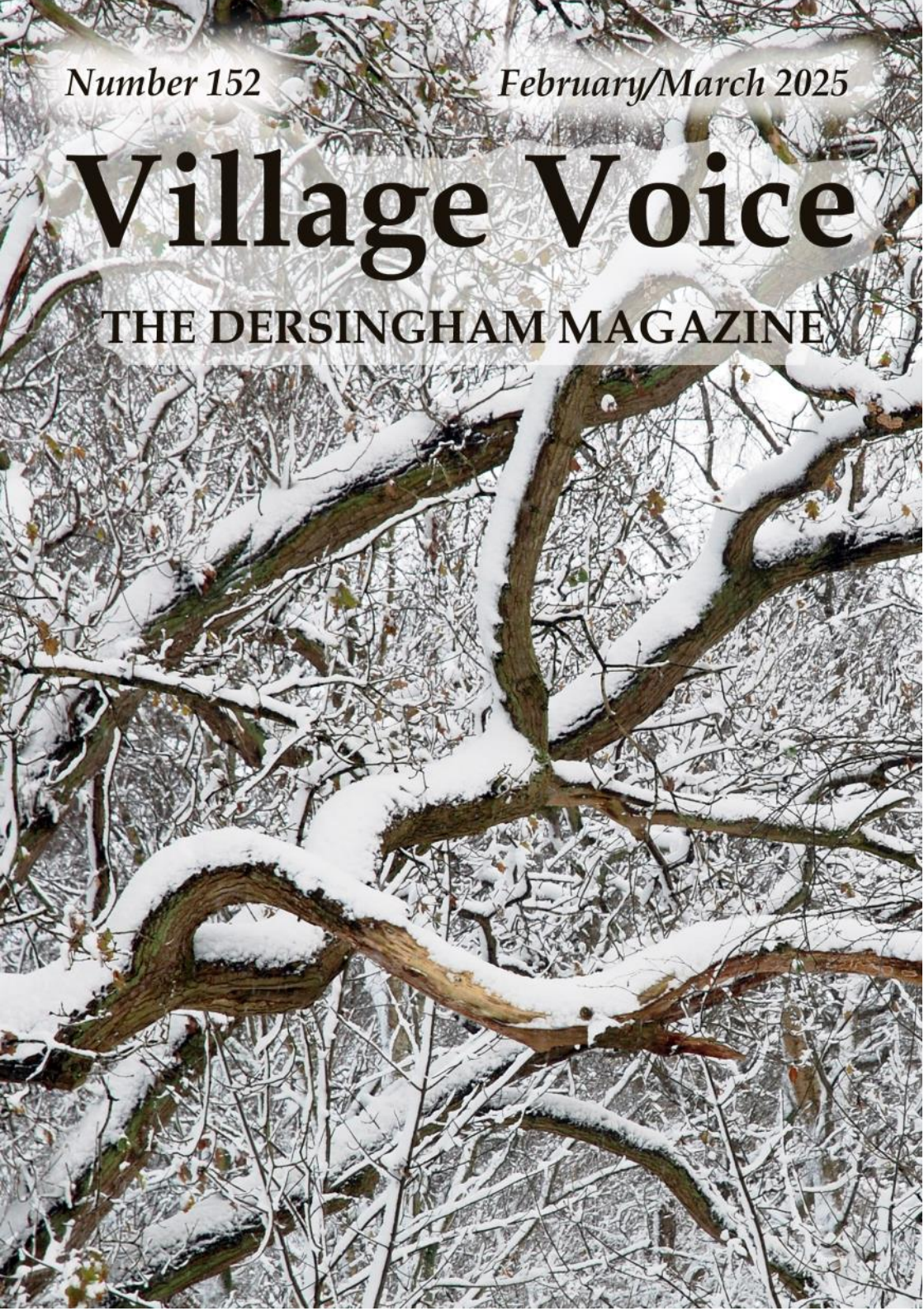


Number 152

February/March 2025

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE





**WILD
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Don't forget to keep
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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones

As I write this, most of the rest of the country is battling snow drifts and blizzard-like conditions. Here it is certainly very cold, but so far we have avoided a snowy spell. Who knows what will happen later this month? But our front cover is just a reminder of what might be ahead.

I was expecting this edition to be a bit thin as February/March is usually quite a quiet month after Christmas and New Year celebrations. However, it has turned out to be a packed issue. Here are some of the items you will find inside:

- A reminder that you need to book to use the Recycling Centre at Heacham
- Photos of Viceroy Close's amazing Christmas light show
- Information about King's Lynn Museum's exhibition about dogs
- Another of Lorna's entertaining poems
- A round up of this year's butterflies by Brian Anderson
- Memories of the Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas
- How to become a firefighter with the Sandringham Fire Station – they are recruiting
- 50th anniversary for the Scout and Guide HQ and the Dersingham Brownies
- See what the Camera Club has been up to
- A Valentine's story by Sheila Davies
- How to support the fundraising for the new Sports Pavilion – RACE NIGHT!
- A piece on how I do photo restoration
- Plus, of course, our regular contributions from local groups and organisations, for which we continue to be very grateful.

Do remember to visit the Dersingham Parish Council website which has just about everything you want to know about our village:

www.dersingham-pc.gov.uk

I have just noticed snowdrop shoots beginning to emerge from the ground down the end of the garden, where they have gradually spread over the years. We often seem to be a little behind on the plant front, so by the time you get this you may well already have some flowers. Spring is nearly here!!! I will be so glad when the frosts have passed and all the plants cluttering up my conservatory can go outside again.

Do keep sending in your stories, poems, pictures, memories, or perhaps you have a tasty recipe to share. This is your magazine and we try to print everything you give us. Do let our advertisers know if you got to know of them through Village Voice – we need them to know that advertising pays! Without them there would be no magazine.

VILLAGE CINEMA
at **Dersingham Village Centre**
Presents on
Tuesday February 25th at 7:30pm

THE CRITIC (15)
Starring: Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong,
Ben Barnes, Lesley Manville
A powerful London theatre critic lures a struggling actress
into a blackmail scheme that has deadly consequences.



Entry £6 Under 16s £3
Entry includes tea/coffee/squash
Fruit Juice, Wine, Beer & Cider
available from the Bar



Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by
Dersingham Village Centre Association
Charity No 1178462
Supported by Creative Arts East





Dear Village Voice



Christmas Day in Queen Elizabeth Hospital A&E

It's Christmas Day in our local accident and emergency department. Patients are queueing out of the door and it's standing room only. According to a nurse on duty, at least one third of the patients are suffering from flu and should not be in A&E.

Why in the name of all that is Holy, are sick patients being left to stand? Why, especially on a Bank Holiday, when all the clinics and day care areas are empty, are patients not directed to a seating area that is less crowded and therefore somewhat safer for the many vulnerable patients waiting in A&E who are forced into a crammed department and exposed to every virus currently doing the rounds.

Is there nobody available in management at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. that can deal with this daily problem?

Some of these patients are dying, and they are not even given the courtesy of a seat. This is absolutely unacceptable. Even Jesus had a manger!

Thousands of pounds are wasted every year on repeated surveys within the hospital, whilst the simple practicalities of finding a sick person a seat and a safe space to wait, are completely overlooked.

It is now the norm at our local hospital to expect to wait for many hours. We have no 'on call' Urologist. We have no 'On call' E.N.T. specialist. There is now a waiting time in excess of one year for patients waiting for a referral to the cardiology clinic.

These figures are not openly talked about. They are kept hidden under the carpet, so as not to panic members of the public, many of whom are blissfully unaware of the shambles that has become the daily norm.

It is only when you are exposed to this hell hole, and I don't use that term lightly, that you become aware of exactly how broken our local services have become.

Nobody expects miracles, but I can't believe that even a temporary seating area couldn't be made available. In our case, an elderly relative with complex medical needs ended up sitting outside in the cold, as his son was too afraid to expose him to any more viruses, especially when his partner was at home after having chemotherapy on Christmas Eve for stage four cancer, so is also extremely vulnerable. He ended up bringing his father back here after he became too cold to sit outside after an hour or two of waiting.

Luckily, a district nurse was able to attend and carry out an emergency procedure in our home. The nurse was under enormous pressure, but was kind, professional and extremely efficient. We couldn't be more grateful for the help of the district nurses' hub. Without them, we would have had no choice but to drive him back to London where he could have been seen by his own district nursing team.

Yes, I know we live in God's waiting room, which apparently is the new name for Norfolk, but surely, we all deserve better than this! If nothing else, at least make sure there is sufficient seating and that the area is not so overcrowded that it contravenes Health and Safety requirements.

Julie Hollyer

(Ed: we have asked Queen Elizabeth Hospital to comment on the issues raised)□

Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



I hope you all had a good Christmas, and I'd like to wish a happy New Year to everyone. I also hope that those of you who have been affected by the nasty chest infections, which have been keeping QEH busy, are beginning to feel better.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all residents who decorated the outside of their houses and gardens for Christmas - it certainly cheered us up. A very special thanks to the residents of Viceroy Close, or should I say Christmas Close; a stunning display, every one different but making a dazzling spectacle. I appreciate all of the efforts that were put into the displays, a true definition of community spirit. I know that many residents of Dersingham took an evening stroll to the Close, and I hope they all enjoyed it as much as I did.

The Parish Council has for the last couple of months been looking at its budgets for the next financial year, starting at the beginning of April this year and running through to the end of March 2026. It can be difficult to predict our spending requirements as, like everyone else, we are at the mercy of everyone we deal with having to put up their prices.

This leads us to having two meetings in January (both taking place after this edition of Village Voice is published) - one on the 20th when we finalise our budgets for the forthcoming financial year. This will be followed by a second meeting on 27th January when we will set the precept. This is the funding that we receive from the Council Tax.

Each year we have to forecast how much money we will need for the following year and let the Borough Council know by the end of January. They then add in the amount needed by the County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner and the Borough Council and work out how much Council Tax we will each need to pay. We are hopeful that the Parish Council part of your council tax bill will not increase.

Turning to this summer, and in particular the concerts at Sandringham in August with Michael Bubl  and Stereophonics (other acts to be announced). I have attended a consultation meeting with representatives of Sandringham Estate, Heritage Live (the event organisers), the Borough Council, County Highways Officers, Police and other nearby Parish Councils. This was to advise us all about the current state of preparations for the concerts in August at Sandringham. A considerable amount of work has been put in by Heritage Live to improve the events.

The plans are still in the process of being prepared, but I can say that many of the issues that were raised after the Robbie Williams' concerts are being addressed. Concerns in Dersingham were about traffic congestion and access to the concert venue, and further details will be shared with us when they are available. I can say that one of the major issues raised by Dersingham residents was that of pedestrian access and safety. This has already been looked at and it is likely that access will be beside the Church, keeping pedestrians and traffic separated. I am hopeful that I will have further information that I can share with you in our next edition. □



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

February's showing will be *The Critic*, March's film will be *Paddington in Peru*.

Events

Our New Year's Eve event was sold out, and we have had lots of positive feedback. Thank you for supporting our many and varied activities and events.

It will be a quiet start to 2025 after a very busy time leading up to Christmas and New Year, but the Events Group will be meeting soon to make plans for the year.

VE80 – watch out for information about our event on May 10th. More details will be in the next edition of Village Voice, and posters around the area.

For more information about the Centre and what goes on, visit our website - www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk where you can sign up for regular updates. We have a Facebook Page and also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group. Event posters are displayed in various locations around the village; we are grateful to local business for their support. If you have any questions about the Centre, events and activities, or bookings, please call our landline, 01485 543195. An answerphone is in use, so please leave a message with contact details and someone will get back to you.□

VILLAGE CINEMA
at **Dersingham Village Centre**
Presents on
Tuesday March 25th at 7:30pm

PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG)
Starring: Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Julie Walters,
Jim Broadbent, Imelda Staunton

When Paddington discovers his beloved aunt has gone missing from the Home for Retired Bears, he and the Brown family head to the jungles of Peru to find her. They stumble across legendary treasure as they make their way through the rainforests of the Amazon.



Entry £6 Under 16s £3
Entry includes tea/coffee/squash
Fruit Juice, Wine, Beer & Cider
available from the Bar



Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by
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Dersingham Library

Events

Craft group—Every Monday 2-4pm. Drop in sessions. Bring your craft and enjoy an afternoon of pleasant company and a chat. Refreshments provided.

Book group—First Monday of the month 5.45-6.45pm

Crime book group—Last Monday of the month 5.45-6.45pm

Digital help sessions—Every Monday 3-5pm. Booking essential.

Bereavement Café—Every Wednesday 11-12pm. Drop in sessions.

Job Club —Every Wednesday 3-5pm. Booking essential.

Family History—First Thursday of the month 10.30-12.30pm. Booking essential

Bounce & Rhyme—Every Thursday 10.30-11.00am. Drop in sessions. Songs and rhymes for babies, toddlers and families.

Stay & Play—Every Thursday 11.00-12.00pm after Bounce & Rhyme.

Knit and Natter—Every Thursday 10-12pm. Drop in sessions. Bring your knitting. Refreshments provided.

Tech Skills— Every Thursday afternoon. 1-4pm Booking essential.

Walking Group—Third Thursday of the month. Meeting in the library at 2pm. Refreshments afterwards.

Lego Club for children—Every Thursday 5-6.30pm We have lots of Lego so come along and have a constructive evening!

Children's board games—Every Saturday afternoon. Have fun with a range of board games.

Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy, President



In December we had our usual Christmas mince pies and mulled wine morning, but this time held it at Orchard Close Community Hall.

We took part in the Christmas Tree Festival in St Nicholas Church and many thanks to the team for decorating it. Our theme was recycling so we used decorations that our members had made over the years. (Luckily Ann had kept them safe.)



Our December meeting was our Christmas party, but we had a brilliant display from Debbie Parris on the art of decoupage. To watch Debbie turn an ordinary little glass into a lovely tea light holder with just glue, paint and a napkin certainly gave some of us ideas for a new hobby this year. Our Secret Santa socks provided much fun, and I thank whoever

put some lovely chocolate in the one I got (my husband certainly enjoyed one of the bars!)

Our W.I. 2025 year began with a visit to the Panto at the Corn Exchange on January 2nd which was



enjoyed by all that went. We booed, shouted out "its behind you" and we stood and did the Wiggly Worm dance along with the rest of the audience. A most enjoyable afternoon.

Our next meeting was a coffee morning to catch up with members after the Christmas break. We also held a bring and buy stall for those unwanted gifts - perhaps too many chocolates and smellies.

Our usual groups - Craft, Crochet and Book Club - restarted back in January. The craft group recycled some lovely Christmas cards into different ones to send to family and friends next Christmas. The crochet group continued with their projects, with some

starting new ones (some taking on ambitious ones – no guessing who! I never learn to go slowly.)

The Book club will be reading *My One Truth North* by Milly Johnson: A book about two people who meet at a grief counselling group and their journey together.

In February we have our first evening meeting of 2025 with a talk by John Vigar titled "Leave No Stone Unturned". John has been a regular tutor at our Denman College and is now part of the Denman at Home programme. His lectures range from a variety of architecture to social history studies. His talk will be on the lives and burials of the famous and infamous. We have already had a couple of talks from John and always find them informative and interesting. We are also having a competition that evening - "A Decorated Stone" - I am sure that with our talented ladies we are going to have quite an assortment.

We also are planning a trip to King's Lynn Museum to see their exhibition "Woof": a Celebration of Dogs". It features a wide range of objects and artworks to explore the different roles dogs have played in our lives from ages past to modern day. This, I am sure, will be most interesting, especially to those of us who have a four-legged member of the family. Perhaps I may be able to understand why my dog does some of the things he does after this.

Our programme of speakers for 2025 is as follows

February	"No Stone Unturned" by John Vigar
March	Magpie Riding for the Disabled by Caroline Dudley
May	Medical Detection Dogs by Norma Howell
June	"How to become a Roman Empress" by Ralph Jackman
July	"The Darker Side of Lynn" by King's Lynn Town Guides
August	"Wise Owl and Barn Owl" by Angela Canning
September	"Carol's Capers, Adventuring for Charity" by Carol Marsden
October	An Introduction to Reflexology by Penny Simmon

We would love to see you if any of the above are of interest. Posters advertising the above will be displayed around the village with timings and venues.

Our monthly meetings are mostly held on the third Wednesday of every month in St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham at 7.15pm.

If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening W.I. please contact Katrina on 01485 544773 or Ann on 01485 542847.□

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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 – I have heard on the media that many older people are entitled to but are not claiming Pension Credit. How do I find out about it?

Answer – The simplest way is to Google 'Pension Credit – How to Claim'- which will give you all the information around eligibility and claiming. If you do not have access to the internet, you can call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 991234 and they can fill in the application for you over the phone (lines are open Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm).

Question – A friend has mentioned that I may be able to claim a Carer's Allowance as I look after my elderly mum who has health problems. Where can I find out details and how much is the weekly benefit?

Answer - The simplest way is to visit the Gov.UK website and search for Carer's Allowance. Eligibility details and how to claim, plus further information, can be found there. You could receive £81.90 a week if you care for at least 35 hours a week and your mum is in receipt of certain benefits.

Question – I think I could benefit from a wheelchair. Can I get one on the NHS? Do I have to pay for maintenance and if it needs repairing? How long does it take to get one and how do I find out if I am eligible?

Answer – Wheelchairs from the NHS are free and maintained and repaired by the NHS at no charge. They do, however, remain the property of the NHS so cannot be handed on. The eligibility is that an individual must, as a result of a permanent disability or medical condition, have a mobility problem that persists for more than six months or require palliative care. A wheelchair should be required for regular use (at least three days per week). The user must be functionally unable to walk and need to use a wheelchair for independent mobility. The first step to see if you can get a prescription for a wheelchair is to visit your GP and explain your needs. The waiting time can vary from a few weeks to three to four months.

Question – What is the fine for misusing a Blue Badge?

Answer - It is a criminal offence to misuse the badge, and doing so can lead to a £1,000 fine or more. Councils take court actions each year for misuse of the badge.

Question - My father, now in his late 70s, has different sized feet. We find it difficult to buy footwear for him other than buying two pairs of shoes in different sizes. My local shoe shop has closed so cannot ask them for any information, can you advise where we could look?

Answer – There are online shoe retailers who can help, one of which is Tripalot. They are an online store providing footwear for those who require odd-sized pairs or just a single shoe, they also sell same sized pairs. Their website is <https://www.tripalot.co.uk>.

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.□



Thinking of joining the club?

On Saturday 1st February we are opening our doors to non-members for the afternoon. So if you've not been in to the club before, or have not been in for a while, come and see the club for yourself. We will have nibbles on the bar, special offers on selected drinks and will be running mini darts and pool tournaments that anyone can join in. All with a bit of music playing.

Our 'Happy Hour' will also be continuing on a Friday from 4.00pm to 7.00pm.

EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH

Saturday 1st February

OPEN DAY - NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

Come and see what we have to offer.

This will be followed by our

NORTHERN STYLE CLUB NIGHT from 7:30pm

Reminiscent of a typical club night 'Up North' there will be three games of Cash Bingo, plus a game of Play Your Cards Right, interspersed with live music with Lee O'Brien.

Thursday 13th February

CASH BINGO

Eyes down at 7:30pm

Saturday 22nd February

CLUB QUIZ NIGHT

Club open from 12 o'clock, Quiz starts at 8:00pm. £2 pp, teams of six maximum.

Saturday 1st March

NORTHERN STYLE CLUB NIGHT

Club open from 12 o'clock, tickets on sale from 7:30pm

Three games of Cash Bingo, plus a game of Play Your Cards Right, interspersed with live music by Lee O'Brien.

Saturday 15th March

MUSIC BINGO WITH AN IRISH THEME (feel free to come dressed with an Irish theme or in green.)

Three games of Music Bingo, with enough time to recognise the song and find the title on your card. It's not important that you know the song, but you can have fun guessing it before the title is announced. The idea is to sing along and help each other.

Saturday 22nd March

CLUB QUIZ NIGHT

Club open from 12 o'clock, Quiz starts at 8:00pm. £2 pp, teams of six maximum.

Saturday 29th March

SHAUN SMALL - SOLO VOCALIST 8:30pm

Please check our Facebook page **@dersinghamsocialclub** for more details and any minor changes to our events. There will be more that will be added!

If you are not on Facebook and would like to be added to our monthly newsletter, please let us have your email address and your name. We would also welcome any suggestions for future events you'd like to see at the club.

You can also email us at **dersinghamsenquiries@gmail.com** with any enquiries regarding membership, hall hire (either daytime or for parties, wakes etc.)□



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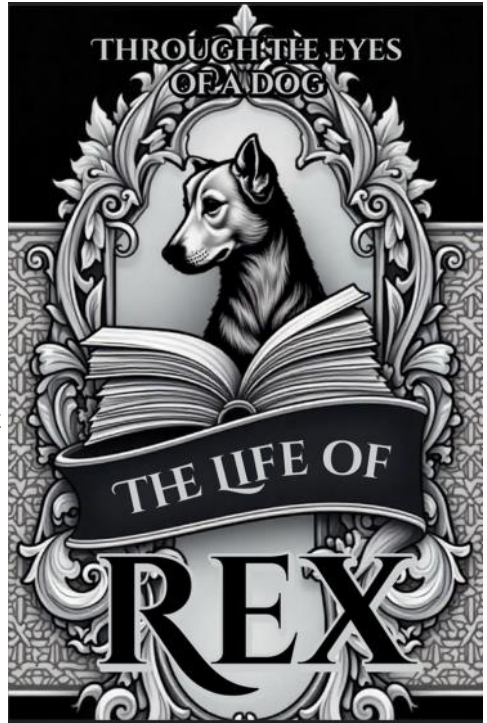
The Life of Rex

Dersingham author, Rex Makemson, has written a book entitled *The Life of Rex*. This is a tale seen through the eyes of a loyal dog – a heartwarming story of love, support and devotion, and the unbreakable bond between a family and their four-legged companion. It also describes the training to become a top Kennel Club Gold Award dog and a trained therapy dog. From joyful beginnings to a bittersweet farewell.

Rex tells us a little about himself: “I’m getting on a bit now and didn’t start training dogs until around 2002. My wife left, and I was alone with Misty. I decided to take her to a local training school, which ultimately turned out to be more about bully training than anything else, something I didn’t like. In the end, I thought I could do better, so I sought out the British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers and enrolled in their courses. I started a training school called Paws Obedience

Training in Dersingham, and also trained at other local village halls, such as those in Rudham and Hunstanton. And that’s where the story begins.”

The book is available through Amazon.□



the ODDFELLOWS SINCE 1810
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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 □

Heacham Recycling Centre and Reuse Shop

For full details go to www.heachamrecycling

Household waste

You now need to book to bring waste to the recycling centre. Booking a slot is free of charge. You can book up to one week before your visit. Book online.

You do not need to book to visit, buy from, or donate to the reuse shop.

This recycling centre accepts household waste. This includes **DIY waste**.

This centre does not accept upholstered seating, tyres, plasterboard or trade waste. Online you can **Find out where you can bring upholstered seating, tyres, plasterboard and trade waste**

Visit **Types of waste we accept** for more information about what you can bring.

Location

Chalkpit Road, Heacham PE31 7JE

Directions

Off the A149 between Heacham and Hunstanton. Take the lay-by that runs behind the petrol station. Get to the recycling centre through metal gates and along the tarmac track running up the hill. There is signposting from the A149.

Arriving on foot

You can visit on foot if you are bringing small amounts of waste directly from home. For safety reasons we don't allow people to park outside the recycling centre and carry waste in. You still need to book your visit - there is an option on the booking form for pedestrians.

Opening times

Open daily 9am - 4pm Open on bank holidays but closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. The recycling centre may be closed for periods of up to 30 minutes during opening hours. This is to allow service vehicles to empty or change the bins.

Reuse shop and items for sale

This site has a reuse shop where you can donate unwanted items or pick up preloved goods at bargain prices. You don't need to book to visit a reuse shop.

You can also buy these items directly from our recycling centres, subject to stock:

- Bags of compost for £4.50 a bag, which contain approximately 40 litres of compost made from recycled garden waste
- Compost bins are £15 for a 220-litre home compost bin and you can buy one and get one half price (limited to 2 per customer)
- Winter gritting salt is £7 for a 26kg bag
- Garden waste sacks are £4 each, for storage and transport of garden waste

The website also gives very useful information on ways to reduce food waste, home composting, avoiding single-use products, opting out of junk mail, where you can recycle soft plastic (Co-Op in Dersingham!).□

St Nicholas Christmas Tree Festival

Village groups came together to continue the tradition of dressing their Christmas trees in time for the Festival which ran for most of December. During this period a series of events took place, with carols, stalls, an appearance by Santa, services and the Bilton Silver annual concert.

A very welcome addition was the recently opened cafe (and toilets!!) and this added a definite buzz to the whole event.





These are just a few of the more than twenty decorated trees.

Dersingham Scouts and Guides celebrate 50 years of their HQ



On Saturday 2nd November 2024, it was 50 years to the day since the Dersingham Scout and Guide HQ was opened. The leaders at the time had spent around ten years fundraising so they could build their HQ, as previously the Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides had been spread throughout the village. The HQ has been a well-loved and well-used home for the Scouts and Guides since 1974. It was important to the leaders in the 1970s that the Scouts and Guides had their own home and it is still just as important today in 2024.



Since 1974, Scouting and Guiding in Dersingham has continued to grow. Immediately after the HQ was opened, a second Brownie pack began, and following the national launch of Beaver Scouts and Rainbow Guides in 1986/87, Dersingham gained its Beaver group and in 1993 the Rainbows began completing the Dersingham Scout and Guide family.



As well as providing a base for the many different adventures that Scouting and Guiding bring, the Dersingham Scouts and Guides also collect newspapers for recycling at their HQ, enabling them to continue to raise money for their HQ. Bundles, bags or boxes of newspaper can be left in the porch any day of the week.

On 2nd November 2024, the Dersingham Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides celebrated their HQ's 50th birthday by unveiling their new sign and by holding a celebratory coffee morning complete with memories, memorabilia and cake. In true Scout and Guide tradition, a celebratory gold necker was presented to each member, with the winning badge design created by a Brownie and a Guide. It was wonderful to welcome former Guiding and Scouting members from 1974, as well as family members of the 1974 leaders and previous leaders, to the HQ for this special event. Everyone enjoyed looking through the scrapbooks, especially current members, who spotted themselves or their Mum, Dad or Grandparent!

We do have some of the celebratory neckers available if anyone would like to buy one - £5. Please contact 01485 544753. To join the Dersingham Scouts visit www.scouts.org.uk or contact tom.wheeler@nwnscouts.org and for Guides visit www.girlguiding.org.uk or contact 01485 544753. □



Dersingham Scout and Guide HQ



50th Anniversary celebrations





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From your Ward Councillors Tony Bubbs and Judy Collingham



The New Year has begun with the main issue for us being how the Borough's governance will be organized in the future. We refer to the question of unitary authorities and elected mayors and can only say at this point that briefing is ongoing and decisions will be made with input from all elected members. However, there is clearly a direction of travel towards more localism, but with less bureaucracy.

We have been invited to a briefing, together with Parish and County people, at Sandringham to discuss arrangements for the concerts to be held there this summer. The Estate events' team have clearly listened to advice and concerns post the last event in 2023 and their planning has very much included Borough suggestions. Once the meeting has taken place, we will keep you informed as to how the event might be handled.

It remains only for us now to wish all in our Ward a Happy and Prosperous New Year and hope that we all keep healthy and positive over the coming months.□

Dersingham Choir Glenys Owen



We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who attended our third Christmas concert. The church hall was filled to capacity and we received such wonderful comments, which makes all our hard work worthwhile. We are thrilled that we have become an integral part of the village and that our concerts are eagerly anticipated.



Our new term, which started on January 9th, sees us rehearsing for our summer concert. The music planned for this concert will have a jazz theme and a date will be announced in the next issue of Village Voice.

In the meantime, have you ever thought about joining a choir? We do not hold auditions and you do not need a 'perfect voice'. The only requirement is that you love singing and want to be part of a friendly, fun group.

You can join the choir at any time and the first session is free and thereafter £5 each week.

For more information, visit our website - www.dersinghamchoir.com.

Everyone is welcome, so come along and see what we do. There is no charge for guests and refreshments are provided during a break, where everyone gets together for a chat. We meet every Thursday from 7pm to 9pm at St Cecilia's Church Hall, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham PE31 6YE.□



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2nd Dersingham Brownies celebrate their 50th birthday

On 14th November 2024, the 2nd Dersingham Brownies celebrated the 50th birthday of their Unit.

Back in 1974 there were so many girls who wanted to be Brownies that Assistant Leader of the 1st Dersingham Brownies, Christine Baker, with friends, Alex Polaine, Pam Smith and later Dorothy Nurse, realised a second unit was needed. The 2nd Dersingham Brownies had their first meeting on 12th November 1974 at the newly opened Scout and Guide HQ in Manor Road, where they have been meeting ever since.

To celebrate such a special birthday, Christine and the other original leaders were invited to share in the 2024 celebration. As well as party games, food and a celebration cake, a unique badge has been produced which everyone received.

Today's Brownies heard about how Brownies enjoyed themselves back in 1974. Although many things may have changed - uniforms, badges and games - Brownies still remains the same, offering girls the chance to make friends, learn new skills, gain badges and enjoy challenging activities that are all part of the family of guiding.

Anyone wishing to be a Rainbow, Brownie or Guide should contact le_wheeler@yahoo.co.uk or visit <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk> □





Events for February and March

COFFEE MORNINGS: Mondays 10.00 a.m. to midday. 3rd and 17th February; 3rd and 17th March. Coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits available to purchase. For information please email farmboy24@sky.com or telephone, text or Whatsapp 07899 872351.

SATURDAY 15th FEBRUARY: GREAT GATSBY VALENTINES PARTY. 7.00 p.m. till late. Admission £6 per person in advance, including cocktail. Prizes for the best Fancy Dress. Casino and fully licensed bar. Tickets on sale at the bar. To book tickets and for further information call or text 07708 769114 by Monday 10th February.

FRIDAY 21st FEBRUARY: FILM NIGHT – *The Critic* (18) – Mystery crime drama starring Ian McKellen, Mark Strong, Lesley Manville and Gemma Arterton. Set in 1930s London, *The Critic* revolves around a feared theatre critic named Jimmy Erskine (Ian McKellen), his loyal assistant, a newspaper owner (Mark Strong) who wants to get rid of the critic, and an actress (Gemma Arterton) who has been devastated by his excoriating theatrical reviews. The critic's determination to survive ensures that the other characters are caught in a web of blackmail, deceit and murder.

Club opens 7.00 p.m. Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £5 at the door. For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465.

FRIDAY 28th FEBRUARY: QUIZ NIGHT. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Licensed bar, raffle. For information Email anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone, text or Whatsapp 07899 872351.

MONDAY 3rd MARCH: BINGO NIGHT. Club opens at 7.00 p.m. "Eyes down" at 7.30 p.m. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a "Flyer Card" and £2 for a "Cash Accumulator" card. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone, text or Whatsapp 07899 872351.

FRIDAY 21st MARCH: FILM NIGHT. *Paddington in Peru* (PG). Starring Hugh Bonneville and Ben Whishaw. Paddington Bear has been living with the Brown family in London for many years now, but he still feels the tug of his Peruvian roots. Hearing that his Aunt Lucy, now living in the Home for Retired Bears, has been missing him terribly, Paddington and the Browns set off to Darkest Peru, only to discover on arrival that Aunt Lucy has disappeared. So off they go into the Amazon to find her, accompanied by a boat captain, Hunter Cabot (Antonio Banderas) and his daughter, Gina. What could possibly go wrong?

Club opens 7.00 p.m. Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £5 at the door. For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465.

SATURDAY 15th MARCH: DARTS and DOMINOES NIGHT. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Games start 7.30 p.m. Fully licensed bar.

FRIDAY 28th MARCH: QUIZ NIGHT. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Licensed bar, raffle. For information email anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone; text or Whatsapp 07899 872351.□

Dersingham Task Force

Dennis Weatherill

Christmas and New Year are now hazy memories for all of us and we Task Force members are in the "closed season" as far as maintaining our two gardens goes.

We had our first ever Task Force Christmas lunch at The Black Horse, Castle Rising, in mid-December. Excellent food and service from the Black Horse staff ensured that we all had a very enjoyable time.



Our final job for 2024 was helping with the St Nicholas Church Christmas Tree Festival, bringing in and erecting the trees in early December, followed by removing the trees and clearing up on New Year's Eve. It's always a pleasure to make this small contribution to a spectacular display.

We will now enter our quiet season while the winter weather makes gardening impossible, but we'll continue to meet socially until we restart in March. We are looking forward to the spring weather! If you think you might like to join us (you don't have to be an expert gardener) then please contact me on 07482 913399 or denzilweatherill@gmail.com. □

Docking Heritage Group

Helena Aldis, Hon. Secretary

Here are some upcoming events arranged by the Docking Heritage Group (DHG):

1. Wednesday February 5th at 7pm at St Mary's Church, Docking: A talk by Neil Oxenbury, a volunteer with HART (Heritage Archaeology Ranger Team) about the work they undertake to monitor archaeological sites from Brancaster to Salhouse along the coast. DHG members free, guests £3.
2. Wednesday March 5th at 7pm at St Mary's Church, Docking: A talk by Adrian Odell - Origins and Development of Norfolk Parish Churches. DHG members free, guests £3.
3. Local History Fair; Docking Village Hall, Sunday and Monday May 4/5th. 10-4pm. Come along and meet with many local history, heritage and archiving groups. Get help with your family history and learn about local projects to uncover our history. □

The Emu and me

Brian Anderson

In 1968, in an earlier phase of my working life, I went to Australia (my goodness, that seems a long time ago) as part of team to launch Skylark sounding rockets into the upper atmosphere in order to study "space weather" and atmospheric chemistry. We flew there in a Bristol Britannia turboprop. It took three days, with short stops at Istanbul, Bombay (as it was then) and Darwin and an overnight stop in Singapore. We landed at Adelaide then boarded a Dakota (DC3) for the rocket base at Woomera. At Woomera we transferred by helicopter (Sud Aviation Alouette 3, I think) - not all at once - we had six in the team, finally landing at the range station of Mirikata. I was now, unknowingly, at the location for my appointment with the Emu.

It's in the nature of this kind of research that you can prepare everything and then have to wait. My role was in the ground-based instrumentation. I took to going out for walks in the surrounding landscape. Mirikata is set in the remote danga (outback). The area was very arid - some bushes with tiny pointed fleshy leaves, but often no vegetation, just the reddish rocks and sand. I fancied that it might be like this on Mars.

On one such walk I noticed something out of the corner of my eye. I turned and there, no more than twenty paces away was an Emu. It is said that at times of perceived threat our senses become acute. I knew that the bird was very close, that it was taller than me, that it had *very big feet with very long claws*, that it was staring fixedly at me and there was no barrier between me and it. I also recalled that they can *run very fast*. Emus are smaller than ostriches, but not much.

Very gradually, I edged away towards the perimeter fence with the Emu keeping pace behind. Once through the gate I could relax. The Emu looked at me through the fence. When I mentioned to one of the permanent staff what had happened he laughed and said, "Oh, that's George. We found him as a chick a year or two ago and Stefan looked after him until could be let go. George comes back sometimes hoping to be fed." I felt a bit silly. □



Could you be our newest firefighter?

The role of the modern firefighter is varied - it includes attending incidents such as road traffic collisions, flooding, searching using the drone, and supporting ambulance colleagues with gaining entry to homes and assisting with emergency response calls for CPR. Sandringham Fire Station is crewed by "on-call firefighters", people that live or work within five minutes of our station and are able to respond to emergencies via an alerter.

If you enjoy teamwork, have good physical fitness, and aren't phased by heights or tight spaces, you might be just what we need to be our next recruit. You must be able to commit to attending crew training drills every Tuesday evening and satisfy at least the minimum required amount of availability each week. Potential recruits must be over eighteen years old and pass a two-week practical course held at Bowthorpe Training Centre near Norwich, then build on those skills with further training courses over a two-year period, working your way to becoming a competent firefighter.

On-call firefighters bring additional valuable skills to their primary employer and community, for example: first-aid training, fire marshalling, staying calm in an emergency, working effectively as a member of a team and learning leadership skills.

If you are interested in learning more about a role as an on-call firefighter, you can learn more about the role and requirements at www.norfolk.gov.uk/oncall; Or you can email the Watch Manager fire-sandringhamwatchmanagers@norfolk.gov.uk or Crew Managers at Fire-SandringhamCrewManagers@norfolk.gov.uk; or visit the fire station on Doddshill Road on a Tuesday evening between 6pm and 9pm.

Dersingham Tennis Club Rosie Russell

It's a New Year, time to take on new opportunities, whilst getting fitter, having fun and meeting new people.

The days are getting longer, warmer and lighter. Now's the time to start tennis in Dersingham, even if you've not played before or for a long time.

The courts are newly cleaned, de-mossed and have new lighting, so once you're a member of DERSINGHAM TENNIS CLUB, you can play anytime with other members, ones you've previously not met or family members who have joined with you.

In the active season, there's an opportunity to attend club sessions, play in league matches – ladies', men's or mixed - and go in the club ballot to get **Wimbledon tickets**.

There's tennis coaching all year round (at a very small additional cost).

So what is stopping you from dusting off that tennis racquet, finding your trainers and flexing those leg and arm muscles?□



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Average daytime
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Average evening
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2



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1



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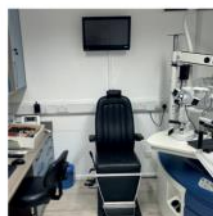
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Historic Cubs and Scouts photos

Charlotte Eglen

Thomas Wheeler was asking in the August/September issue of Village Voice for past photos of Dersingham cubs and scouts. The top picture of the young boys is from the 1940s. The only one I can name is my granddad, Malcolm Nurse, who is second from the right at the back. And the scout leader on the far left at the back - his surname was Fisher.

The photograph of the older men below is from a Dersingham cubs' father and son camp. The names of the men we know are below. I wondered if anyone would be able to name or confirm the names of any of the people in the photographs.



Back row L to R: ? ? Malcolm Nurse John Tansley Doug Goodship
Front row L to R: Sid (Morry) Nobes ? Richmond Paddy Fox Marshall Schorah



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Year End Busyness

The clocks had gone back, the nights were drawing in,
A myriad of activities and plans waiting to fit in.
To the delight of children, the first excitement on the scene
The spooky goings on and dressing up for Halloween.



Following closely behind in almost a week,
Bonfire night's fireworks, which make our animals freak.
The churches bristle with donations celebrating the harvest
Then sending them to food banks... shows charity at its best.

We have our annual vaccine, and its now resident twin
For flu and Covid, an anxious wait to get both arms in.
Poppies now appear for donations, and worn to enhance
Our thanks for those gallant ones, on the Day of Remembrance.



Christmas presents are now being bought at speed,
In between we watch TV for Children in Need.
The cold autumn days, could bring snow showers, a wet or dry d;
Commerce goes wild discounting goods for Black Friday.



Of course there are birthday parties and concerts to attend,
Christmas cards to write or emails to send.
The glorious autumn colours of the falling leaves now spent
Preceding, for the religious, the coming of Advent.

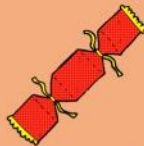
Presents wrapped under the trees splendid with brights,
The planning of Christmas lunch, and other delights;
There will be decorations and food and music galore,
There will be hugs and laughter for the family, and dog, thru' the door.



Drinks and various nibbles, all set out to munch,
The prezzies to be opened with joy before lunch.
The empty boxes were fascinating to the twins,
Grabbing the same one and tugging, till one wins.

The lunch call came for hands to be washed;
The living room was chaotic, like it had been trashed.
Chatter and laughter and crackers were popped,
The eating began, the little ones' drinks slopped.

Looking round the room, Christmas felt so good,
The family at the table, enjoying lots of food.
Finally all done, and back to the gifts and toys,
The "oohs and aahs" made a happy sounding noise.



Bedtime...everyone's settled and lots of things done.
Tomorrow's another holiday, so more eats and fun...
The sleeping dog twitched as I walked through the door.
There was a sound as I shut it...did he fart or was it a snore???



Lorna MMXXIV



We held our annual Christmas party at Old Hunstanton Village Hall on Monday 16th December, which was much enjoyed by all who attended. We enjoyed a light lunch with a festive theme and were entertained by soloist John Rushmer and Hunstanton Voices (Hunstanton Community Choir).

Our January meeting was on Monday 20th January back at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton, when Jan Smith updated us on the situation with hedgehogs and how we can help them.

On Monday 17th February we will be welcoming Allan Howlings who will talk about the ancient Chinese mind-body practice of Tai Chi.

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

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Butterfly report for 2024

Brian Anderson

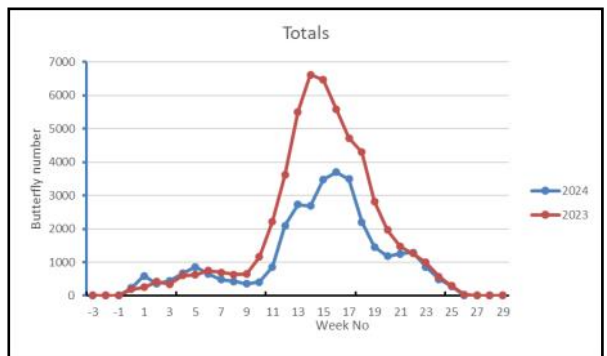
It is undeniable (and many of you have noticed) that 2024 has been a disastrous year for butterflies. The cold wet spring with a wind from the north-east delayed or destroyed the emergence of many of our native species and disrupted the arrival of migrant species like the Painted Lady and Red Admiral. Periods of poor weather during the late spring and summer had a deleterious effect on the breeding success of some species. The rainfall for the first six months was above the long-term average - for March, April and May, significantly above average. The temperature was slightly above normal, but it must be remembered that the normal *daytime* temperature must be considered and that butterflies require a minimum of 18°C if the weather is cloudy. The Big Butterfly Count, organised by Butterfly Conservation and held between 12th July and 4th August illustrates the dire situation for some species:

Species	Percentage fall in numbers since 2023 - Big Butterfly Count	Percentage fall in numbers since 2023 - Norfolk Transect results
Gatekeeper	-17	-46
Large White	-40	-27
Small White	-47	-49
Peacock	-66	-59
Red Admiral	-82	-49
Small Tortoiseshell	-72	-65
Common Blue	-71	-47
Speckled Wood	-1	-24
Comma	-51	-32

The Big Butterfly Count data are for the whole of England. This is the worst count since the scheme started fourteen years ago. The Big Butterfly Count is a useful snapshot of the situation, but the short survey period (only twenty-three days) does put limits on a more detailed statistical analysis.

The all-Norfolk results are for the whole season - these results for all species are shown in the graph – and the drop in numbers for the summation of all species is little short of catastrophic.

Our own transect data showed several weeks where the weather was below the minimum acceptable temperature for recording (and was sometimes raining!) Our transect data does not exactly match the whole England figures nor the sum of all Norfolk transect data (you wouldn't really expect it to.) For instance, the decline in Gatekeeper numbers is less at 9%. The most alarming decline (for it has been going on for a number of years) is that of the Small Tortoiseshell. We are inclined to make the Small Tortoiseshell the subject of the next Focus article while it can still be called common. Holly Blues saw a 52% drop in Norfolk and a massive 80% drop nationally. Based on our garden observations, where the spring brood was good but the summer brood non-existent, weather again proved a deciding factor. Ringlets bucked the trend, where there was 77% increase over 2023, although in Norfolk there was a small drop (10%.)



There are a few glimmers of hope. The Norfolk transect data showed quite healthy increases in numbers of Dark Green Fritillary, Green Hairstreak and Small Heath. Writing in his *Butterfly Watch* column in *The Guardian*, Patrick Barkham (author of *The Butterfly Isles* and President of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust) wrote that, while conceding the dismal



Ringlet



Small Tortoiseshell

season, it is worth noting that some species are moving north in response to a warming climate.

We had a few personal good moments: Silver-washed Fritillaries and Small Coppers appeared again on the transect and we had an unexpectedly large number of Red Admirals in the garden - the last being seen on November 9th. We were hopeful that the big oaks behind our back garden (this was the first summer in this house) would reveal Purple Hairstreaks, but we didn't see any despite our scrutinising the trees with binoculars.

We would like to thank David, Ruth and Beth Pinion, Chris Selby and Jenny Murray, and Lisa Jones for submitting records. □



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Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone, Church Secretary



Happy New Year to you all from everyone at Dersingham Methodist Church.

Thank you to everyone who helped with our fundraising over Christmas. The Christmas Fayre raised £550 for the King's Lynn Night Shelter, and the Christmas services raised £320.50 for Embrace the Middle East, who support schools and care facilities in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria. We also took several bags and boxes of tins, cereals, biscuits, chocolates and toiletries to the Hunstanton Foodbank. All the organisations have sent their grateful thanks.

Our activities in early 2025 are:

Saturday 25th January - coffee morning raising funds for the flower festival.

Saturday 22nd February - coffee morning raising funds for the flower festival.

Saturday 22nd March - coffee morning raising funds for Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged.

The Annual flower festival celebrating the Church's 135th anniversary is Thursday 22nd - Sunday 25th May.

Our usual activities continue - Bowls Club, Wednesdays, 2 - 4 pm, weekly.

Jigsaw club - Third Thursday each month 9.30 - 10.30 am.

Church service - Sunday 10.30 am weekly, followed by coffee, tea and biscuits.

We look forward to welcoming you to our activities and we pray that you will find peace and happiness in 2025.□



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For more information on this service give us a call on 01553 770310.

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Cost:

It is a membership scheme with a choice of an annual membership fee of £35 and a charge of £4.50 per usage, or £90 and free use of the equipment. Non-members and visitors can also hire equipment on a daily or weekly basis and we can arrange longer term hire for people on holiday in the area.

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Sandringham parkrun Malcolm Senior

Sandringham parkrun was back on November 30th after the previous week's cancellation due to Storm Bert! Safety is parkrun's main priority. Gloomy skies for Sandringham parkrun 159 did not deter our brilliant volunteers and participants.

We welcomed "5k Your Way Move Against Cancer" and it was marvellous to see walkers and runners for this group for Movember (Movember is for everyone, not just for men). Move Charity is a supportive community that inspires and empowers people impacted by cancer, including their family, friends and healthcare professionals, to live an active and fulfilling lifestyle. Please come and join us - we meet at Sandringham parkrun the last Saturday of every month to run, walk or just for coffee and great home-made delights!! Admire the beautiful surroundings, but wrap up warm and cosy. A wonderful team enables this to be held. Many thanks to everyone involved.



5K Your Way with Movember moustaches

A huge thanks to our thirty-four super volunteers and a special mention to the Huffers and Puffers. We are always grateful to organisations who do a volunteer take-over. Parkrun cannot take place without volunteers, and if you would like to help, please contact Sandringham parkrun via email: sandringham@parkrun.com or come and sign up on a Saturday morning.

First finisher was Jack Nixon, from Saint Edmunds Pacers - a First Timer to Sandringham, in a great time of 18:23. The first three were all First Timers to Sandringham. First lady was Dawn Robinson, a Ryston Runner, in a time of 22:13. With exactly 200 finishers we had 27 First Timers to Sandringham, but no First Timers to parkrun. PB was achieved by 21 participants, a great performance in slippery conditions. Milestones were achieved by Jasmine Bacon - 25th parkrun, Laura Davie, Nick Leader, and Samantha Hormbrey – 50th parkrun. Well done to all finishers.□



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Dersingham C of E Primary and Nursery School

As we wave goodbye to 2024 and welcome 2025 there is a lot to reflect on over the previous half term. One of the many joys of working in a Primary School is the magic that Christmas provides, and this year was no exception. Year 2 started proceedings with their beautiful Christingle service performed at school to Reception and Year 1 children, and of course to rows of proud, beaming parents, grandparents and carers. The rousing carols and twinkling candles on top of the oranges, lighting up each face, full of concentration and wonder, was a reminder of why this time of year is special. Rev Mark, with his astonishing candle, added to the mystery and delight for all involved.



Reception and Year 1 performed a fabulous Nativity to the school and parents, capturing the story with a mixture of tradition and humour. Watching their professionalism, learning the many lines and songs, and the sheer pleasure at performing in front of a large audience, you could be forgiven for forgetting their tender ages of only 4, 5 and 6! Both classes then went on to The Gables to sing to the residents, who were captivated by their performance.



Our fabulous school choir went carol singing in the community and amid much excitement took part in *A Song for Christmas*, performing on Radio West Norfolk. A very proud moment for the children and the school.

The school was lucky enough to welcome the M&M Theatre Production Company again to watch their hilarious rendition of *Cinderella*. This was generously subsidised by funds raised by our PTFA, who are ever mindful of the importance for children to experience extracurricular and cultural activities to enhance their learning and enjoyment at school.

The PTFA also put on a fabulous Santa Dash, complete with reindeer headdresses, with children racing in mixed teams and receiving prizes. They had organised a non-uniform day in aid of Christmas raffle prizes earlier in the term and this was drawn at the end of

the day, with a wonderful array of gifts. Christmas wouldn't be complete without the big man himself making an appearance, which he did, after lunch on Christmas jumper day. Thanks again to our amazing PTFA, who arranged this.

Finally, on the last day of term, the whole school went to St Nicholas' Church to watch Year 3 perform a selection of songs, poems and a wonderful re-telling of the Nativity. The church looked resplendent with the many Christmas trees and twinkling lights and with a bumper audience of parents and children. Year 3 rounded off 2024 with aplomb!

Sporting news includes a fabulous representation of fifteen children running at Lynnsport in the West Norfolk Cross Country finals. Three children then went forward to the School Games Cross Country finals at Taverham School in Norwich, where they performed magnificently. Our Year 3 runners both finished in the top ten, which is a huge achievement.



Year 5 travelled to West Norfolk Rugby Club, where they represented the school at the Tag Rugby Festival. They braved the cold and literally threw themselves into the event, enjoying every moment! Their team spirit and camaraderie were exceptional!

Braving the cold once more, a hardy group of Year 5 children completed their 3-day Bikeability training. They started in the playground honing their skills, then went out into the village to practise being safe on the road. They were a credit to the school and very proud to receive their certificates and badges.



Alas, the weather put a scupper on the KLTFC Community Cup Football competition, but the boys are raring to go in the new year and looking forward to competing at Lynnsport.



We have been so pleased to welcome our forest school specialist teacher, 'Nana Lavender', back to school and the Year 3, 5 and 6 children have enjoyed making fires with flint and steel and creating beautiful artefacts and Christmas decorations using wood and other natural materials.

The School Council organised another eventful Children in Need Day, with funds being raised for children in this country, as well as worldwide. There was a host of bright, fun outfits on display and activities to complete in class, and as this was also the Panto Day, it was very busy indeed! The Eco Council and School Council joined forces to organise an anti-bullying week, with the theme 'Choose Respect' and classes took part in 'Odd Sock Day', which also included odd boots and a ramble in the woods to support Children in Need, which all took place in the same crazy week!

With the Big Garden Bird Watch and Big School Bird Watch coming up, in conjunction with the RSPB, children's mental health week and more exciting sporting events to look forward to as we return to school after the Christmas break, it looks like the children have another busy term ahead!

Wishing you all a happy, healthy new year from everyone here at Dersingham C of E Primary and Nursery School!



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



The concept of new beginnings holds a deep and transformative significance in life, symbolising opportunities for growth, change, and the pursuit of a greater purpose. In the Christian faith, one of the most profound new beginnings is found in the start of Jesus' ministry. After His baptism by John the Baptist, Jesus embarked on a mission that would change the world, offering a new path of salvation, hope, and redemption to humanity.

As this edition comes through your letter box, the next season of Lent will be upon us, having only recently celebrated Christmas. As an aside, thank you to all those who made the Christmas Tree Festival such a wonderful occasion. Returning to new beginnings: Jesus' ministry begins with His time in the wilderness, where He fasts and overcomes temptation, affirming His devotion to God and readiness to fulfil His divine calling.

This period marks a crucial moment of preparation. Jesus' new beginning symbolises a spiritual renewal for those who follow Him, offering them a chance to leave behind old ways and embrace a new life centred on faith, hope and love. In essence, the beginning of Jesus' ministry reflects the promise of fresh starts - where every believer can begin anew. Jesus' beginning is a reminder that, through faith, we are all invited onto a journey of renewal through the grace of God.

New beginnings can also take the form of new hobbies or interests; there are many available through St Nicholas Church, Dersingham. Have you thought about joining the choir, training provided and an opportunity to help with leading sung services? There is also Knit and Natter, as the name suggests - an opportunity to meet others, chat and create at the same time. There is also St Nicholas Fellowship Group which meets in Orchard Close once a month, with a speaker on a variety of interests, with a cuppa and chance to meet people.

The monthly coffee mornings have returned to St Nicholas Church with a great buzz thanks to the new kitchen and accessible toilets. These are on the first Friday of each month from 10am to 12pm. Finally, The Well Café in Ingoldisthorpe is open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 12:30pm in Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall, Hill Road, offering barista drinks, homemade cakes, a warm place and an opportunity to make or meet new friends. It is proving a great place for a little reward after a local winter's walk.

For the younger people the Little Nippers Baby and Toddler Group has returned. There is a waiting list, but please message on Facebook or Instagram to put your little ones' names down. The church Elevation Youth Group meets Sunday evenings at the Village Centre from 7pm to 8:15pm. Finally, the Youth Café offers free barista drinks and homemade cakes for high school children, and there are optional games and activities available, 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.

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

Sandringham Parish Council

The Parish Council last met on November 13th and the next meeting will be on Tuesday February 4th at 7pm at Wolferton Social Club. We're changing the dates of our meetings from the second Wednesday every third month to the first Tuesday, so that it can better fit with the production deadlines for *Village Voice* in the future. Please do come along to the meeting when, amongst other things, we're hopeful there will be a report on arrangements for this summer's Sandringham Estate concerts.

The main business in November was really useful updates on a wide range of issues from our County Councillor, Stuart Dark. He updated Parish Councillors on meetings between County and Borough Councillors and Sandringham Estate concerning the concerts planned for this coming summer. A meeting was held on January 9th, to which all Parish Councils in the immediate area were invited. This report is being written before that meeting so will be included in the next edition. This, Stuart said, was a clear indication of the Estate and promoters' joint wish to overcome as many of the problems experienced in 2023 as possible, and the Parish Council, was appreciative of their good intentions and efforts.

Stuart is also the Chairman of the County Council for this year, a role which has taken him far and wide across the County, one of the largest in England, and he has dedicated his year to highlight the important role that volunteers play in our community, and through the Parish Council extended his thanks to all those people who volunteer.

Otherwise, the main discussion arose from a question from a member of the public concerning a wish for better communication from the Parish Council. One direct result of this will be to move the meeting dates to better fit the *Village Voice* production deadlines so that information is circulated in a more timely way. Other possible improvements are also being investigated. □

What's on in Wolferton

At the Social Club

Cash Bingo (Please note new time)

Sunday February 2nd Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30 pm

Sunday March 2nd Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30 pm

Prize Bingo

Tuesday February 18th Doors open 6.30 pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Tuesday March 18th Doors open 6.30 pm, eyes down 7.30pm

A date for your diary – Coffee morning

A definite one for your diary, Saturday March 29th from 10am - the annual coffee morning with tombola, raffle, and various stalls, with funds raised split between the Happy Memories Group (for people suffering dementia and their carers) and St Peter's Church in Wolferton.

At St Peter's Church

St Peter's Church, Wolferton looked beautiful with all the Christmas decorations, ready for the celebrations ahead. Our first was the annual Child's Play Nursery carol service on Friday 13th December when we welcomed over 100 of their family and friends. The rain stopped just in time for our carol singing on December 20th. Fifteen hardy souls joined, raising nearly £190.00 for the Children's Society. This was followed by our Carols by Candlelight, raising money for the Purfleet Trust. Christmas at St Peter's was rounded off with our family service on Christmas morning followed by coffee and mince pies to ready ourselves for the rest of the day. A huge thank you to all who helped with flowers, decorations, refreshments, music and readings to make this such a special Christmas.

For dates of services at St Peter's during February and March, please visit the Sandringham Group Churches website. □

Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb



With a year of walks stretching ahead of us there is much to look forward to. We vary the routes as much as possible but if there is a walk you would like to suggest don't be backward in coming forward and letting us know. We hope to see you soon.

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.

Wednesday February 12th at 1.30pm

A tour of the woods and the village of Wolferton of about 4 miles. Starting from the lower bog car park TF 662283. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday February 26th at 1.30pm

A visit to the Houghton estate for a circular walk via the Peddars Way, various field edge paths and winter woodland. There is some walking on minor roads too, so care will be needed. But it's a nice walk and has not been done by the group for several years. Around 4.5 miles. Start point, the junction of the Peddars Way national trail and Anmer Road TF 727285. Anmer Road leads from Anmer village across the B1153 towards Houghton. There is a small car park on the junction with the Peddars Way and more roadside parking a little further on. Leader Stephen Martyn 07879 885516.



Wednesday March 12th at 1.30pm

Sandringham's Country Park is the location of this walk. Brian, Dersingham's answer to "Bigfoot", will lead us on another exploration of this local facility. Start point is the car park on Heath Road TF 686298. Leader Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

Wednesday March 26th at 1.30pm

Starting from Castle Rising we will explore some of the footpaths that lie across the fields around the village. Walkers will need to cross the A149 on part of this route. Start point the Unique car park in the centre of Castle Rising, TF 667347. Leader Stephen Martyn 07879 885516.

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

Thank you to Viceroy Close

The residents of Viceroy Close have continued their tradition of getting together at the beginning of December with a street party and turning on an amazing display of Christmas lights – even more impressive this year!. Word soon spread and families came from miles around to show their children this magical spectacle. Here are a few images, posted by Paris Larham and Jack Coe on the village Facebook site.



Phobbies: Hobbies club for those with and without physical difficulties

Maggie Ponder

Phobbies had a good Christmas celebration, then after a break of two weeks we got back to our routine of meeting every Thursday.

Our membership stands at twenty-three with about half having a disability and the others not. The ages range from 20s up to 80s. We try to arrange art tuition from time to time, with other hobbies being learnt from expertise within the group. Every couple of months we have live music in the afternoon. If you fancy trying your hand at painting, drawing, rug making, knitting, crocheting, paper crafts or anything else, please come and join us. Maybe you have done things in the past and would like to try again or have a half-finished project to complete. The subscription is £2 each week. We provide free tea and coffee, but everyone brings a packed lunch.

We need helpers to assist the less able people as well as those who just want to do their own projects and enjoy the company of others. Even if you wouldn't want to come every week, you are very welcome to just come and visit.

We meet between **10.00am and 2.00pm every Thursday** at the Social Club on Lynn Road in Dersingham. If you are interested just drop in or contact **Maggie** on **07967 799816**. □

Snettisham Gardening Club



We started our 2025 programme with our AGM on Wednesday, January 29th at the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham.

We are giving advance notice that we will be holding our Annual Village Show on Saturday, July 13th, 2025, which 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 are available.

Our speaker on Wednesday, February 26th will be Ash Murray who will talk about Wild West Norfolk (don't worry, no cowboys present.)

On March 26th Stuart Grant will be updating us on keeping bees and will hopefully be able to bring along an observation hive and some honey.

For any further information about the club please call Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754. □

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Have you considered volunteering?

Volunteering is a fantastic way to support people, and research shows that volunteering can boost happiness and confidence. There are plenty of ways to get involved, and anyone, regardless of age, can make a difference.

Volunteering helps build connections, bringing people together and fostering friendships. It's a great way to meet new people, develop skills, and take pride in our communities. Norfolk boasts beautiful countryside, tight-knit villages and bustling market towns and our volunteers help keep this special part of the country strong, united, and supported.

By giving just a few hours a week or more, you can have a real impact on the lives of those around you. You're not only improving life for others but for yourself. Whether it's helping at your local hospital, supporting the vulnerable to stay in their own homes or return home after a hospital stay, or driving them to their non-urgent medical appointments, assisting Voluntary Norfolk behind the scenes or helping with community initiatives, every contribution counts.

Visit Voluntary Norfolk at www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk to explore roles that, with your time and energy, will make a real difference. You'll be amazed by the positive impact you can have and how rewarding it feels to lend a hand! □



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Photo Restoration

Jo Halpin Jones

When I trained as a photographer at the College of West Anglia twenty-five years ago, most of the classes revolved around the dark room, learning the techniques of developing film and watching images emerge from trays of chemicals and water. Whilst it was magic when you got it right, so many times you had to reach for yet more paper and start again.

At that time, digital cameras were starting to become more common, and I bought one from my wonderful tutor, John Hansell, who sadly is no longer with us. And we started to learn how to use Photoshop. I was hooked. But it was a steep learning curve as I was not at all used to using computers. I literally did not know which button to press to turn it on. However, I soon realised that I could achieve in Photoshop in a few seconds what might take me hours in the dark room. A few clicks here and there and I could get the right exposure and sort out the colours.

So, when I left college it was a no brainer that I would choose Photoshop and the digital world rather than impractically converting my bathroom into a dark room and dabbling with all those horrible chemicals.

Since then I have been lucky enough to travel quite a bit, taking a variety of photographs along the way and displaying some in various exhibitions and locations. But I have gradually turned my time more and more towards restoring damaged and faded photographs, usually black and white, but sometimes colour – although it is often difficult to get the latter back to its original condition as the pigment has just vanished over time, usually through overexposure to light.

Back when I started taking photos in the 1950s, the prints were tiny. But if the original image is sharp, it can generally be enlarged quite significantly, to the delight of the owner who can then get a much better view of who or what is depicted. Those old prints are often somewhat damaged, with oily fingerprints, cracks, brown spots, torn areas..... This damage particularly shows up when the photo is enlarged. That's where the restoration process comes in.

Here is one of the first images that I restored and enlarged. It is of my husband's great grandfather. As you can see, the original, which is tiny, is very dark and the detail is pretty much lost. With the magic of Photoshop and some laborious effort, I was able to bring back the detail and blow it up into a much larger picture.



Firstly, the photograph is scanned and then put into Photoshop (there are other pieces of software, but I've always stuck with an ancient version of Photoshop.) Then the painstaking task of taking out the damage begins, pixel by pixel, replacing the damage with a matching section copied from elsewhere in the image. Sometimes I have worked on very large photographs that are too big for my scanner, and I have had to scan in sections and then put it all together, trying to match up all the pieces.

The greatest pleasure comes from seeing people's faces when they see the finished article – if I've done a good job! The photo may be of a loved one, of ancestors, of family holidays from long ago, of a whole myriad of moments in time that have been caught on film but are in sore need of a bit of TLC. It can get quite emotional.□

		Restoration of damaged or faded photographs JO HALPIN JONES 14 Post Office Road Dersingham <i>Ring 01485 541790 for an appointment or email johalpinjones@hotmail.com</i> also: Passport & driving licence photos
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Making Gardening Easier

May Davey

We wish all our members and friends a very happy New Year. We look forward to you all coming to enjoy our talks and outings in 2025. Sue Neil has prepared an exciting programme and is finalising arrangements for later this year.

On Friday 17th January we met at Dersingham Village Centre to hear a talk by Libby Wells, conservation ranger from the Hawk and Owl Trust, about the beaver and peregrine project at Sculthorpe Moor.

On Friday 21st February, again at the Centre, we will hear a talk by Alex from Magpie Gardens about his work as a landscaper and converting gardens into wildlife spaces.

On Friday 21st March we have our AGM, followed by Ash Murray from Norfolk Wildlife Trust who will tell us about bird conservation in Norfolk.

The annual subscription of £12.00 will be due from January and will be collected in February too.

A very merry Christmas dinner was held at Knight's Hill Barn on Friday 20th December. Thirty-four members and friends joined us for a traditional turkey meal. Most people turned out in bright festive jumpers. The Chairman, May Davey, thanked Gloria Pantling, our Secretary, for all her hard work during the year, and Kate Hathaway, for her support on the Committee. Sue Neil was abroad meeting her latest grandchild. Joan Hill also thanked Chris and May Davey for their work on the committee. We toasted absent friends.



Meetings are held at Dersingham Village Centre between 2.00 and 4.00 pm on the third Friday of the month. 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 on 01553-671912.□

**Dersingham Sports Ground Association
New Year – New Event!**

RACE NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE
Saturday March 1st at 7pm

See attached poster! This is an opportunity to support our sports pavilion refurbishment project by attending the above exciting event. You can also purchase a "horse" in advance from Fraser at the Post Office. We hope to run eight or so races, so plenty of horses available in which to invest.

Bring Your Own snacks and drinks, so this should be an evening which is easy on the pocket, though hopefully you will find funds to bet on the superb runners which will be at the starting post.

The DSGA are grateful for any and all support. Don't forget also to check out our website for more ways to contribute.

**For further information
contact Judy Collingham
on 07425 138160 or Emma
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Singalong in the Loft with Steve Davis and others



From Friday 28th February 2025 and thereafter on the last Friday of each month between 2pm and 4pm at the Dersingham Village Centre 'Loft' room, we hope to run an informal *Singalong* of songs: anything from folk, evergreen favourites, to whatever really, and you'd be most welcome to come along and join in. If you'd like to bring along an instrument to strum, pluck, blow, etc, maybe lead a song or two, that'd be a real bonus, although, since there's not a lot of room up in the Loft, let's keep it to unplugged acoustic instruments only, please, with minimal accessory clutter!

The Loft does benefit from having facilities to make an afternoon cuppa and, for those who can't manage the stairs, there is a lift too. Although you'd be welcome to just turn up, it would help planning if you could get in touch to register any interest, especially if you want to bring an instrument.

Further details and updates nearer the time can be found on the Dersingers.uk webpage from where you'll also be able to download my ever-growing PDF 'book' of words to songs I've used or would like to use, giving which key I'd tend to play them in and the occasional helpful chord! If you want, you could bring along a copy of this on your smartphone, tablet, iPad, or I use my Kindle, although I'll have a handful of printed copies with me too, for those who aren't into such technology! I also have a *Dersingers* Facebook page and of course there's the *Dersingham Village Group* page too that I'll share details on.

Please get in touch with me on 07885 721158 or steve.dersingham@gmail.com.

Hope to see you in February!□

Dersingham Day club Bridget Risebrow

We have had a busy few weeks leading up to Christmas - we have been entertained by Merv and Steve, Three Steps To Heaven and also Purple Angels.

We had a Christmas tree in the church with many decorations being made by our members, plus photographs taken throughout the year.

We finished our festivities with caterers cooking our Christmas lunch, which was delicious.

We would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year .



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If you have instructed another estate agent you should consider the terms of any agreement to ensure that you avoid liability for more than one estate agency commission.

King's Lynn Museum

Entry to Lynn Museum is free from 1st October to 31st March. Here are two events taking place in February and March. Full details of the museum's activities can be found online at www.lynnmuseum.norfolk.gov.uk.

Woof: A celebration of dogs

This brand-new exhibition, which runs until 29th June, celebrates our canine companion throughout time. Featuring a wide range of objects and artworks, Woof explores the different roles dogs have played in our lives - as working animals and loyal companions.

Drawing on Norfolk Museums Service's extensive collections, alongside significant loans, the exhibition includes natural history, archaeology, and art works of both local and national importance - including works by renowned artists Sir Edwin Landseer, Andy Warhol and David Hockney.

Probably the first animal to be domesticated, dogs have been our constant companions for many millennia, building an extraordinary bond with humans. Discover how ancient artefacts depicted dogs or wolves from myth and legend including a Roman coin, an Egyptian cartonnage (part of the coffin for a mummy), and an Anglo-Saxon urn.

Explore how artists have celebrated dogs in their role as pets and companions or portrayed their noble and symbolic qualities - from a tender painting of a spaniel curled up in the lap of a young girl, to Andy Warhol's colourful pop-art portrait of a friend's pooch, to a Newfoundland famous for his life-saving exploits. Other intriguing artefacts include Victorian lockable dog collars and a coat woven from the groomed fur of a St Bernard!

Like the paw print on a Roman tile, dogs have left their impression on our imaginations (and hearts) for centuries. Woof celebrates this unique relationship and will delight dog-lovers of all ages.



The White Dog by Vivian Crome, 1883. Norfolk Museums Service (Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery)

Please note: While we love our four-legged friends here at Lynn Museum, the only dogs we can accommodate on site are Assistance dogs.

Ancient Egyptians – family event

This February half-term, on Thursday 20th February, explore the world of Ancient Egypt with real artefacts, learn the secrets of mummification, and try your hand at some ancient jewellery.

Activities run between 10am-12.30pm and 1.30-4pm, with a break for lunch. Admission is free, but booking is recommended.□



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Sandringham Estate News



Luminate Winter Light Trail during November and December was widely attended, and we would like to thank those of you who visited with family and friends for supporting the event again.

Whilst Sandringham House remains closed until April, the Gardens will reopen over February half term week (15th – 23th February) and on select weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) in March. Snowdrops should be a spectacular sight this year and other early spring planting and flowers will also be starting to bloom. The Gardens have seen changes over the last eighteen months with the addition of the Topiary Garden, the Lower Maze Garden and more recently the Sundial Garden, making 2025 an exciting year to visit the inspiring new developments.



Inside Sandringham House ballroom from April this year, an exhibition will showcase horticulture and the ongoing relationship between the British Royal Family and The RHS, of which His Majesty The King is now patron.

Bands in the Parkland will return over the summer months with locals such as the Hunstanton Concert Band, Hilgay Silver Brass Band and King's Lynn Brass Band playing - a free event for visitors to listen to at the Courtyard. Sunday lunch is now a favourite at the Sandringham Restaurant, with a selection of local meats provided by Priors Butchers and homemade Yorkshire puddings and vegetables (booking advisable).

We look forward to welcoming you to the Estate in 2025 for another exciting year.

Visit Sandringham: www.sandringhamestate.co.uk □



Bishop Peter has commissioned a Diocesan wide consultation of all parishes on Pastoral Provision, looking forward to the next five to ten years. The Bishop's questionnaire was handed out to parishioners for their responses to be considered. A parish meeting to discuss the collated responses was held on Saturday 11th January and the results sent to the Bishop.

Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a Jubilee year, with the theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope'. He invites all Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world. You can find out more on the CAFOD website, cafod.org.uk.

The Pope's prayer intention for February 2025 is ***For vocations to the priesthood and religious life***; we pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life. The Pope's prayer intention for March 2025 is ***For families in crisis***; we pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

This year's World Day of Prayer meeting is on Saturday March 1st at St Mary's, Heacham Parish Church. Refreshments at 10am with the service starting at 10:30am. The day has been prepared by the Christian women of The Cook Islands. The theme for this year's service is "I made you wonderful." This is, as always, an ecumenical service; all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2pm and there is also a Mothers' Prayers group which meet at 2.30pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE. 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 discussion, 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. The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11am at OLSE Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.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 ☐

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Monday 10th February 2025

Animals - their image in art

Lecturer: Dr John-Paul Stonard

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Monday 10th March 2025

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Lecturer: James Bolton

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Hunstanton & District Camera Club

Malcolm Hayward

Hunstanton & District Camera Club has been running for over forty-five years and is based in an ideal location in the heart of the village at The Community Room in Orchard Close, Dersingham PE31 6LU, just behind the library. Meetings take place on the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30pm. All photography enthusiasts are welcome to join us regardless of level of experience. We strive to help individuals to improve their photography skills and would encourage any interested individuals to come to one of our meetings and find out more about us.

The club provides an opportunity for photographic enthusiasts to mix with like-minded people and to learn new techniques and to share skills. The club organises instruction evenings to improve capability in portraiture and still life work as well as visits out to local events and places of interest. We regularly have visiting speakers, both professional and amateur, giving talks and passing on their expertise. Ian Ward (the professional photographer for K L Magazine) gave a talk on January 16th.

During the past year many club members have taken the opportunity to go to various local events such as the Horse Trials at Sandringham, Holkham Hall deer rut, Roydon Common, Hunstanton Beach, mud driving, speed boats at King's Lynn, etc. Group visits also help individuals to gain experience from other members and enable discussions regarding camera settings and composition.

Competitions are held to compare techniques and to help individuals develop their skills. Pictures are projected or printed and enable members to look at the detailed work of other members.

More information is available from Malcolm Hayward mdhultrasonics@gmail.com or call 07979 503049.

Below are examples of the work of some of our members.



Dan Harvey



Malcolm Hayward



Dan Harvey



Robin Topliss



Malcolm Hayward



Chris Holt



Robin Topliss



Chris Holt

A Doggy Love Affair

Sheila Davies

Jenny pushed her trolley half-heartedly around the supermarket. It was Saturday afternoon and the shop was fairly quiet, which suited her lazy mood. She hadn't done a lot at all today, promising herself she would buck up tomorrow. Fish or meat for tea, she pondered. Battered fish with a few oven chips would do for today she decided, maybe something a little more ambitious tomorrow. Ambling along, she arrived at the pet food aisle. Would Russ like to sample something new? Mind you, he woofed everything down so fast, she doubted he even had time to taste it!

Russ was her adored little dog of dubious parentage. He had been very much a puppy, a warm sleepy little bundle, when she found him at the local dogs' home. They assured her he wouldn't grow very big, saying he more than likely had some Jack Russell in him. So Russ came into her life. Since then she had encountered so many small dogs, each with their owners declaring, "He had a bit of Jack Russell in him", that she decided Jack must have been a bit of a Cassanova with particularly strong genes scattered far and wide! She made her selection of his usual food and turned to make for the checkout and almost careered into a stand full of Valentine cards. Looking at them, she couldn't recall ever having received a real Valentine card. Oh, there had been the usual joke ones she and her friends had sent each other, supposedly from their current crush, but never one that she had not managed to decipher who it was from. Here she was, now 52, quite contentedly living alone with her little dog. She had a decent job, plenty of friends, and life was pretty good as far as she was concerned. Her married friends had given up on their match making, declaring she was just too fussy, but you couldn't be too fussy on choosing who to spend the rest of your life with, could you? A silly thought suddenly popped into her head. Her friend Carol had a sweet little girl dog, a pug called Lola. Russ and Lola loved their walks together with Jenny and Carol, always greeting each other with great enthusiasm when they met and sniffing around excitedly down the country lanes together. Yes, she decided, Russ would send a card to Lola! She chose a really soppy one with hearts and flowers declaring undying love. She and Carol would giggle about it later. The young checkout girl gave a knowing smirk as she passed the card under the scanner. Jenny glared at her. "OK, Spotty, you may smile," Jenny thought scathingly, "but I wonder how many cards you will receive this year?" Then she immediately berated herself for the unkind thoughts as she recalled the anguish of her own spot-ridden teenage years.

Jenny decided she would need the cover of darkness to creep up to Carol's door unnoticed, so after tea she grabbed Russ's lead and declared "walkies!" Russ danced around excitedly. They didn't normally go out in the dark, the back garden was as far as he usually got for his late night ablutions. This should be fun! Jenny had written on the card "To L from R" and underneath had scrawled, "You're my kind of gal" with a few kisses. It wouldn't take Carol long to work out the sender, but it was a bit of fun.

Russ trotted along briskly beside Carol, stopping now and again to sniff at a lamp post, trying to work out who had visited it last. Never mind, he would leave his calling card for others to discover. Jenny was aware of someone a short distance behind her. As Russ stopped for a sniff, she saw it was a fellow dog walker, male, with a little white dog. As he drew near, the man gave her a shy smile and they made the usual comments about the weather, how glad they were the rain had stopped, and no, it wasn't too cold was it? Then, as his little dog stopped to have a sniff at Russ's calling card, she continued along the street. She was aware they were walking not far behind her. After a while she heard his steps quicken and he called out, "Excuse me, my dear, but you dropped this." In his hand he held out the doggy Valentine. It must have slipped from her pocket whilst

she waited at the lamp post. He held the white envelope out to her and looked at her enquiringly as his eyes fell upon the large heart and kisses she had drawn on the back. Oh dear! He would now think she was some lonely spinster taken to creeping around putting Valentine cards through unsuspecting male doors. Blushing furiously and thinking quickly, she crossed her fingers behind her back and said, "Thank you so much, it's for an elderly lady whose birthday it is tomorrow. She doesn't see many people and gets very lonely," she added, trying desperately to explain away the hearts and kisses. The man gave an understanding smile. "Well, our dogs certainly seem to have taken to each other, don't they?" She looked down. Russ was standing stock still, ears and tail aquiver, his mouth split into a large grin as he gazed adoringly at this vision of canine loveliness before him. She gave a sharp tug of his lead, which he completely ignored. This must be Jack's genes making a sudden appearance! But hang on, this girl in turn was looking at Russ very seductively from under her lashes and wiggling her pert little bottom very suggestively. The brazen hussy! Did she not know he was spoken for? Jenny was just thankful they were not any nearer to Lola's house, for her to witness this blatant display of his infidelity would surely break her heart! "They certainly do", was all she could think of to reply. The man studied her for a second, then seemed to make up his mind as he said, "Actually, you may be able to help me, I'm new to this neighbourhood; maybe you could tell me where the best walks are to take Daisy on." Jenny smiled. "OOh yes, there are lots of lovely lanes for you to discover." They continued along the street, their heads bent together in earnest conversation, Russ strutting jauntily alongside Daisy. St Valentine looked down and gave a contented sigh. "Well," he mused, "that went well, let's see what develops." Valentine cards for dogs indeed! He had far more interesting plans for these two!□

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

CHIN	NOSE	MILAN	GRAMPUS
MIAMI	BOTTLE-NOSED	MOUTH	SHELLEY
PICKFORD	OFFICIAL	BERRY	O'BRIEN
BEARD	EARS	WHITE-BACKED	JAPAN

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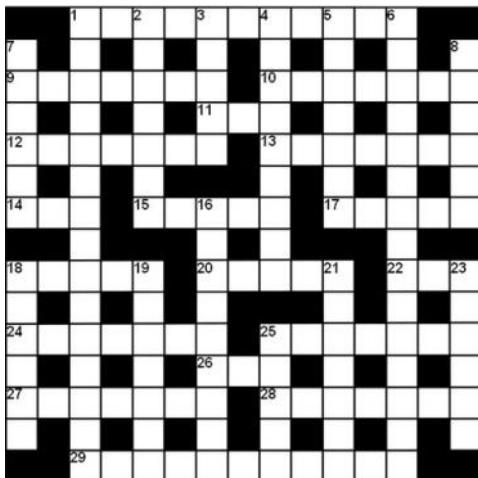
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Across

- 1 Astound by the peace and splendour of a bygone age (7,4)
 9 Can Alma be ordered to find guide book? (7)
 10 Volunteers at gym looking flushed but numbers dwindled (7)
 11 Kiwi confab produce greetings around university (3)
 12 Raise at meeting held around middle of January in hospital dept. (7)
 13 Key Dan used to put the viscount in his picture (3,4)
 14 Agreed within earshot range (3)
 15 Stewed dates fulfilled (5)
 17 Meantime during Sunday in church (5)
 18 Come to the point of county contributions (5)
 20 Good reason for officer to return and collect soldier (5)
 22 Crazy earl leaves sweet wine for a visiting doctor (3)
 24 Build-up caused by knight commander playing in foreign goal (7)
 25 You may have come across (or down) a few examples of s horses chasing a sheep (7)
 26 Chew something over in the middle of Neath (3)
 27 It's found in Mastermind here (7)
 28 Distorted ratio no good comparatively speaking (7)
 29 Designing till one hundred ensign flags (11)

Down

- 1 Actor clumsily snagged Cuban leaders fruit when it is half English (3,4,3,5)
 2 Soldiers drained energy from busy cleaners (7)
 3 Looking back at island from height of boat (5)
 4 Giant dove confused by dingo (6,3)
 5 Joins partnered odds after a very quiet intro. (7)
 6 Dawn chorus (5,3,7)
 7 Sadly returned on line payment (6)
 8 Stick commercial on this spot (6)
 16 Gentle ice creamed and looked good on box (9)
 18 Youngsters surround electricity board's plants (6)
 19 Art formed composition made by old apprentices held in enclosure (7)
 21 I chat with PA cooking pancake (7)
 23 Injury to U.S. lawyer playing game (6)
 25 Many returned to U.S. city islands (5)



Answers on page 72

Sudoku

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

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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Halcyon daze. 9 Almanac. 10 Tapered. 11 Hui. 12 Augment. 13 Van Dyke. 14 Yes. 15 Sated. 17 Since. 18 Conic. 20 Logic. 22 Mad. 24 Backlog. 25 Anagram. 26 Eat. 27 Britain. 28 Orating. 29 Stencilling.

Down

1 Ham eggs and chips. 2 Lancers. 3 Yacht. 4 Native dog. 5 Appends. 6 Early one morning. 7 Salary. 8 Adhere. 16 Telegenic. 18 Cubebs. 19 Collage. 21 Chapati. 23 Damage. 25 Atoll.

Word Wall Answers

...ese: Japan..., Milan..., Chin..., Official...

Facial features: Nose, Ears, Mouth, Beard

Dolphins: Miami, Bottle-necked, White-backed, Grampus

Well known Marys: Berry (cook), Pickford (actress), Shelley (writer), O'Brien (singer, also known as Dusty Springfield)

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. 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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