pearson Photography, Sandringham

Coral Shepherd, Dersingham

Jo Halpin Jones, Dersingham

Coral Shepherd, Dersingham

Tony Bartlett, Wolferton Marsh



Mobility PhysioGym

Welcome to the exercise group, run every Thursday morning at Dersingham Village Centre. It is run by a qualified Neurological Physiotherapist, Sheila Stern, helped by a retired Orthopaedic Physiotherapist, Judy Addyman, and Emma Shears (Occupational Therapist) and Andrew (physical trainer).

There is no need to book, just turn up, but a warning - it does get busy, so it is best to speak to Sheila first. **An assessment at home first may be appropriate.**

Choice of Exercise Machines: Recumbent bicycle, air walker, Wii balance machine, shoulder pulleys, rowing machine, exercise mats, circulation foot stimulator, massager, reflexology, Motomed wheelchair bicycle for arms or legs, Oswestry standing frame.

The sessions, run by qualified Physiotherapists, offer physiotherapy advice. There is a café providing coffee and home-made cakes and conversation. Cost is kept to a minimum with a charge of £10.00 for most sessions. For more information contact Sheila Stern on 01553 775324, or email sheilastern91@yahoo.com, or emma@OTisfab.co.uk.

The group has been running for many years now, firstly at Tapping House, then Park House in Sandringham and finally Dersingham. It has evolved from treating neurological diseases like MS and strokes to offering advice and exercises for many conditions.

HELPERS ALWAYS NEEDED, BOTH WITH AND WITHOUT EXPERIENCE □





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Closed December 20th - January 1st



Exciting News: A Brand New Bed Shop Has Just Arrived in Dersingham!

Harry cherished his school holidays as a young boy, which he spent visiting his beloved aunty in Hunstanton. Fast-forward over 30 years, and he's not just returned to the area—he's launched his very own business!

Inspired by his remarkable fashion buyer great-grandmother, the foundations of Cheshire and Oldfield were laid long before sustainable living became a widespread focus.

Cheshire and Oldfield are quickly establishing themselves as North Norfolk's premier specialists in quality beds. Nestled in what used to be Priors Butchers at St Nicholas' Court in Dersingham, the name is a heartfelt tribute to Harry's great aunt, Sylvia Cheshire, and his great-grandmother, Ivy May Oldfield.

"I often find myself nostalgic about the time I spent with Sylvia, who lived behind the water tower in Hunstanton after retiring from her and Uncle Ken's coal merchant business in Essex," Harry fondly remembers. "Both Ivy May and Sylvia instilled in our family the essence of hard work, but it was Ivy May who truly inspired us to strive for lasting, high-quality products, encouraging us to make thoughtful purchases."



Ivy May Oldfield

Cheshire and Oldfield focus on pure comfort and the support of natural, sustainable fibres and draw on a rich heritage of British bed-making expertise.

After two decades immersed in the trade, founder Harry Oldfield knows the ins and outs of the industry. Spotting a gap in the market, he set out to make high-quality British craftsmanship and natural materials accessible to everyone while prioritizing customer needs.

The collection at Cheshire and Oldfield is carefully curated, featuring inviting divan styles adorned with plush padded headboards, convenient under-bed storage, and stunning natural fibre upholstery in classic grey, deep navy, calming sage green, and many more.

These designs are perfect for cosy spaces, whether it's a charming countryside cottage or a cosy village hideaway, ensuring that style never takes a back seat to functionality.

Plus, their exquisite collection of metal and brass beds from Wrought Iron and Brass Bed Co. pays beautiful homage to Harry's heritage and the legacy of his mother, Amanda Oldfield.

Cheshire and Oldfield offer a luxurious array of British-made wool mattresses and bedding, providing enveloping support and unparalleled comfort. Their selections, including the Sandringham Wool Collection and offerings from Archibold Beckers in London, showcase a dedication to enhancing the quality of your sleep.



With over a decade of hands-on bed and mattress design experience, Harry and his team stand apart from other local retailers. They possess a deep understanding of consumer needs and ensure that every customer receives personalized, trustworthy service. Whether you're searching for a custom design, under-bed storage, or a bed that harmonizes with your décor, Cheshire and Oldfield deliver functional solutions that elevate your sleep experience.

Visit their newly opened location in St Nicholas' Court, Dersingham, and discover first-hand why Cheshire and Oldfield are quickly becoming the go-to bed specialists in North West Norfolk!

—

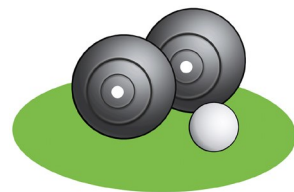
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Closed December 20th - January 2nd

Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron



The days grow shorter, and we are already counting the months until the next season begins. Nothing like wishing your time away, is there?

I promised an update on the Albert Victor League in the last issue. It looked a distinct possibility that we would be relegated to Division 3, but when all the results were submitted, we escaped relegation by three points, coming 8th in the division, so we live to fight again in Division 2 next season. Thanks to Gerry for his hard work as team captain.

The winners and runners-up for the knockout competitions were as follows:

ALAN WALKER CUP - Winner: Albert Chamberlain, runner up: John Todd

POWLE PAIRS - Winners: Richard Waterfield and Albert Chamberlain, runners up: Sandra Waterfield and Laurence O'Dea

TANSLEY CUP - Winner: John Todd, runner up: Albert Chamberlain

THE LADIES CUP - Winner: Brenda Hollywood, runner up: Sandra Waterfield

BRIAN MORTERS CUP - Winners: Jean Thompson and Terry Thompson, runners up: Nicky O'Dea and Laurence O'Dea

They were all presented with their trophies at the Annual Presentation Lunch held at The Mariner, Old Hunstanton on Friday October 18th, where we all enjoyed a lovely meal, followed by the presentation and raffle, which raised £125. Thanks to Brenda for organising the event, and all who helped out on the day. Thanks also to the staff who did such a good job.



A special mention to Sandra Waterfield who won the award for the most improved player. I guess she had no idea about this, as the look on her face when her name was announced was priceless. Well done Sandra. Keep up the good work.

As I write this, we are looking forward to our AGM on Tuesday, November 12th. Hopefully there will be a good attendance.

In spite of all the activity on the green throughout the season, it still looked in very good shape when the green closed. This is down to all the sterling work by Allen Toppin and his team. But work doesn't stop in the winter months. Allen reports that the some of gulleys need replacing, and the general tidying up never stops. He would like to thank his team for giving up their time and their hard work.

All that remains now is to wish all Village Voice readers a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year. 'Till 2025!□

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Bilton Silver

Annual Concert at
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6.30PM
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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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Refreshments & Stalls
Crafts for Children
Meet Father Christmas!

**“Santa....
...Stop Here!”**

At St. Nicholas Church, Dersingham

Saturday 21st December
10am - 4pm

No charge to enter or to meet
Father Christmas

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http://www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

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Sat 7th Dec. 10am-4pm Refreshments
Sun 8th Dec. 2-3pm - View the Trees
3pm - Village Christingle



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Silver

Annual Concert

Saturday 7th Dec. 6.30pm

Tickets £15 Adult, £5 Child;
available on the Door, at Church Events
or ring 01485 544753

Middle Weekend

Sat 14th Dec. 6-9pm - 'Trees by Candlelight'
Sun 15th Dec. 2-3pm - View The Trees
3pm - Tea & Carols

Final Weekend

Sat 21st Dec. 10am-4pm - 'Santa Stop Here'
Trees, Stalls & Refreshments
Sun 22nd Dec. 2-4pm - View The Trees
6.30pm - Service of Lessons & Carols



St. Nicholas Church

Manor Road, Dersingham, PE31 6LN



[http:// www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk](http://www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk)

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All Events Free to Enter*

*except Bilton Concert



Abel Community Care

Angela Gifford, Managing Director

Able Community Care is a Norfolk, family-owned, Home Care provider which was established in 1980. We are often asked by our clients, carers and members of the public, questions across a wide range of care issues. Care information is often time consuming and difficult to access, so we are happy to share some of our questions and answers with you.

Question – My parents are thinking of moving into a retirement home and we are looking to find out as much as we can about them, costs to buy or rent, maintenance charges and what else is available on site for social activity, etc. Where should we begin to look for information?

Answer – A good place to begin is to visit Lottie.org. This organisation offers a free service that helps families and retirees find the UK's best elderly care homes and retirement living communities in line with a person's wishes. Another organisation which can help is the Elderly Accommodation Council, a national charity with a mission to help older people make informed choices about meeting their housing and care needs.
www.eac.org.

Question – I volunteer at a day centre, helping to organize social events and entertainment, but often I and my fellow volunteers run out of new ideas. Is there any organization that can help?

Answer – The Elderly Accommodation Council (EAC) is a nationwide organization which helps people with a wide range of housing requests but also has an EAC Entertainment Directory with over 1,300 acts keen to perform in retirement housing complexes, care homes and day centres. Visit their directory at <https://housingcare.org/entertainment/>

Question – Do you know which supermarkets and large stores provide wheelchairs for customers' use?

Answer – We recently asked our live-in carers this question and the response was that the main stores providing wheelchairs for customers' use are Asda, Sainsburys, Tesco, Morrison's, M&S, Ikea and B&Q.

Question - There may be welfare benefits that I or my older friends could be entitled to. Is there a website, leaflet or booklet that lists all the welfare benefits that are available?

Answer – Yes, one of them is TheBenefitsGuide.co.uk. This is a free to use resource which provides clear and comprehensive information on all available UK welfare benefits. This includes guidance on benefit applications, appeals, emergency assistance and legal help. It has been estimated that up to £20 billion of welfare benefits go unclaimed every year in the UK so it is worth checking.

Question – I am thinking about making a will and I read that many will writers are not qualified legal professionals but are allowed to operate, is this true?

Answer – Yes, it is estimated that there are over 200,000 unregulated, unauthorized providers as they are known in the UK. Unauthorised, in that they are not regulated in the same way as solicitors and barristers. If you wish to use an unregulated will writer you should check to see if they are a member of a recognized trade body such as the Institute of Professional Will Writers or the Society of Will Writers where they must, as a member, act with integrity, treat their clients fairly and comply with legal and regulatory requirements.

Able Community Care Ltd. The Old Parish Rooms, Whitlingham Lane, Trowse, Norwich NR14 8TZ Web: www.ablecommunitycare.com Tel: +44 (0)1603 764567 Fax: +44 (0) 1603 761655 □



From your Ward Councillors Tony Bubbs and Judy Collingham



The Borough Council continues to work on various issues: the affordable housing scheme in Hunstanton is to go ahead, though with reduced numbers of homes. A Homeless Strategy has been developed and it was good to hear in

Council that the numbers of rough sleepers have gone down dramatically. This does not mean that the issue of homelessness is resolved; it is still a shameful fact that many young people, and indeed families, are homeless and anything that can be done to resolve this issue must be a priority.

The fight against the incinerator at Wisbech goes on. Leader of the Council was requested to write to new Labour government stating the Borough's opposition.

Fawkes in the Walks was once again a splendid display, well attended and a warmish, dry, wind free evening, made for a well enjoyed evening. Not been? Well, do go next year – it's free. Also free is entry to Lynn Museum until the end of March. The Borough has an arrangement with the museum to facilitate this.

The Christmas season is fast approaching, and the various events and craft fairs will surely be well supported by our community. We wish everyone in the Ward a very happy Festive Season. □





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Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone, Church Secretary

Coffee mornings

In September and October our coffee mornings were very successful. £420.40 was raised in September for Mary's Meals and Church funds. We were delighted to raise so much and ensure children in many different countries will receive a daily meal at school. October's event raised £378.06 for the Leprosy

Mission and Church Funds. We have purchased the gift of sight eye surgery; two sets of school kits for children, two sets of shoes for two, two free range chickens and one pack of clean sheets. All are needed in the care and treatment of leprosy.

By the time you read this we will have held our Christmas Fayre, raising funds for the King's Lynn Night Shelter. We are busy making our preparations for Advent and Christmas. The advent wreath and candles will be set up and the candles lit using an Advent liturgy. Members of the congregation are invited to read the liturgy and light the candles each week. The liturgy is 'Signposts through Advent' and invites us to an Advent journey. We are asked to travel hopefully, faithfully, expectantly, joyfully, and to arrive at our journey's end on Christmas Day with wonder and worship.

As part of our preparations, we will be writing an extra Christmas card or two for the MHA (Methodist Homes for the Aged) Christmas Friendship appeal and bring joy to an older person. MHA will ensure it reaches those in their community who would most benefit. Christmas cards with times of services are given to everyone associated with us, including those who attend Church activities and hall hirers.

The Christmas tree and Church windowsills will be decorated in good time for our Carols by Candlelight on **Sunday 15th December at 3:00pm** led by Revd Dr Rich Ncube. You are warmly invited to join us, as we sing familiar words and marvel once again at this special occasion.

Christmas Day service will be at **10:30am**.

The charity we are supporting over Christmas is 'Embrace the Middle East' a charity tackling poverty and injustice in Gaza and Lebanon.

And then it's New Year! Our first **Coffee morning** is on Saturday 25th January, for our flower festival fund. In May the Church is 135, so we have much to celebrate. More details in the New Year.

We send you all every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.□

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Since the last issue we have made a few more changes. We've added two more draught ales from Barsham Brewery and plan to have another real ale pump added soon. Coke, Diet Coke, lemonade and soda are now all on tap as well as being available in bottles. For those of you who like an early drink, we've introduced 'Happy Hour' every Friday between 4:00pm and 7:00pm with all draught ale, draught lager and draught cider at a discounted price. We would welcome any suggestions for any other changes you would like to see, just let us know your ideas.

We are getting more enquiries regarding hall/room hire for wakes, private functions, daytime clubs, etc. The Back Bar and Family Room can be separated off, with both having their own entrance and access to the bar, so ideal for a smaller gathering. **Please email dersinghamsenquiries@gmail.com for further details.**

Memberships are due for renewal in January, but from the beginning of December you can join and get an extra month for free, otherwise, if you want to come along as a guest for any of our events/football, etc it's £2 entry per day. Membership forms are available behind the bar, just pop in during our opening hours and grab one.

Our opening hours are:

Monday CLOSED

Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday 7:00pm - 11:30pm

Thursday 7:00pm - 11:30pm

Friday 4:00pm - 11:30pm

Saturday 12noon - 11:30pm

Sunday 1:00pm - 9:00pm

Events for end of November/December

Friday 22nd November

Double R UK - Ska and Reggae Covers Duo. Ricky & Roy really know how to put on a show, their terrific energy is guaranteed to get you on the dance floor.

Saturday 23rd November

Dead Horse - Winners of this year's Battle of the Bands Dead Horse are a four piece covers band playing Classic Rock, Punk and Metal tunes

Tuesday 26th November

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop 2:00pm and 6:00pm. Join Fiona of Hillier Flowers for a couple of hours making a traditional fresh foliage door wreath. All materials provided. Full details are on her website www.hillierflowers.co.uk

Friday 6th December

Music Bingo. It is a slower version of bingo, you get plenty of time to recognise the song and find the title on your board. It's not important to know all the songs, the idea is that you sing along and help each other during the game. You can even use Shazam if you need to!

Saturday 7th December

Emily Blake sings. We welcome Emily back to the club, singing well known songs from 50s Rock and Roll, 70s/80s disco, Soul and Rock classics and Pop chart hits up to the present day. If you haven't heard her sing before, you are in for a treat - she has an amazing voice!

Tuesday 10th December

Christmas Table Arrangement Workshop. Join Fiona of Hillier Flowers for a couple of hours making a traditional fresh foliage table arrangement. All materials provided. Full details are on her website www.hillierflowers.co.uk.

Saturday 14th December

Kendall - Country Singer. We are welcoming Kendall back to the club. You don't need to be in to Line Dancing, but if you are, dust off those cowboy boots and hats and get those heels and toes a tappin'. Kendall is a great entertainer and sings a mix of modern and traditional country music.

Tuesday 17th December

Children's Christmas Party. Members only.

Saturday 21st December

Live Boxing. We will be showing the Fury vs Usyk fight.

Check out our **Facebook page @dersinghamsocialclub** for more details on all our events as well as updates on our Christmas and New Year's opening hours.□

The Ups and Downs of Summertime

The cool spring just seemed to hang around,
But we had to get the bedding plants and veggies into the ground.
We sectioned the plots and pots, and got things planted
And every day hoped for the sunshine that we wanted.

The weeks remained soggy underfoot and wet,
The plants look drowned with no new shoots yet,
It took some time for the runner beans to show any red,
No yellows on the tomatoes, they grew green and leggy instead.

Meanwhile, there were big plans to unfold,
A relative of ours became One Hundred years old.
A celebratory meal, cakes and a glass of wine or two,
The family and friends sang "Happy Birthday to You."

The calendar was now riddled with dates that did clash,
From choir concerts to drama performances created many a dash.
Several friends, old and young, slipped quietly away forever.
Each sad news engendering sympathy and a shiver.

The weather warmed up finally, the sun shone brightly too,
We enjoyed outdoor eating with friends at a BBQ.
The long bright days of summer were welcome and pleasing,
We had a sprinkling of cool days, when the jet stream let the breeze in.

Our families with children, came to visit and stay,
Lots of food and drink and noise of children at play,
A birthday cake, balloons, bubbles and another BBQ,
Much laughter and squeals for the treasure hunt too.

Despite it all, we are ready to enjoy whatever life imbues.
Tickets booked, bags packed, we looked forward to our cruise.
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We weather the weather, whatever the weather
Whether we like it or not.....!!!!

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Macmillan Coffee Morning at Sandringham parkrun and 5K Your Way

A wonderful array of cakes, pastries and cookies, all donated by runners and volunteers, set the tone for 28th September's Saturday morning Sandringham parkrun and the 5K Your Way group. A total of £290 was raised for Macmillan. Councillor Stuart Dark MBE, the Chairman of Norfolk County Council, was on hand to say a "Big Thank You" to all the volunteers for their continued support of parkrun and 5K Your Way.

Parkrun Global Limited is a UK registered charity (charity number: 1175062) and is the organisation which manages every parkrun event globally. It gained UK charity status in 2018. Since then, it has expanded its operations globally to help it achieve its mission of a happier, healthier planet. Its mission is to transform health and happiness by empowering people to come together, to be active, social and outdoors. More than nine million people are registered to parkrun, and over 750,000 different people have volunteered. The charity connects millions of adults and children, from all walks of life, across more than twenty countries and five continents, every single weekend. October 5th saw parkrun celebrate its 20th birthday anniversary.



Councillor Stuart Dark MBE and parkrun volunteers



Councillor Stuart Dark MBE with 5KYW volunteers

The Move Against Cancer Charity was established in 2018. 5K Your Way was initiated by oncologist and professional triathlete Lucy Gossage and Move Against Cancer founder Gemma Hillier-Moses. Their mantra is Power of Movement - Exercise is one of the most important things anyone diagnosed with cancer can do to enhance well-being and improve health outcomes both during and after treatment. Run by volunteer ambassadors, 5K Your Way sessions encourage involvement in physical activity in an accessible way. It improves participants' physical and mental wellbeing and helps build confidence and self-esteem.

Move Charity Vision: "For every single person impacted by cancer to live an active and fulfilling life. Every great accomplishment starts with the decision to try."
(Wording courtesy of parkrun and Move Charity)

SANDRINGHAM PARKRUN: A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you!

When: Every Saturday

Time: Run start time 9:00 am. Please arrive 15 to 30 minutes before for the parkrun briefing.

Where: The event takes place at Sandringham Royal Park, Sandringham, Norfolk, PE35 6AB. We all take part for our own enjoyment. Come along and join in, whatever your pace. Please register before you first participate. Only ever register with parkrun once and don't forget to bring a scannable copy of your barcode.

5K YOUR WAY: Welcomes anyone impacted by cancer - people living with or beyond cancer, family and friends, healthcare professionals or those who have lost someone to cancer. Participants can walk, jog, run, cheer or volunteer or sit and have a coffee and enjoy the surroundings.

When: Last Saturday of every month

Time: 8:30 am for a 9:00 am start

Where: The group meet at Sandringham Visitor Centre at the picnic tables underneath the stretch tent near the children's play park area. This is the only 5KYW in Norfolk. □



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Events for December and January

COFFEE MORNINGS – Mondays 10:00am to 12:00 noon. 2nd and 16th December, and 6th and 20th January.

Coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits available to purchase. For information please call 07947 580555.

MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER: BINGO NIGHT.

Club opens at 7:00pm. "Eyes Down" at 7:30pm. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a "Flyer Card" and £2 for a "Cash Accumulator" card. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email anmer.club@outlook.com

SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER: CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - VISIT SANTA IN HIS GROTTO

Noon until 3:00pm. £6 per child including gift from Santa. Advance booking only. For further information and to book please email Lee at farmboy24@sky.com or telephone 07899 872351.

SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER: GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW.

Club opens at 7:00pm. Draw starts at 8:30pm. 50p per square - fill in your chosen square/s on the board in the club and pay at the bar. Fully licensed bar and raffle.

FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT.

Club opens at 7:00pm. Quiz starts at 7:30pm. Entry £3 per person, teams of six maximum. Fully licensed bar and raffle.

MONDAY 6th JANUARY: BINGO

NIGHT. Club opens at 7:00pm. "Eyes Down" at 7:30pm. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a "Flyer Card" and £2 for a "Cash Accumulator" card. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email: anmer.club@outlook.com.

FRIDAY 17th JANUARY: FILM NIGHT –
Title to be confirmed.

Club opens at 7:00pm. Film starts at 7:30pm. Admission £4 at the door. For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk.

FRIDAY 24th JANUARY: QUIZ NIGHT.

Club opens at 7:00pm. Quiz starts at 7:30pm. Entry £3 per person. Licensed bar and raffle. □



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Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System New Community Diagnostic Centre opens to patients

Designed to reduce scan wait times and get patients seen more quickly, with state-of-the-art imaging equipment, [the new Community Diagnostic Centre at The QEH](#) opened to patients at the end of September.

More than 40,000 outpatient appointments are expected to take place in the new centre in the first year, providing MRI and CT scans as well as X-ray and Ultrasound imaging used for diagnosing and monitoring of a wide range of conditions – including cancer and respiratory conditions.

Speaking at the opening the QEH Chair, Chris Lawrence, said: “This impressive new facility is the result of many months and years of hard work and planning. It’s a privilege to be here to see it opening.

This centre is going to significantly enhance our ability to offer timely diagnostic tests to outpatients. Fast imaging and scans mean we can diagnose conditions and illnesses more quickly – and get those patients on the treatment path they need.”

The CDC is now open to patients for all scans apart from MRI, which will begin later in October. Appointments will be available at the centre seven days a week, with weekend and early and late slots to fit around the needs of patients.□



Sandringham News

Garry Marsden

Luminate

The nights are drawing in again and that is always punctuated by the start of Luminate, our annual light trail in the Royal Park. This year we are expanding The Maze to include a fun house and maze, adding in new light installations including an amazing “rose garden” on the vista! There will be food and drink, marshmallows for roasting and the Henry Chipperfield Vintage Fair. Listening to our customers, we have added some dog friendly nights this year, as well as sensory nights where we keep the sound and lighting at a lower level for the first part of the evening. For the first year we had a run around the lights on Tuesday 19th November when 1800 runners came to run around a 5K fun run in the lights. On preview evening we supported two charities with free tickets: PAPRYUS (three dads walking for suicide prevention) and AMBERS ARMY (supporting children with cancer). The main event runs from 21st November until 24th December. Tickets are cheaper mid-week and early in the evening, so grab a bargain while you can!

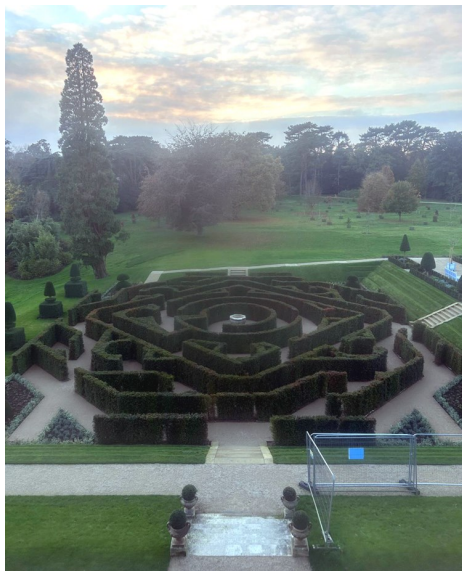
<https://luminate.live/tickets/sandringham-estate/calendar>

The Sandringham Gardens

So much is happening in the Gardens at Sandringham. I was just talking to Jack, the Head Gardener, about the Maze Garden which is the latest area of development. The Topiary Garden was first, on the west lawn of the House; a glorious garden interspersed with planting that is both resistant to climate change and great for wildlife. I watched one day as a wren sang its heart out on the top of one of the pieces of topiary and thought that would never happen when this was just a lawn. It's our plan to open the gardens again in February for the half term and then weekends in March, before opening fully at the start of April. We are also looking at keeping the gardens open longer in October so visitors can enjoy the spectacular autumn colours.

The best way to enjoy the gardens throughout the seasons is to purchase a membership, giving you free parking, access to the gardens whenever they are open, discounts on shopping, food and drink, and guest tickets, as well as first notice

about upcoming events and activities, all for a little over a £1 a week.



Heritage Live Concerts 2025

Heritage Live will return in 2025 to bring a series of fantastic music concerts to our doorstep from the 14th to 17th August inclusive. We have already begun conversations with local Parish Councils to communicate how the event will be run, including traffic management and pedestrian access, and there are some exciting proposals that will help our neighbours and residents. Please do get in touch with your Parish Council so that all concerns can be taken on board. A meeting will be held with all Parish Council reps in early January and letters will be sent to residents outlining plans and providing contact numbers etc. The first act has been announced and more acts will be declared soon, so book your tickets early at <https://www.heritagelive.net/> □

Dersingham Task Force Dennis Weatherill

Summer is definitely over, but we continue to work hard to maintain our two communal gardens for the benefit of our lovely village.

You may recall that, back in the early spring, we requested a grant of £100 from the Parish Council so that we could renew some of the older plants. This was successful and we were asked to select our plants from Thaxter's Garden Centre. We waited until the autumn as this is the best planting time and the most suitable time to purchase spring bulbs.

After buying our plants we then had two busy sessions (in between downpours), removing some old rose bushes and planting our new Hebes and evergreen grasses, which can now be seen in the Post Office Road flowerbed. You will have to wait until spring to see the new daffodils which we shared between the two gardens.

We would like to express our thanks to the Parish Council for their generosity.

We also have a new team member, Martin, who will be a welcome addition to our small band. If you would like to join Task Force every alternate Wednesday at 10:00am, please contact me, Dennis Weatherill, on 07482 913399, or denzilweatherill@gmail.com. It's not quite "all work and no play" as we are only too happy to retire to Thaxter's Tea Rooms after work for tea, scones and socialising. In fact, during the winter months, the "tea and gossip" takes priority!



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News from Hunstanton Croquet Club

Zena Penty, Publicity Officer



The 2024 croquet season has come to a close with some beautiful sunny sessions, as opposed to the challenging wind and rain experienced at the beginning of the season. However, even the new players grabbed another layer and carried on regardless. We've seen memberships increase back to pre-pandemic levels, and up to forty members attend regularly on the friendly, informal club afternoons. Fifteen tournaments have been held at all levels and many cups of tea and conversations enjoyed.

The end of season annual three-course Presentation Lunch was held once again at Heacham Manor on 22nd October. Trophy winners included Colin Spencer, who amassed a whopping six trophies throughout the season, and Roddy Willett and Maria Crompton who each won two trophies in their first season. Congratulations were awarded to all winners and participants and much thanks went to all tournament organisers. It was a great opportunity to relax and socialise with old friends and new members.

The AGM was very well attended. Reports were provided from the Secretary, Treasurer and Chair as appropriate and the issues raised voted on and agreed by the members. Caroline Harper had originally agreed to be Club Chairperson for one year only and has done an amazing job. Caroline said how much pleasure she had taken in the role and hoped the club would go on to further success in the future. Caroline and Gwenda Mackenzie, who also relinquished her role as treasurer, were thanked for their hard work and commitment.

The last Sunday in October was a beautiful sunny day and there was a fabulous turn out of members volunteering to help close the clubhouse for the winter season. Such wonderful teamwork - well done!!

There will be a Croquet Club coffee morning 10:00am – 12 noon on Wednesday 4th December at Norfolk Lavender. A great chance to have a catch up. All welcome including potential new members. □



The QEH King's Lynn Charity has launched an exciting new appeal — EPIC Moves, Better Lives — aiming to raise £10,000 to bring transformative reconditioning and exercise therapy directly to hospital patients. Working in partnership

with EPIC Norfolk, a social enterprise dedicated to improving lives through physical activity, the appeal will support frail and cognitively impaired patients by funding specialised mood-boosting exercise sessions designed to help people stay active, build strength, and maintain independence.

Each year, approximately 1,400 patients at The QEH are affected by dementia and frailty. For these patients, exercise therapy has proven benefits: it eases symptoms associated with dementia, reduces the need for medication to manage sleep, mood, and anxiety, and encourages engagement and movement. This is where EPIC Moves, Better Lives can make a real difference, providing patients with therapies that improve quality of life and elevate their experience at QEH.

Dr. Katie Honney, Clinical Director for Integrated Care of Older Persons and Clinical Lead for the charity appeal, spoke on the value of the programme: "We're immensely grateful to everyone who supports this vital campaign. With these funds, patients living with dementia and frailty will benefit from tailored therapies that improve their physical health and enhance their psychological wellbeing." Rachel Burridge, Consultant Nurse for Frailty, shared the impact she's seen first-hand: "Exercise therapy lifts our patients' spirits, helping them regain balance, and stay engaged and positive. It's wonderful to see them reminisce about past sports and hobbies with the EPIC Norfolk Exercise Specialists. This programme makes their hospital stay more enjoyable and empowering."

The QEHKL Charity is calling on individuals and local organisations to help reach the £10,000 target and bring the lasting benefits of exercise therapy to patients at QEH. This programme will not only offer physical benefits but will allow staff to share best practice across the Trust, contributing to a culture of enhanced, compassionate care.

Every donation, no matter the size, will help bring the EPIC Moves, Better Lives appeal to life, making a meaningful impact on the hospital experience for our most vulnerable patients. Those interested in supporting the initiative can contact the Charity Team at Charity@qehkl.nhs.uk. □



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Dersingham Day Club

The Day Club resumed again after the summer break. It was lovely to welcome everyone back, plus a few new members. At the moment we are full, but if anyone is interested we will add their names to our waiting list.

We were entertained by Caprice Duo, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

Our Christmas Craft Fair is taking place on 1st December, 11:00am – 2:30pm at Dersingham Village Centre. Many stalls, plus lots more.

If anyone is interested in coming to the Day Club, please contact Wendy Raby on 01485 544975 or Maggie Langridge on 01485 532264



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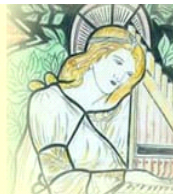
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The Pope's prayer intention for December 2024 is **For pilgrims of hope**; we pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope. The Pope's prayer intention for January 2025 is **For the right to education**; we pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Look out for details in the weekly bulletins and website for Christmas Mass times.

In the last few months we have been working with other churches in our area, to make the most of opportunities to get together for prayer and for social occasions. We have shared our social calendar and invited the other churches to join us at our social events where possible. We also have an ecumenical noticeboard for invitations to other churches' events. Please get involved if possible, as we try to increase our outreach in the Christian community.

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.

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. There is also a group who meet on the last Friday of the month for Spiritual Formation. This could be about a specific Saint or Synodal discussions, prayers or anything that people want to suggest. All are welcome, refreshments are available, just look in the weekly bulletins for dates and times.

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.uk. 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.uk **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 □

Sirens at the Helm on your doorstep

"Your performance was utterly joyful, right up there with Coldplay who we saw two weeks ago in Dublin! Brilliant energy and humour, just what we needed."

"Excellent performers! A pleasure to listen to."

"We absolutely loved seeing you all today."

Sirens at the Helm hail from West Norfolk. Born from an idea inspired by our brilliant local shantymen, we figured that anything the boys can do, we can do just as well!

We were founded in February 2023, and meet every Monday evening locally to sing songs about the sea. We thoroughly enjoy singing shanties and also sing other songs that have a nautical tale!

We are a fantastic, committed all-female crew who have become firm friends and enjoy keeping time together, just as the sailors do when they sing to the rhythm of the waves. We love performing to all landlubbers far and wide, and those that are seafaring!

We are fortunate enough to have been invited to sing at many local events over the last couple of years,

including the Hunstanton RNLI 200th anniversary open day, Cley Harbour Day, Folk in a Field, and Brancaster Staithe Sea Shanty Festival, to name just a



few, and we also ventured out of county to sing at the Port Isaac Sea Shanty Festival in April 2024. This is in addition to singing at charity fundraisers, pub events, private residences and big birthday parties, and we even 'sang in' the bride and groom as a surprise at their wedding reception at The Lifeboat Inn, Thornham!

We have built quite a following on social media, as it seems that everyone enjoys singing along with a shanty. Singing with like-minded crew is very good for the soul, and for your mental health, and we always find time to laugh.

While many of our songs are sung a cappella, we do have some musicians and are always keen to meet others who may be interested in coming on board. We would like to hear from local ladies who can hold a tune and are keen to join as a crew-member, or as a musician and are willing and able to perform with us. So, if you are looking for a new hobby or interest in 2025 and fancy becoming part of a fun-loving, passionate and enthusiastic crew, what are you waiting for?

Do get in touch with us to learn more about how we work via our website, www.sirensatthehelm.co.uk. Our practices are every Monday evening at Dersingham Village Centre until the end of March, when we will return to The Shepherds Port, Snettisham. Contact us to arrange to come along one evening, where you will be warmly welcomed.□

Dersingham Sportsground Pavilion

David Collingham, Chairman, Dersingham Sports Ground Association

Dersingham's new Sports Pavilion is shaping up!



Since our last update the Dersingham Sports Ground Association has been busy finalizing interior and exterior plans for the new pavilion at the Sports Ground at Manor Road. We are aiming for completion in 2025 subject to planning approval and raising sufficient funds through grants and community funding, including donations from individuals. Please visit our website at: www.dersinghamsportsground.org.uk for up-to-date information and ways in which you can contribute.

- Following extensive consultation with local and national football and cricket authorities, we have their approval to the interior design and layout. This will give us sufficient changing facilities, toilets and showers for four teams, plus referees. There will be an enlarged social area, with bar and a new kitchen.

- Enlarged covered exterior space for seating and barbecue area.

We have met with Sandringham Estate, who own the land, to gain approval for the exterior design, which will be sympathetically in keeping with other similar period pavilions.

- Active fund raising has started within our community, with proceeds from local event raffles and generous donations from sports users via our "Buy a Brick" campaign. See our website for details. We are now registered for Easyfunding – online shopping via their website or app gives us a percentage of your spend. Most major retailers are signed up to the scheme. Again, visit the website and go to the "How to Contribute" tab.

- Car parking has already been increased by extending the existing car park.

- Borough Planning Application – we are hoping to make the planning application within the next month, subject to agreeing designs with Sandringham Estate, user sports groups and having carried out a required Biodiversity Net Gain survey.

The Trustees of the Dersingham Sports Ground Association are deeply grateful to the volunteers and club members who have contributed to extending the current car park and providing essential maintenance to the current pavilion. Equally, we would like to thank all those who have made donations to the renovation project through the website.

Together we can achieve a newly renovated pavilion for our community. Let's make it happen.□

Dersingham Pavilion Project



Please support our fund raising campaign any way you can

Through our website
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Mission Accomplished

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

On 9th November we celebrated 'Mission Accomplished' of the much-needed kitchen and accessible toilets in St. Nicholas Church. This is a huge improvement for the life of the church and those visiting, whether for worship, weddings, funerals, school, coffee mornings, prayer and much more. This project has been in progress for many years, and I am delighted that it has now become a reality. Thank you to those who have assisted over this time and those who have contributed to make this possible. You may remember the fun of the two sponsored church tower abseil events held as part of raising the funds. The official opening of cutting the ribbon was conducted by Doreen Linford, 100 years young, and with able assistance from two of the youngest children of the church family. We now look forward to using the new facilities to support activities in the Church, serving the community, from the youngest members at Little Nippers baby and toddler group, to some of the oldest at services and coffee mornings.

Youth Café – I am pleased to share a positive update following my article last month. The drop-in Youth Café has been a big success. Many adults have said how much they value this provision for young people here, and the young people themselves are really enjoying it. The Youth Café offers free barista drinks and homemade cakes, optional games and activities, plus space to hang out together. It is open weekly in term time on Tuesdays from 3:15pm to 5:30pm at The Well Café, Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall, Hill Road, PE31 6NZ for high school aged children.

Christmas – It is hard to believe that Christmas is on the horizon! The amazing Bilton Band return (7th December), together with the Christmas Tree Festival and special services in the churches through Advent and Christmas. Do see the posters and church website for more information. Christmas is always a busy time, yet spiritual preparation begins in Advent for celebrating the coming of the Lord Jesus. I hope you are able to make your preparations, both physically, but also spiritually, as we celebrate the gift of God in the Christ child.

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



Did you know that Dersingham is home to TWO Bowls Clubs?

I would imagine the most well known will be the **Dersingham Institute Bowls Club**, owing to its position close to the Village Centre and Doctors' Surgery.

However, there is also the **Albert Victor Bowls Club**. It is approached via a private track between house numbers 4 and 6 Manor Road and we are looking for players for the coming season. We play league matches on a Friday and Tuesday evening from May to the end of August. If you are interested, why not pop along **any** Tuesday or Thursday morning when you'll find members carrying out work on the green or discussing concerns of the day over a cup of coffee! You will be very welcome.□

Our December meeting will be the Christmas party, which this year will be held at the Old Hunstanton Village Hall on Monday 16th December. Please note the different venue to our usual meetings. Places are always limited to 100 for this and it is therefore important that you purchase your ticket at £4.00 each as soon as possible.

Hunstanton
u3a

Our January meeting will be on Monday 20th January back at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton at 2.00pm when Jan Smith will be updating us on the situation with hedgehogs.

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



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News from Dersingham Bog Natural England

Now the clocks have gone back and winter approaches on Dersingham Bog, the team's attention turns towards our winter workplan. Our main task historically has been the removal of scrub from the heath and bog areas to prevent this growing up and overtaking these important habitats. As we have managed to keep very much on top of this over the past decades it now takes up less of our time, but it is still an important focus. This is a task carried out by the team of staff and volunteers with additional help from contractors.

One of the other main projects we have been carrying out is the continued work trying to reduce the expansion of the long pond into the acid mire. Over the past few months we have been placing hazel faggots into the water to reduce wave action on the edges of the pond causing erosion. We have been gradually positioning these to complete small compartments, as we have found this to have the best results. Some areas done in the late spring have come back with lots of sphagnum mosses as well as some specialist plants. We are hoping to recreate this across the long pond, starting this autumn.



We have also been carrying out rhododendron removal on the cliff at the Wolferton end of Dersingham Bog in partnership with the Sandringham Estate in order to restore it to its former glory, when many pairs of sand martin would breed, and the ancient sea cliff was more visible. The trees directly in front of the cliff have now been removed to create an unimpeded flight path for the potential return of sand martins, and to allow more sunlight onto the cliff. Also removed has been the rhododendron at the bottom of the cliff and the scrub as high as possible, with the hope of getting rid of some of the higher scrub in time. We are very pleased to have started this work as it's been a task that the team have wanted to carry out for many years.

Wildlife News: We have had a busy autumn period on Dersingham Bog this year, even though many of the usual species such as thrushes and finches are mainly still yet to arrive in as big numbers as sometimes. The highlight of the autumn was the presence of

two yellow browed warblers, unfortunately both in areas with no public access, with one of the birds present for over a week. These were only the second and third confirmed records for the Bog. We have also had records of hawfinch, whooper swans and jack snipe.

Again this year we are happy to announce that we will be supplying Christmas pine trees from Dersingham Bog to local residents free of charge. A member of staff will be on hand at the Wolferton car park, What Three Words: W3W //clashes.memory.mills on 7th December between 9:00am and 11:00am, although any leftover trees will be left in situ until Monday 9th for people to collect. This is as a thank you for the community's continued support of the site. □

Snettisham Gardening Club

Addie Thompson

At our September meeting we had a highly entertaining presentation by Nick Grounds, who is a flower arranger extraordinaire. He created imaginative displays in all kinds of unusual containers with flowers and foliage brought in by the audience. But he also captivated us with endless amusing anecdotes and tips on how to work with the plants.

Our last meeting of the year is on Wednesday November 27th at Snettisham Memorial Hall when we will be holding a Hog Roast. We do not hold a meeting in December.

We start our 2025 programme with our AGM on Wednesday 29th January at the Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm. Cake and Fizz will be the refreshments to welcome the new year. Subscriptions will be collected and programmes and schedules for our Open Show to be held on Saturday 13th July will be available. The show is open to all, not just members, so if you want to plan your entries it is never too soon to think about it, and schedules will be available.



For further information please call Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.□

Phobbies

Coffee Morning and Sale

Thursday 5th December

10:30am to 12 noon

at

Dersingham Social Club

Phobbies is a craft and hobbies club for people with and without disabilities and with all levels of skill catered for.

We have knitted and crocheted items for sale that might make good Christmas gifts. Tea, coffee and cake will be available. It will also be an opportunity to see the club in action and meet the club members.

For more information contact Maggie 07967799816.



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What's on in Wolferton in November and December

At Wolferton Social Club:

Cash Bingo

Sunday 3rd November

Sunday 8th December

Doors open at 7:00pm. Eyes down 8pm

Prize Bingo

Tuesday 26th November

Tuesday 17th December

Doors open at 6:30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm

Christmas Draw: Saturday 21st December

There will be lots of fabulous prizes to enter for this draw, so pop in now to the Social Club during our normal opening hours. Christmas Draw just £1 per entry.

Christmas and New Year opening

Christmas Eve 8:00pm to 11:00pm

Christmas Day 12noon to 2:30 pm

Usual opening times - Friday 27th, Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th December

New Year's Eve Disco and buffet 8:30pm to 12:30am

At St Peter's Church, Wolferton:

Wolferton Church News

We had an excellent turnout for our Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 29th September; our newly refurbished organ was blessed and in fine voice. The church looked beautiful; thank you to all who helped with the flowers and for the kind donations to the King's Lynn Foodbank. This was much appreciated.

We enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Social Club where minds were put to the test at our annual Harvest Quiz on Friday 25th October, fuelled by plenty of chilli and apple pies! Thank you to all who supported and took part in this event, it was a lot of fun.

Church services in November:

Sunday 10th November at 09:15am we have our Remembrance Sunday Mattins

Sunday 24th November at 3:00pm, Evening Prayer

Looking ahead to December:

Saturday 7th December 10.30am: cleaning and decorating St Peter's Church for Christmas. Please do join us, even if just for a coffee and a catch up!

Sunday 8th December 9.15am: Holy Communion followed by refreshments

Friday 20th December 6.00pm: Our traditional carol singing around Wolferton Village. Meet at the Social Club (we suggest you please bring warm clothes and torches!)

Sunday 22nd December 4.00pm: Annual Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Day 09.15am: Morning Worship – your chance to meet and be away in good time to visit family and friends

For full details of all services, please check the Sandringham Group of Churches website. □

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Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb



Walking around, the shortest days offers, if we are lucky, the chance of a winter sunset and often frosty ground. Wrap up in suitable clothing and challenge the elements to stop your enjoyment. No walk on Christmas Day as there would probably be a low turnout, but otherwise it's business as usual.

Wednesday November 27th at 1.30pm

Burnham Deepdale, Barrow Common and the coast path. Starting from Burnham Deepdale church, which is on the main A149, we will walk up and over Barrow Common and then down to Brancaster. From there we join the Norfolk Coast Path, which now has a newly rebuilt boardwalk. The path will take us to Brancaster Staithe and then back to Deepdale. Start point TF 804443. About 4.5 miles. Leader Stephen Martyn 07879 885516. Note that parking is limited by the church, but there is some parking on adjacent streets.

Wednesday December 11th at 1.30pm

Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham will all be visited on this circuit of local footpaths. Starting from the bottom of Station Road, Dersingham by the old railway station buildings. TF 680308. About 5 miles. Leader Stephen Martyn 07879 885516.

Wednesday January 8th at 1.30pm

A chance to explore the wonders of Gayton on a slightly shorter than usual walk of about 3.25 miles. Lots of interesting things to see and good level walking. Start point St Nicholas Close off Back Street, Gayton. TF 727192. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.



Wednesday January 22nd at 1.30pm

A tour of the footpaths and lanes around Congham. 4.5 miles. Meet at the big layby on the A148 opposite the turning to Sandringham. Start point TF 711253. Leader Stephen Martyn 07879 885516.

All our planned walks will appear here in Village Voice and can also be found on our new website Dersinghamwalking.co.uk and usually take place on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. 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, just turn up. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do their best to look after you.

PLEASE NOTE THAT the leaders are happy to organize and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. If you want more information about any particular walk, then please contact the leader. Group coordinator: **Tony Bubb**, Tel: 01485 542638 Email: frostytrees@btinternet.com. □



Dersingham C of E Primary and Nursery School

Last year the school underwent significant change, including a change in leadership, with Mrs Zoe Warren becoming Headteacher. As a school, along with developing a new vision to create a sense of community and pride among pupils and staff, a new logo was developed. A working party, from both the school and community, discussed themes and during last year's vision launch day the children created ideas for the new logo design. All pupils have been gifted new school jumpers from the church, proudly displaying the school's updated logo.

The new academic year has started with a flurry of sporting events, including the esteemed Croydon Cup football tournament. The Year 6 boys, competing in the Championship, were victorious, bringing home the cup and gold medals for the first time since 2022. The Year 5 boys, competing in the premiership, came close, bringing home bronze. Both leagues were fiercely contested, with very close points.



Year 5 Premiership bronze



Year 6 Croydon cup winners

The cross country event held in Snettisham saw the school represented by a bumper crop of keen runners. Over forty children from Year 2 to Year 6 represented the school, with fifteen going on to the next round at Lynnsport. There were several medal winners, including four gold, two silver and two bronze. Good luck to those competing in the next event. (See the pictures below.)

The first Quicksticks Hockey event of the year saw Year 4 coming home with silver medals after a very competitive final, where they were pipped at the post by Glebe. They have been invited to take part in the county finals later in the year. Good luck Year 4!

The children have settled well in their new classes, excited to begin their next journey of learning and discovery. Reception class have been learning all about themselves and exploring the seasons, making the most of investigating the beautiful woods and noting the changes taking place there. Similarly, Year 1 have been out and about, fishing in the



Year 4 Quicksticks silver medals

little stream in the woods and enjoying an educational visit to Wildlings. Year 2 have cast their net wider still, learning about the UK and London and uncovering some exciting historical events, such as The Great Fire of London.



Some Key Stage 2 classes have had a focus on history, with Year 5 learning about World War II, culminating in a living history day at Gressenhall, where the children dressed up as evacuees. They went inside a real Anderson shelter to experience what it was like in an air raid and helped a land girl to hoe weeds and harvest potatoes. Visiting the local shop and learning about rationing, as well as making chocolate sweets from potatoes, resulted in it being 'The best trip ever!'



Year 6 have travelled even further back in time, looking at all things Tudor, including Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, The Reformation and the defeat of the Spanish in 1588. The children have been greatly engaged by the class texts and enjoyed learning about the personalities of each of the Tudor monarchs, who helped to shape the course of history.

The Stone Age beckoned to Year 3 and they also enjoyed a Neolithic day at Gressenhall. They used hand tools to farm and learnt about how animal skins were used as shelters. Hunting for wild boar and practising their spear throwing was very exciting and they were able to handle real Stone Age axe heads made from flint from thousands of years ago.

Science was the focus for Year 4, looking at food chains and digestion. The children enjoyed modelling the digestive system using playdough and working in teams to create colourful organs. The class led the Harvest Festival at St Nicholas' Church, where they performed a play, shared prayers and set a wonderful example to the school with their tremendous singing.

National Poetry Day was held on 3rd October and was a time to highlight the impact poetry has on people's lives. Each class learnt a poem linked to their topic and performed in a special school assembly. Recordings were made and posted on Class Dojo to give parents the opportunity to share the special event with their children.

School Councils are now up and running with the Sports Council helping to shape PE and sporting competitions, Student Council planning up and coming events, such as Children in Need, and Eco Council completing audits and looking at how the school can continue on their carbon neutral campaign to help protect the planet. Each council has already helped to raise funds by selling old books in the playground, to be used for projects of their choice and the Student Council sold cakes and coffee to raise money for Cancer Research.

The PTFA have already held a very successful movie night to raise funds for the school, which will provide funds towards educational visits and additional resources to support the children's learning. The school are very grateful for their continued support.

As Autumn recedes and Christmas beckons, the school is gearing up for another eventful, fun filled half term! With Children in Need, Remembrance Day, more sporting events and exciting new topics to explore, it's sure to be a busy time!□

Cross Country Runners



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Budget October 2024 – as bad as we feared?

Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Speaking the morning after the 2024 Autumn Budget, Rachel Reeves confessed, “I had to make big choices. I don’t want to repeat a Budget like this ever again, but it was necessary ...” For that at least, we must be grateful. Otherwise, although the Budget avoided some of the areas which were raised in the speculation leading up to the event, it still marks a return to the “Tax and spend” approach.

The main features of the Budget will have been fully described in the wider press, so suffice it to say that despite some very minor giveaways such as a reduction in the duty on draught beer and yet another deferral of fuel duty indexation, the thrust is to raise £40Bn through a variety of measures, almost all of which will hit businesses and investors, along with some manifesto promises such as more tax for those who are non-domiciled or who choose to put their children into private education. The amounts that will be raised by these last two changes is far from certain, since taxpayer behaviour is difficult for the Treasury to model.

Other attacks on capital are more straightforward. Hitherto, the transfer of undrawn pension funds on death has been outside the scope of Inheritance Tax (IHT). This will change from April 2027. It would appear that interspouse transfers will follow the existing IHT exemptions, but ultimately any such pension pot will attract an IHT charge. In some cases, the executors may have to pay income tax on the funds withdrawn to cover the IHT liability, raising the marginal tax rate to 66%. Aside from anything else, this will dramatically increase the number of estates liable to pay IHT, from 4% to 12% (according to *The Times*). Given that each estate is likely to have multiple beneficiaries (who are ultimately those that suffer the tax) that makes quite a few disgruntled taxpayers. Coupled with the pension changes, it was also announced that the existing IHT Nil Rate Band and Main Residence band would be frozen for another two years, by which time they will have been frozen for nineteen years!

IHT changes will also affect businesses more directly. Since 1992 most types of business property or shares in a trading company have been fully relieved from an IHT charge, as have most types of agricultural property. From April 2026 the 100% relief will be capped at £1m and thereafter restricted to 50% (a rate which will also apply to AIM shares). For example, under the old rules, a business (including property, stock in hand and machinery) worth say, £4m, would have been free of IHT thus ensuring unhampered succession and a continuing business. Under the new rules there would be a tax charge of £600,000. These reliefs, which have recently been described as “loopholes”, were in fact specifically directed to avoid the position where a business, or farm, had to be sold to pay IHT and, potentially, employees lost their jobs as a result. From 2026 that will be a much greater risk.

The increase in tax does not solely rest with businesses. Far more taxpayers are already paying Capital Gains Tax (CGT) due to restrictions in the Annual Allowance which has dropped from £12,300 to £3,000 since 2022. With effect from Budget Day the rate of tax payable on shares and commercial property has been aligned with the higher rates that were due on residential property at 18% or 24%. In addition, the preferential Business Asset Disposal Rate which applies to the first £1m of business assets on sale/retirement will be increased from 10% to 14% in April 2025 then to 18% in 2026.

Finally, the biggest tax increase of all will again be met by businesses, the part of the economy which does most to stimulate growth. Employers’ National Insurance contributions will rise from 13.8% to 15% in April 2025 and the “threshold” at which such contributions start will fall from £9,100 to £5,000. Some of this will be offset by an increase in the small business “Employment Allowance”, which goes up by £5,500 and

which should protect smaller business, but nonetheless this change is expected to cost businesses some £25Bn annually. A minimum cost of £615 per employee for everyone earning over £5,000 before the 1.2% increase on earnings above £9,100 is taken into account. There is also a 6.7% rise in the National Living Wage, Another Budget “giveaway” funded wholly by the private sector will also have some effect on profitability, either directly where staff are employed on low wages or indirectly because of the effect it can have along the whole wage structure.

There really is very little good news in this Budget other than that some of the perceived areas at risk were not targeted. Business IHT reliefs were reduced but not abolished. There is no change in the CGT uplift on death which would have been a nightmare to administer and there was no increase in the Income Tax higher rates. Similarly, some planning tools such as CGT holdover and rollover reliefs have not been withdrawn, nor has the IHT seven-year gift rule been extended.

This Budget may well be seen as being particularly divisive, pitching pensioners against their grandchildren, investors and business owners against workers, and town against country. Many people may initially feel largely unaffected by the changes, but a significant number will soon realise that it isn't that straightforward. “Taxpayer behaviour” is something which does not lend itself to Treasury modelling, but it is clear that for those who are in business or whose estates are within or close to the IHT limits, tax planning is very much back on the agenda. It seems certain that almost every Will written in the last ten years will need to be updated in the light of these new rules. 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 31.10.2024

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Making Gardening Easier May Davey

We wish all our members and friends a very happy Christmas. Thank you for your support during the year. Sue Nield is preparing an exciting programme for 2025, so we look forward to you all coming to enjoy the talks and outings. Bookings are going well for our Christmas dinner at Knight's Hill on Friday, December 20th.



Pauline Gilbert

We now have forty-five members and hope most of you will be rejoining us next year. We are sad to report that Cherry Tann and Pauline Gilbert died recently. We send their families our love. We will miss them both.

On Friday, November 15th, Rachel from Rachel's Plants brought plants for sale at Dersingham Village Centre. On Friday, October 18th Dr Ian Bedford gave us a beautifully illustrated talk on "Companion Planting for a Balanced Garden."



Cherry Tann

Stuart Grant brought his bees in a glass case and described the bees' lifestyles and types of honey on Friday, September 20th at the Centre. Stuart is a local bee expert and was a fascinating speaker.



Dr Ian Bedford



Stuart Grant

Meetings are held at Dersingham Village Centre between 2.00pm and 4.00 pm. Entrance is £3.00 which includes tea and a raffle ticket. Visitors are very welcome. Do come and see how you like us. Information about talks and the venue can be obtained from our Secretary, Gloria Pantling: 01553 671912. May Davey, 01485-544953. □

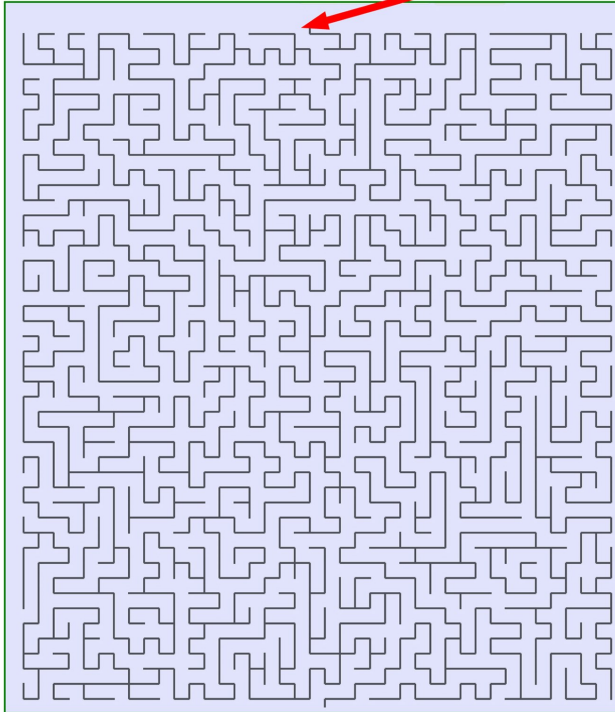


SANTA'S MAZE

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START HERE



Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 72

IDLEWILD	WASHINGTON	DEACON	LA GUARDIA
AUDI T.T.	PORCHE	ANGEL	JEFFERSON
JFK	ENEMY	FERRARI	MAZDA
ETYPE	LINCOLN	KENNEDY	ROOSEVELT

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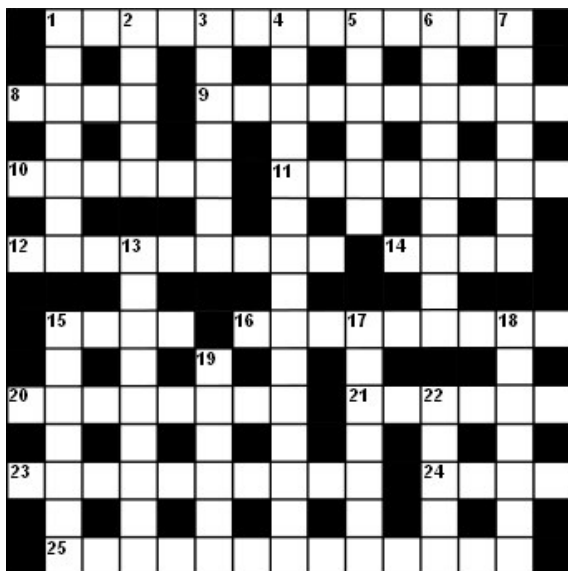
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PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword by
Philip Neal

Across

- 1 & 25a Thirsty cervine needs hot help rudder somehow with drunken noise in Queen's red den (7,3,3,5,8)
- 8 See 7d
- 9 Harry caught Elsie when our Bronwyn turned up (5,5)
- 10 Train faster air warfare (6)
- 11 Jimmy on road to make comeback then withdraws (8)
- 12 Dancing maids surround clumsy ogre with graphic symbols (9)
- 14 We kept in for a drink (4)
- 15 & 16a Carol on holiday beside main range abroad (4,2,1,6)
- 20 V.P. failed English but is member of the Arabic system (8)
- 21 Fifty orcas at sea making music (6)
- 23 Would it seem contrived if C.I.A trial suspect was fitted up? (10)
- 24 Action either way made education revealing (4)
- 25 See 1a.

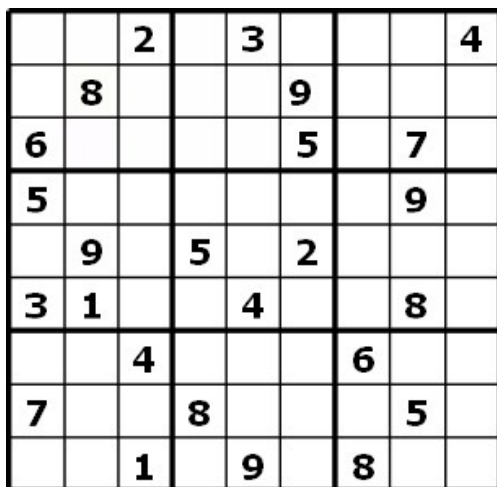


Answers on page 72

Sudoku

Down

- 1 How Mel Tormé enjoyed his chestnuts (7)
- 2 Greek mouth (5)
- 3 Diving equipment needed in car (3,4)
- 4 April rhyme jumped over new English moon in ancient kingdom (4,5,6)
- 5 Comic has hit cymbals (2-4)
- 6 Bankrupt butcher (9)
- 7d & 8a Decorate broken lathe in House of Lords (4,3,4)
- 13 Cook roast in old Rio musicals (9)
- 15 Misbehaving Eli got Nora into a flap (9)
- 17 Decorative fabric discovered a mile within foreign niche (7)
- 18 Each leger to be untangled in slippery equipment (3,4)
- 19 Having ordered diet I'd found princess busy but organised (6)
- 22 Strangely English grid displays all the way to the bank (5)





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Crossword Answers



Across

1 & 25 Rudolph the red nosed reindeer. **8** See 7d. **9** Welsh niece. **10** Strafe. **11** Retracts. **12** Ideograms. **14** Wine. **15 & 16** Away in a manger. **20** Algorism. **21** Carols. **23** Artificial. **24** Deed. **25** See 1a.

Down

1 Roasted. **2** Delta. **3** Low gear. **4** Holy Roman Empire. **5** Hi-harts. **6** Ruination. **7 & 8a** Deck the hall. **13** Oratorios. **15** Aileron. **17** Mechlin. **18** Eel gear. **19** Tidier. **22** Ridge.

Word Wall Answers

Arch....: ..angel, ..deacon, ..enemy, ..etype

Sports cars: Porche, Ferrari, Mazda, Audi T.T.

New York airports: Idlewild, JFK, Kennedy, La Guardia

Mount Rushmore residents: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt

Sudoku Answers

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

Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

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

Issue	Copy deadline midday on	Publication date
No. 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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Obtain booking form and full technical details for advertisements by emailing villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk or from the Parish Council office (address below). An invoice will be sent on receipt of the booking form.

Articles

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

Distribution

Village Voice goes to all 2,500+ residential and business properties in Dersingham, West Newton, Wolferton and Sandringham, with another 600 available to subscribers, shop counters, the Village Centre and other public places. Please support our advertisers and also let them know you heard about them in Village Voice!!

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

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