

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



The End of an Era

Closure of Dersingham Post Office

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Editor's Notes Jo Halpin Jones



A SOLID WEEK OF SUNSHINE – that's what we're experiencing as I write this. What a joy after the rather bleak and grey winter we have had. I've been going round blocking every conceivable gap to keep the muntjacs at bay so that not all my crocuses are devoured. But the dear little creatures (hmmm....) just seem to jump higher and higher.

As you will see from our front cover, it is the end of an era - in years to come people may wonder why there is a street called Post Office Road. It is possible another location may be found in the village for this extremely useful facility, but previous efforts have not been successful. We can now do our banking with silent ATM machines, sort out parcels online, buy stamps with online groceries. But I shall miss bumping into friends in the PO queue, getting books from the "library", reading the ads, picking up leaflets, buying tickets for community functions, and having chats with Fraser and Maria. Face to face interaction with other human beings is becoming increasingly scarce in the commercial world. Do keep looking at the Parish Council website to see if there is any news of a mobile post office coming to the village in the future.

It's going to be a busy couple of months: the village will be marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day with an event at the Village Centre and the lighting of a beacon on the Recreation Ground; the Methodist Church will hold its Flower Festival; there is a Craft and Gift Fair at the DVC; various groups are getting going again, such as the gardening Task Force and the Institute Bowls; and Pebbles the donkey will appear at St Nicholas Church on Palm Sunday. And just to let you know, the Dersingham Evening WI has moved to Orchard Close. Details of all the above can be found inside.

Going a little further afield, there are two art exhibitions taking place in Lynn: several Dersingham artists are members of the West Norfolk Artists Association which has now opened its second exhibition – *Spring Fever* - at the very impressive new gallery at Chequer House in King Street. Just across the road in the Custom House, Greyfriars Art Space also has a new exhibition.□



**Greyfriars Art Spaces
Gallery**



By Katrine Cousins

**Custom House, Purfleet Quay,
King's Lynn, PE30 1HP**
Come visit our Members Showcase
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**SPRING
FEVER**
ART EXHIBITION

1ST MARCH
TO
11TH MAY

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10AM - 4PM

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www.chequerhousegallery.co.uk

Waxwings in Dersingham

These two superb photographs of a Waxwing have been sent in by Les Bunyan. He tells us that it was seen on Lynn Road on February 17th and that they have been very scarce this winter. Since then, groups of people have been seen lurking on the pavement, binoculars at the ready!!□



Snettisham Art Group



2025 EASTER ART EXHIBITION

with associated crafts will
be held at the British Legion Hall,
Church Road, Snettisham

Bank Holiday Friday to Monday

18th to 21st April

OPEN

from 10.00am until 5.30pm each day

Entry Free - Donations welcomed for British Legion
Telephone Les. on 01485 572370 for further details

Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



At last, after what has seemed like a very long wet winter spring seems to have arrived, at least at time of writing! We can all now look forward to getting out into our gardens and enjoying our lovely village, despite the increasingly turbulent times.

This brings me to a couple of issues that I am asking you to help us with that are affecting the village. Firstly, the issue of parking partly on the pavement. I appreciate that those that do are concerned to protect their cars but please, please if you have been parking on the pavement I would ask that you have a thought for pedestrians. Parking partly or wholly on the pavement makes it difficult, if not impossible, for pedestrians to use the path and very often they have to walk out onto the road to get around the cars. This is dangerous for all pedestrians but especially for those with young children and those less able and particularly after dark. Please avoid doing so whenever you can and ask visitors and those delivering to your house not to park on the pavement.

Secondly the constant problem of dog poo, a reminder that the Parish Council provides 31 dog waste bins around the village. I know that most people do but please remember to pick up after your dog. It is not pleasant to leave it on paths and grassed areas as someone may walk on it and it could lead to a nasty fall. When walking your dog around the village please remember that dogs are not allowed into the Childrens play area and must be kept on leads elsewhere at the Recreation Ground. Also, the Sports Ground is for the playing of team sports, it is not an area for allowing dogs to run free. Please again remember to keep dogs on leads if you go to the Sports Ground and try to walk around the edge of the field.

In the last edition I explained about the process of setting the Parish Council budget for the upcoming financial year and the precept. We have been able to take advantage of the doubling of tax for second homeowners and therefore the amount paid by a band D home (other than a second home) will remain the same as last year. This means that we will be able to maintain the level of services to the village.

The village sign close to the junction of Lynn Road and Heath Road will shortly be taken away for repair and repainting. It had started to fade and was looking a little sorry for itself so we approached several contractors and we have appointed a specialist to carry out the work. The work will take several weeks but when returned will look as good as new.

The Parish Council will be marking the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with the lighting of a beacon at the Recreation Ground on Thursday 8th May at 9.30pm. Please check our website and noticeboards for further details closer to the time.

Last, but certainly not least, by the time you read this our village post office will have closed. Much has been written elsewhere in this magazine about the history of the post office and the work done by Fraser and Maria (and Frasers father before him). The post office is a vital facility for the village and if you are not aware the post office is seeking a replacement postmaster. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fraser and Maria for their unstinting service to the village and being able to remain cheerful in the face of adversity. The village won't be the same and they will both be sorely missed. We wish them well in their future endeavours. □



News from Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

Thursday Coffee Shop

We enjoy catching 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, and the occasional 'special', hot and cold drinks, and great banter with our baristas. We also offer take-outs. Tapping House take over on the first Thursday each month, with a slightly different menu, and the proceeds support the excellent 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

It's hard to believe that we celebrate ten years of Dersingham Village Cinema in April, with the showing of *A Royal Night Out*. This ties in nicely with the lead up to VE80 – see below. I remember having to collect all the equipment from another community cinema, usually Sheringham, then pass it on to the next one. We had to set it all up, with speaker wires trailing round the then Church Hall, and it was vital to make sure the DVD player was connected correctly to the amplifier and projector. Those were the days! Thankfully we were able to purchase our own kit in 2016. In May the film is *Conclave*, which won several BAFTA awards.

Events

We owe huge thanks to Fraser and Maria Lindsay who sold event tickets for us. It will be a sad day when they close, but we wish them well for the future and whatever it brings.

We are marking VE80 with an anniversary event on Saturday May 10th. Miss Sarah Jane is leading the entertainment, and a street party style menu will be served, catered by Good Tastes. Check the poster elsewhere in Village Voice for more information and how to book tickets.

The Village Yard Sale takes place on July 20th. Tables will be available in the Centre for those who prefer, and the Pop-Up Café will be serving light refreshments. More information will be available soon.

For more information about the Centre, what's on, contact details, 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. □



The Well Café

Barista drinks and home-made cakes

9.00am - 12.30pm

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall,
Hill Road, PE31 6NX

www.atthewell.org.uk





The World Day of Prayer Service was held on Saturday 1st March at St Mary's Parish Church, Heacham. It was a very joyous occasion and well attended. Thanks go to the team who organised the occasion, readings, refreshments, and all who helped.

Sister Mary has invited children from both churches in the parish, Our Lady and St. Edmund's Church Hunstanton and St. Cecilia Dersingham, to participate in our **Lenten children's Liturgy** to be held at OLSE. This will include reading Sunday's Gospel for the following day, various activities and games, refreshments and much more. The idea of this gathering is to help the children understand the message of Christ in the Gospel, to get to know each other and to build up friendships. The first session started at 2:15 pm on Saturday 8th March 2025. All children are welcome. Hopefully this will continue on Saturdays after Lent if it proves successful. Speaking of children, you may have missed a programme on BBC1 on 28th January about children preparing for and receiving their **First Holy Communion**. The programme is still on BBCiPlayer. It prompts much reflection and is definitely worth a watch.

There is a programme of Ecumenical Lenten Lunches in conjunction with the churches in our area. All are welcome. See the notices in both churches for details of dates and venues. We will also have **Stations of The Cross** at OLSE, after the 10am Mass on Fridays during Lent, from 21st March to 11th April, and at 6pm on Good Friday.

The Easter services are as follows: Maundy Thursday 17th April - 4pm at OLSE. Good Friday 18th April - 3pm at OLSE. Easter Vigil Saturday 19th April - 8pm at OLSE. Easter Sunday services at normal Sunday times at both churches, see below.

The Pope's prayer intention for April 2025: **For the use of the new technologies**; we pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times. The Pope's prayer intention for May 2025: **For working conditions**; we pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanised.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2pm. Also a Mothers' Prayers group which meet at 2.30pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE. Another group meets on the last Friday of the month for Spiritual Formation. This could be about a specific Saint or Synodal discussions, prayers, or anything that people want to suggest. All are welcome, refreshments are available, see 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 us your email. There is a form in both church porches to fill in your details to welcome you to the parish. Feel free to ask if you can't see them.

For Parish news including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the **Parish News** page on our website. For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters see the **Links** page of our website at www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.uk. The Sunday Masses are at 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, telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email parishpriest763@gmail.com

DVCA 80th VE Day Event 2025

Graham Eley

The end of World War II was declared on 8th May 1945. To recognise that occasion, 80 years ago, the Dersingham Village Centre Association (DVCA) is organising a "VE 80th Anniversary Party" in the Village Centre on Saturday 10th May.

What will be there and when:

- The Main Hall will be decorated with bunting and flags etc.
- The tables will be dressed in look back to the 40's themes.
- The food items will be party style of the 1940's era.
- The Main Hall will be open for arrivals at 7:00pm.
- Guests will be requested to take their seats by 7:30pm when the food will be served.
- The entertainment will be by 'Miss Sarah-Jane, the 1940's singer' – the first session will follow at 8:30pm through to 10:30pm.
- Before Miss Sarah-Jane takes the stage there will be some demonstration / tuition in the popular dance styles of the period so you will be able to take to the floor while she sings.

Buy some tickets and come along – suitably dressed in 40's style if you wish to add to the occasion - a Winston Churchill or Captain Mainwaring, for example, or similar wartime character.

Ticket sales are limited and priced at £25. Booking is through Graham Eley on 07901 896102, and the last time to book is Saturday 3rd May.

If you have any items, pictures, etc. that you feel will add to the event, please contact Graham Eley. □

10th ANNIVERSARY!

VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on

Tuesday April 29th at 7:30pm

A ROYAL NIGHT OUT (12A)

Starring: Emily Watson, Rupert Everett, Sarah Gadon, Bel Powley

On VE day, May 8th 1945, Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, against the Queen's wishes, are allowed to join the celebrations. Bored with traditional ceremonies and customs, they decide to sneak out of the palace.



Entry £6 Under 16s £3

Entry includes tea/coffee/squash

Celebratory Nibbles & Fizz

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



VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on

Tuesday May 27th at 7:30pm

CONCLAVE (12A)

Cardinal Lawrence has one of the world's most secretive and ancient events, participating in the selection of a new pope. Surrounded by powerful religious leaders in the halls of the Vatican, he soon uncovers a trail of deep secrets that could shake the very foundation of the Roman Catholic Church.



Entry £6 Under 16s £3

Entry includes tea/coffee/squash

Fruit Juice, Wine, Beer & Cider

available from the Bar



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VE80  VE80

VE DAY ANNIVERSARY

1945 Themed Evening, with Live Music from

MISS SARAH-JANE

The 1940s singer

DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

SATURDAY 10th MAY

7.00pm

1940s Dress Welcome, But Not Compulsory!

Tickets £25

*Including Street Party style finger food served
by Good Tastes*

LICENSED BAR

**Tickets must be reserved in advance
by telephoning Graham Eley 07901 896102**

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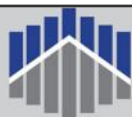
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From your Ward Councillors Tony Bubb and Judy Collingham



At the Borough, we continue to debate the issue of Local Government Reorganisation, a topic that has so far generated more heat than light. Borough wide, the emerging local plan has been inspected and found to be sound and it will be formally adopted soon. This forms the basis for future development in the Borough, of which the Dersingham Ward is a significant part.

A report back on a couple of local issues would seem due:

Sports Pavilion Renovation: The Trustees of the Dersingham Sports Ground Association (of which body Judy Collingham is a member) put in for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to assist with the renovation of the Sports Pavilion. Unfortunately, in spite of great local support for which Judy is particularly grateful, we were unsuccessful in our bid, partly because we could not demonstrate sufficient match funding and partly because our tender process is not fully engaged until we have confirmation of planning permission. Our task now is to raise as much money ourselves as we can to defray necessary professional expenses and then go out to other funders in due course. It is vital that the Sports Pavilion is renovated, particularly as there is ever growing involvement and engagement in football.

Reference has been made again recently to the old **Community Centre** which continues to be an eyesore and a disgrace to our village. The developer had his initial application turned down, and we will be working with the Parish Council to promote next steps. A link to this site and the Doddshill site appears to be off the table; the main issue is the need to facilitate better access to Doddshill from Manor Road.□

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1940s Scouts' Photo

In the last edition of *Village Voice* we printed a photograph of Dersingham Scouts from the 1940s and asked whether anyone knew the names of those photographed. Well, Ivan Green, who is in the photograph, has sent us a full list of all the people in the image.



Back row L to R:

Alec Fisher (Scout Master), Tony Ridley, John Playford, Pat Linford, Derek Asker, Malcolm Nurse, George Franklin (Assistant Scout Master)

Middle row:

John Mitchell, Archie Reid, Owen Green, Joe Jackson, Bob Riches

Front row:

Ivan Green, Bob Dicks, Alan Goff, Peter Hooks, Brian Pike, Trevor Riches, Brian Skipper

Many thanks, Ivan, for filling us in with all those names from the past!!! □

Hunstanton
u3a

There will be no meeting at the Community Hall in April as the date clashes with Easter Monday this year.

However, we will be pleased to welcome you to our May meeting on Monday 19th at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton at 2.00 pm when Sandra Foley will be talking about poetry and her life, including reading some of her own poems. We look forward to seeing you then. □

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Making Gardening Easier May Davey

We were delighted to have a very good audience for our February meeting when we heard a talk by Alex and

Bethany from Magpie Gardens about Alex's work as a landscaper and converting gardens into wildlife spaces. It was well illustrated and very comprehensive. He also brought gifts of rhubarb plants from his garden for our members. Later he answered more questions as he and Bethany kindly helped to serve teas.



Bethany and Alex

Our AGM took place on Friday 21st March, followed by Ash Murray from Norfolk Wildlife Trust who told us about bird conservation in Norfolk. The new committee was elected at this meeting and reports from the Chairman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary were made. A special cream tea was provided.



Sadly, we have to report the death of Pat Scott, a member for some time, who had attended meetings with her daughter Caroline. Her funeral was held at St Cecilia's Church in Dersingham on Wednesday 27th February.

Our April meeting on the 25th will be at St Cecilia's Church on Mountbatten Road. The third Friday, the 18th, is Good Friday and the Village Centre was not available on the 25th. The topic will be "The Life of a Mole".

On 16th May we are going by coach to Cambridge Botanical Gardens. We will leave from opposite St Cecilia's at 10.15 am (10.30 am from South Wootton Hall) and hope to return by about 5.30 pm. Members and guests need to bring a packed lunch, but a tea

will be provided by the Gardens. The outing will be subsidized for members at £25.00 and Guests at £30.00. The more the merrier!

Meetings are held at Dersingham Village Centre between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm on the third Friday of the month. The annual subscription is £12.00. Entrance is £3.00 which includes tea and a raffle ticket. Visitors are very welcome. Do come and see how you like us. Information about talks and the venue can be obtained from our Secretary, Gloria Pantling: 01553-671912.□

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Sally Ingold, Post Office Area Change Manager



We are writing to inform you that, regrettably, following the resignation of the postmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use, the above branch will be closing on Monday 24 March 2025 at 17:30. The provision of a Post Office service to our customers in the local community is important to us, and we will continue to work hard to restore services in the area as soon as possible. We would welcome any applications from potential retail partners interested in running a branch locally on our behalf. The vacancy is currently being advertised on our website www.runapostoffice.co.uk and applications will be carefully considered. If you are aware of any interested parties, please do share the link with them. If you have any questions you would like to raise about this matter, please write to me via the National Consultation Team at the address shown at the end of the letter. Please note that your comments will not be kept confidential unless you expressly ask us to do so by clearly marking them "In Confidence".

Any future changes to service provision would be handled in line with our Principles of Community Engagement. We will display posters in the branch to inform customers. If you are a local representative, it would be helpful if you could share this information through your social media channels and with any local groups or organisations that you know within the community, for example on noticeboards, local charities and in GP surgeries, to help our customers and your constituents understand what is happening to the Post Office in the local community. If you would like a supply of posters, please let us know. We apologise for the inconvenience the closure may cause. We hope that our customers will continue to use Post Office services and details of alternative Post Office branches in the area are shown below. The latest available branch information can be found on our website, www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder.

Nearest alternative Post Office branches

Grimston (in the village stores) PE32 1BD
South Wootton, Units 2-4 Priory Court, St Augustines Way, PE30 3TE.

How to contact us for comments or queries

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		Restoration of damaged or faded photographs JO HALPIN JONES 14 Post Office Road Dersingham <i>Ring for an appointment</i> 01485 541790 Mob: 07765 903344 <i>or email</i> <i>johalpinjones@hotmail.com</i>
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Dersingham Craft and Gift Fairs 2025

Save The Dates: Sunday 13th April Sunday 3rd August Sunday 12th October

Venue: Dersingham Village Centre, 89 Manor Road, Dersingham, PE31 6LN

Time: 10am – 4pm

Raising money for: Breast for Friends; Hunstanton Carers' Stroke Support; The New Sports Pavilion.

Introducing some of our very talented and creative Crafters and Stall Holders:

Amanda Rees - On unpacking a box full of cookery books, Amanda found her Nana's old cookbook. Then lockdown came, the perfect time for Amanda to start making jams from her Nana's old recipes - hence **Nana's Kitchen**.

Charlie Wagg is an Ambassador for **Tropic Skincare**. Charlie loves the products and the company's ethos – cruelty free, vegan friendly, no nasty chemicals, looking after the planet and giving back – 10% of all profit being donated to charity.

Cheryl Daubney opened her Castle Rising boutique, **Allez Chic**, back in 2015 offering ladies' clothing which you couldn't find on the High Street, together with a stylish range of costume jewellery, bags, accessories and shoes.

Claire Bunton – Em's Bakery, Claire's baking took off 15 years ago. Today, she loves baking anything from scones to celebration cakes and afternoon teas.

Claire Ling – Breast of Friends, raises money for the Breast Care unit and Chemo room at the QEH. Claire joined BOF having gone through a mastectomy herself.

Denise Carter – Experience the Existential. Acclaimed medium, Denise will be selling lots of beautiful and unusual spiritual artifacts - Angel, Oracle and Tarot cards, spiritual books, and so much more...

Fiona Hillier. Fiona's floral journey started twenty-two years ago in Kent, where she opened her first shop, successfully running it for eighteen years. In 2022 she relocated to Dersingham where her love of flowers and plants continues with **Hillier Flowers**.

Fran Blaydes - Hazel's Gift Shack. Having retired three years ago, Fran missed the buzz and interaction with people. She started selling homeware items - in particular, doorstops.

Lynn Halifax - Lynn's journey with lace started twenty-two years ago. Lynn runs **Lavender Lace**, a friendly group of lovely ladies who meet every Tuesday at the Village Centre. Much of the group's lace is sold to raise money for various charities - money raised on April 13th going to Hunstanton Carers' Stroke Support.

Laura Knowles discovered her love for needle felting during Covid, creating something which her granddaughters would enjoy. Everything Laura creates is unique, not by pattern. This newfound hobby and passion led to **Laura Loves 2 Felt**.

Mike Simons - Maldon Chocolates is an independent chocolate manufacturer and store formed in 2015 and based in Snettisham. Creating the most delicious treats, they also run interactive chocolate experiences, provide talks, supply bespoke gifts for weddings, parties and corporate functions.

Tarot with Linda – Linda is a Tarot card reader and teacher with many years of experience. She works to bring clarity, insight and guidance in her readings and aims to empower her client to deal with whatever concerns or problems there may be.

Niamh Stafford is the passionate owner of **Curious Crystals Company**. Fascinated by crystals from a young age, Niamh recognized their deeper spiritual and healing properties.

Trudi Griffin - Cards by Trudi. She has been creating fantastic greeting cards for the past ten years, more recently introducing her beautiful wedding journal albums.

Our other crafters include:

Alan Row – Diamond Art; Aime Rottger – Aime's Crystal Crafts and Gifts; Cathy Downs - Creative Crafts; Heleana Holliday – Sweet as Emporium; Louise Davis – Hung up on You; John Edwards – Edwards Leather; Nicola Kite – Just Crafting Around Norfolk; Sheila Whittle Bruce – Stamped by Esme; Sydney Gray – Sydney Grey Cards and Prints. □

Dersingham Craft & Gift Fair

Dersingham Village Centre
83 Manor Road, PE31 6LN

Sunday 13th April
10am - 4pm

Lots of fabulous stalls
and a pop-up café

Free Entry Free Parking

Hosted by
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Dersingham Walking Group **Tony Bubb**

Spring is supposed to be here now so our walks will start at 2pm after the clocks change. We hope that the weather will be with us for the varied routes below. If you need a lift to the start do ring the leader as we can usually help.

Wednesday March 26th at 1.30pm

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.

Wednesday April 9th at 2.00pm

Starting from the Wolf statue near the lighthouse in Hunstanton, we will make our way to the beach and walk along the beach to Holme Norfolk Wildlife Trust tearoom. Along the way we should see a variety of birds - fingers crossed. The return journey will be along the raised bank, passing the golf course, which will give us different views inland and out to sea. Again, we may see a number of birds, arriving back at the Wolf statue. Tides may play a part on the walk along the beach which could cause a detour. Start point TF675420. Leader Brett Thomas 07801 095510.

Wednesday April 23rd at 2.00pm

A visit to the villages of Little and Great Massingham. Start point the car park on the Peddars Way behind the Dogotel kennels at Harpley Dams, TF 771254. About 4.5 miles. Leader Stephen Martyn 07879 885516.

THURSDAY May 15th at 2.00pm

Starting with a walk through Hunstanton Park, we take in a bit of Peddars Way, a bit of coast and a bit of village. Start point is the Old Hunstanton Church car park, TF688420 (a small fee to park). The walk is approximately 4.5 miles. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Hunstanton Hall



Wednesday May 28th at 2.00pm

A visit to the Houghton Estate for a circular walk via the Peddars Way, various field edge paths and woodland. There is some walking on minor roads too, so care will be needed. But, it's a nice walk that was due to be done this February, but heavy rain intervened! Around 4.5 miles. Start point, the junction of the Peddars Way national trail and Anmer Road, TF 727 285. 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.

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. (N.B. The May 15th walk is on a Thursday).□

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 organise 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

Singalong in the Loft Jo Halpin Jones

Well, it's in the loft at the Village Centre for now, but may move downstairs at some point if our numbers grow.

We had our first meeting, organised by Steve Davis, on Friday 28th February and about seventeen people took their seats and then gave their lungs a bit of a workout along with the accompaniment of various musical instruments. It was great. We sang quite an assortment of songs, chosen by the participants. You can see the full song book by using this QR code. For those not familiar with QR codes, this is what you do: Bring up your camera on your mobile phone, hover your phone over the code (you don't actually take a photo), and text will appear in a yellow strip at the bottom saying, "Open in Chrome". Click on that and it will take you right to the song book. The wonders of technology.



Steve was happy to let us choose whatever we wanted to sing and is encouraging us to add more favourites as we go along. We broke for a cuppa half way through and then sang again to finish off.

We shall be meeting on the last Friday in the month from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.



What's on in Wolferton

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Please join us for our Eastertide Services at St Peter's Church, Wolferton:

Palm Sunday 13th April: 9.15am Mattins. We may be joined by a local donkey for this service....

Tuesday 15th April: 7pm Holy Communion

Sunday 27th April: 5pm Holy Communion

Please refer to the Sandringham Group of Parishes website for services to be held at other churches within the group and for Wolferton service details for May.

HERE'S ONE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Saturday 10th May: 10am to 2pm. Wolferton Grand Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

- Bedding plants, shrubs, vegetable plants, strawberry and raspberry plants, herbs, perennials, tomato plants and much more.
- Refreshments at Wolferton Social Club with homemade cakes .

Raising funds for St Peter's Church, Wolferton and St Peter's and St Paul's Church, West Newton.

THE SOCIAL CLUB

Prize Bingo

Tuesday 15th April. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Tuesday 20th May. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Cash Bingo

Sunday 6th April. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Sunday 4th May. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

AND HERE'S ANOTHER ONE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Easter Craft Fair: Saturday 12th April. 10am to 2pm at the Social Club

- Free entry
- Variety of craft stalls, cake stall, Easter Egg tombola, raffle
- Refreshments available

All monies raised will go to Churchill Park Academy, Kings Lynn

£10 a table. There is a limited number available. To book please phone the Social Club on a Friday or Saturday evening after 8pm. Telephone 01485 541919. □

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Sandringham Parish Council

We've changed the dates of our meetings to the first Tuesday of every third month, being May, August, November and February.

Meetings are held at Wolferton Social Club and start at 7pm. All members of the public are very welcome to come along to the meetings. That way they can ask questions of their Councillors and ask for the Council to consider action on issues that may be of concern.

Our last meeting was on 4th February 2025 and as well as a representative from Sandringham Estate we were delighted that two members of the public joined us. The main business discussed included:

- Wolferton village sign should hopefully be replaced with a new one by the time you read this.
- Wolferton bus shelter is due to be put in place on 4th April – for this **Rectory Road will be closed** for up to an hour whilst it is delivered and erected, but the precise time is currently not known.
- The plaque is ready to be fixed to the Queen Elizabeth memorial bench on the corner of Rectory Road and Church Road in Wolferton and arrangements will be made for this to be done soon.
- Our Borough Councillor explained in outline the probable new arrangements for local authorities to be introduced in 2026 and 2027. Whilst nothing is certain yet, it looks likely that the two tiers of local government to which we are all accustomed, being the County Council and Borough (district) Council, will be done away with and replaced by a very much larger Borough Council, amalgamating three or maybe more of the existing districts in Norfolk, and above them a strategic authority covering the whole of Norfolk and Suffolk, led by a directly elected Mayor. None of this is set in stone yet.
- We have vacancies for Councillors to join us and if you are interested why not come along to our next meeting, which is the **Annual General Meeting**. Learn how the Council works, speak to Councillors and express your interest. We would be particularly keen to have volunteers from Babingley and West Newton join us.
- The Sandringham Estate representative updated the Council about the outline arrangements for this year's Sandringham concerts which are to be held on four consecutive nights, 14th to 17th August. There will be a concerted effort to improve the way traffic flows in the area on concert days and also on much better advance communication with local residents and businesses.
- Members of the public asked questions about safety matters concerning traffic on the A149. The Council heard of previous attempts to have the road layout improved, which led only to the 50mph speed limit but no physical improvements. Councillors agreed that the Chairman should write to Stuart Dark, our County Councillor, and ask him to meet us to discuss further what can be done.

The next meeting will be held in Wolferton Social Club on Tuesday 6th May, starting 7pm. □



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Dersingham Task Force

Clare Bee

By the time you read this, the cold dark days of winter will hopefully be a distant memory, and spring will be showing her welcoming face. But March can be a fickle month, one moment teasing us with warm sunny days, then suddenly bringing back cold blustery days, reminding us that it's not quite time to put those winter woollies away.

At Task Force, we look forward to March, as it's the time when we get back to doing what we like best – gardening! We look after two flower beds in the village: one at the Chapel Road end of Post Office Road and the other in the playground, next to Bank Road. We're hoping that the shrubs we planted in Post Office Road (bought with a kind donation from the Parish Council) have weathered the cold frosty winter days and are beginning to settle into their new homes. The daffodils we planted in both beds should also be flowering by now, brightening the days with their cheerful yellow blooms.



A birthday celebration at Petals.

We are a small friendly group who enjoy working together to improve and enhance our lovely village, making it welcoming for residents and visitors alike. We meet on alternate Wednesday mornings (invariably rewarding ourselves with a coffee and cake afterwards at Thaxters or Petals!), so if you feel you would like to join us, please contact Dennis Weatherill on 07482 913399 or denzilweatherill@gmail.com. □



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Dersingham Methodist Church
Elizabeth Batstone, Church Secretary

Thank you to everyone who supported our January and February coffee mornings, raising funds for our forthcoming Flower Festival. We were very pleasantly surprised by the large number of people who come to enjoy coffee, chat and shopping and a warm welcome away from cold dreary winter days.



Friday 4th April, quiz afternoon: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm, £5 each, including light refreshments. Quiz master Roger Jackson, funds raised for Tapping House Hospice. Make a note in your diaries and dust off the brains!

Flower Festival and 135th Church Anniversary: Thursday 22nd – Saturday 24th May, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm. Stalls – books, cakes, cards, gifts, plants. Coffee, light refreshments, teas.

Songs of Praise Sunday 25th May: 3.00 pm. Proceeds for the Leprosy Mission and Church Funds. Do come along to look at the flower arrangements and the Church history display, and enjoy the light refreshments and browsing the stalls.

Church activities: The Bowls Club meets on Wednesday afternoons, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm.

Jigsaw club meets on the third Thursday 9.30 am – 10.30 am. 10p per jigsaw borrowed.

Dersingham Methodist Church
PE31 6HP

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Theme: Biblical Occupations

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Donkey Procession

Rev Mark Capron

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



Pebbles the Donkey is again visiting St Nicholas Church, Dersingham on Palm Sunday. Now, a poor donkey joke – be warned! - What is a donkey's favourite party game? Pin the tail on the human!

Moving on swiftly. Apart from a tail on Pebbles the donkey, Pebbles also has the sign of the cross visible on her back. This cross reminds us of the connection between the donkey and Jesus's Passion. On Palm Sunday we remember and celebrate Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, an event profoundly connected to the humble donkey He rode.

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week, leading to the remembrance of Jesus's crucifixion and celebration of His Resurrection. The Gospels, particularly Matthew 21:1-11, recount how Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, which declares: "See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

This animal becomes a powerful symbol of prophecy, peace and humility, embodying the essence of Jesus's message and ministry. This prophecy highlighted the peaceful nature of Jesus's reign. At that time, unlike kings who rode horses in times of war, a donkey symbolized peace. Jesus chose the donkey not as a symbol of earthly power, but as a king of humility and peace, showing that His kingdom was not of this world.

At our churches we receive Palm Crosses as we remember the donkey that carried Jesus. Its quiet, humble presence teaches us about the nature of Jesus Christ's kingship and challenges us to live lives of humility and peace. The donkey, in its unassuming way, shows that greatness often arises from the most unexpected places.

On Sunday 13th April from 9:30am Pebbles the Donkey will be in St Nicholas Court, looking forward to being greeted by children and adults alike, and fed a bountiful feast of carrots! Pebbles will then lead us into St Nicholas Church for our special combined service which begins at 10:00am, all very welcome. Please check www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk for all Holy Week and Easter services.

Book Club at the Well Café, Ingoldisthorpe

On the second Wednesday of each month a new book club has begun meeting at the Well Café (in the Church Hall), Hill Road, Ingoldisthorpe. In March we began with C. S. Lewis' wonderful *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. On Wednesday April 9th the book will be *The Crossing Places* by Elly Griffiths, which is set in North Norfolk. Anyone is welcome to come and be a part of this informal book club, providing an opportunity to meet friends, both familiar and new. We look forward to welcoming you at the book club at the Well Café on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00am.

Happy Easter!

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



Our Post Office Elizabeth Fiddick

The following is a combined article taken from Village Voice issues published in April 2016 (No. 99) and June 2016 (No. 100).

The Post Office in one form or another has been an important part of our village life for centuries. Fraser, as our present subpostmaster, stands at the head of a line of men and women who have taken care of delivering and collecting our letters, telegrams and parcels, overseeing our money matters and giving help and advice in many other fields stretching back through our village history.

It was at the start of the twentieth century that the village awoke to the sad news of the death of Enoch Beckett who had served the village well for over thirty years in many capacities, but especially as our Postmaster. Enoch established The Post Office in his newly built house in Middle Road, later to be known as Post Office Road, in about 1889. The 1884 map of our village shows that the post office at that time was in the long cottage on the corner of King's Croft. It was from there over many years that Isaac Bunn, then J. L. Adcock, followed by Enoch (until his move to Post Office Road), ran a shop that included the Postal Service. In later years it was known as Cobbald's Shop, then Rice's Stores. There was a laundrette and wine merchants there when I first came to the village. But as the new century dawned, Enoch's daughter, Alice Maud, was the subpostmistress.



Alice Maud Beckett

The postal business was now much more than just the collection and delivery of letters. The Post Office is described as a Money Order, Telegraph Office, Savings Bank and an Annuity and Insurance Office. The parcel post has been established and the mail cart delivers all the post here at 5.30 a.m. each morning. Mail could be collected by callers at 7.00 a.m. and 10.15 p.m. and would be despatched at 10.15 a.m. and 6.20 p.m. There was now a Sunday delivery at 7.00 a.m. and you could send letters out on Sundays at 6.20 p.m. Wall boxes, which were cleared twice a day, had been set up by The Feathers and next to the station. There were still two carriers in the village, Thomas Rudd and George Mitchell, who travelled to Lynn on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, returning the same day.

In 1908, in addition to all these services, we read that the Post Office is now a Telephone Call Office. By 1912 modern life has really arrived as we now have a telephonic Express Delivery office. Moreover, some of the residents have their own telephones. Alfred William Maxey, grocer, assistant overseer, Income Tax Collector and clerk to the Parish Council can be contacted on Telephone Number 3. John William Parker, who ran the drapers, grocers, and boot and shoe warehouse at the bottom of Sandringham Hill could be contacted on telephone number 4. You could ring George Riches, the builder, on telephone number 5 and telegrams were to be sent to "Riches".

By 1916 mail still arrives from London through Lynn by mail cart, but wall boxes now have their own listings. In addition to the ones at the station there is now one at Heath

Road, another one in Station Road, and yet another at the School House. Over the next few years more businesses have their own phone lines installed, and gradually more private residents also are listed as having a telephone. Eventually, new phenomena began to appear on our streets as technology progressed. The public phone box. It was in 1923 that the GPO held a competition to design a public telephone kiosk. The first design was chosen by 1926, but it was really several years before the design was perfected. One design was intended to be a 24-hour post office with a stamp machine and letter box attached to the back. It was nicknamed *The vermilion giant* and was not a success, as only fifty were ever produced. Nevertheless, it must have been quite exciting for our village when the first public telephone kiosk was erected outside the Post Office. Just like today, I expect the new technology was viewed with a degree of wariness by some in the village. Many areas in the country considered the bright red colour of the kiosks something of an eyesore and they were allowed to paint them alternative colours. This was the case here and I have a photo of Post Office Road showing the telephone box painted a more acceptable white, but as with all the others, it was repainted later in the now more familiar red. Our first telephone exchange was eventually built at the start of Fern Hill and is still there today, although now used for a different purpose.

Alice Beckett watched over the post office as it developed throughout the twenties and thirties. By the early twenties, of course, post arrived by motor mail as the horse drawn coaches were indeed a thing of the distant past, but the locomotive was thriving and more mail, parcels and newspapers were arriving by rail.

Dick Melton recalled that two sisters took over the Post Office after Alice Maud. I have also found references to a Miss Garner as our postmistress and I have found her smiling at the camera in a group photo of the W.I. in 1944. She is also there in a photo of the canteen workers that did such useful work during the war years, but both photos are too small to reproduce here. The sister may have been there also, but under a married name. Miss Garner eventually retired to Fern Hill and Mr. and Mrs. Lee took over. When I arrived in the village, Frank and Enid Baker were in charge, the telephone box was still outside and the side extension was now where all the mail was sorted. The main Post Office had moved into what used to be part of the private house, but it was still quite a small space in which to transact the growing amount of business conducted there.



It was May 1979 when John and Marion Lindsay, with their three children Suzanne, Fraser, and Denise, moved in, and John took over from Frank Baker to become our village postmaster. He was to serve the village with a most friendly efficiency for the next twenty-three years. During his time the population of the village increased quickly, and the decision was taken to extend the premises. In fact, over time two extensions were eventually added to make the Post Office we know today. Fraser tells me that in the early days it was his duty to clean out the telephone box and to collect the money, but changes to the organisation of the Post Office, and of course the new extensions, meant the removal of the telephone box. It was in about 1966 that it was decided that the Post Office should be nationalised and split into two, the Post Office and British Telecom. British Telecom, who were now the owners of the telephone box, as opposed to the Post Office, finally decided to remove the box rather than pay rent to keep it on Mr. Lindsay's land. This meant the second larger extension could be built.

Another job Fraser had in the early days was the delivery of telegrams. As I use my palm size mobile phone, I smile to remember making calls from the public boxes, feeding in your small change and pressing the A and B buttons to make the call. As a child I can remember pressing button A in empty phone boxes to see if the last caller had forgotten to do it to retrieve their money if their call was not connected. Was I alone in doing this? It was in June 2002 that John Lindsay retired and Fraser took over as our postmaster. The sorting office was still in the small original post office but by 2004 it was quite inadequate and larger premises were made in the back garden to cope with the increased business. Later that same year the village woke to the sad news that John Lindsay had passed away. He had served the village from 1979 and presided over a huge increase in business and made substantial changes to the Office. He would be greatly missed by everyone, but Fraser had proved a worthy successor. Sadly, in 2007 Marion Lindsay passed away, so Fraser and Maria continued to serve us alongside Fraser's sister Denise.



And so we come to the present day. Of course change is inevitable and as we use our mobile phones, iPhones, iPads and talk to anyone, anywhere, instantly, it is hard to remember the old dial phones and A and B buttons. We have become used to email instead of letters, direct debits, paperless bills and the speed of communication we take for granted these days. I, certainly, although a latecomer to all this technology, have contributed to the demise of the old system and the Post Office. Yet I cannot help but feel that for all the undoubted benefits of the new ways, something important is being lost and we are all the poorer for it.□

The Light Goes Out

Alan Coleby

The sky over Dersingham and the surrounding area was a dull, drab grey on Monday 13th January 2025. The sombre weather had persisted for days, but the mood it had created turned several shades darker on that morning. News began to circulate that caused shock amongst the residents of the village. The Post Office was closing down. The beating heart of their village, the one place where everyone went, where you would always be sure to find cheerfulness, politeness, sound advice and heart-warming understanding, was going.

The shock became widespread dismay. Within the hour, fifty-four posts appeared on Facebook. All expressed gratitude to Fraser Lindsay and his wife, Maria, paying tribute to their kindness, consideration, patience and generosity. How had it happened? Was it a general policy of closure, or illness, or some kind of personal trouble? There was no rush by Maria on Facebook to deny it, so it must have been true.

A short time ago, the early morning sorting function of the local Post Offices was taken away. Royal Mail was obsessed with re-locations and rearrangements. In Dersingham, it was said that that action alone reduced the sub-postmaster's pay by 40%. It jeopardised the viability of the Post Office itself. "We need a more cost-effective operation," said the officials. "Don't the Post Office's customers just buy its products and services, as with other businesses?" Yes, if buying and selling are all that takes place there. But a lot more goes on than just commercial transactions. Much of the population of Dersingham consists of elderly residents. Were it not for their regular visits to the Post Office, many such people would not go out at all. Without computers, which is the case with many, they could not conduct any of their business online. Certainly, the staff are in business, but it is carried out with the most poignant human understanding.

A few years ago, as I waited in the Post Office, I heard an old lady ask for a top-up for her mobile phone. She said that her daughter had given it to her and had shown her how to use it so that she could keep in touch. Now, she had told her, it needed topping up.

"Yes, Jane, what sort is it?" asked Fraser. In answer, Jane pushed the phone under the grid.

"It's a Vodafone. Do you want five pounds or ten pounds?"

"Five pounds, but could you do it for me?"

"Mmm," came from behind the counter. "I would do it, Jane, but I've just tried to switch it on and there's no power. It needs to be charged up before we can use it."

"Well, could you do that for me?" she asked timidly, apologetically.

Fraser was patient and kind. "Again, I would charge it for you, but you need a plug that you will have got with the phone. You put the three-point plug into a socket, and the pin at the other end of the wire you put into that little hole there. You'll have to do it at home. Ask your daughter to do it for you."

There was a long pause. "Well, if you don't see your daughter and you can't do it, bring your plug in here and I'll charge it for you. Then we can top it up."

"Thank you so much," said Jane softly, and she took back the phone. "I'll try."

A small queue watched in a deep emotional silence as she shuffled to the door. Fraser valued her far more than the money she spent in his Post Office. There is no charge for this service, of course. It is priceless.

There are compelling social reasons for Post Offices to maintain their role as a cohesive force in village communities all over the British Isles. They, along with the local primary school and the churches, are the factors embracing and connecting rural populations everywhere.

Another example of Fraser's use of his Post Office for community benefit is his role in collecting for the Foodbank. Nationally, from the formation of the Trussell Trust in 2000, points of collection of food donations for distribution to desperately poor people have always been the local churches. However, on March 23rd 2020, the churches were forced by law to close. That left no collection point in Dersingham, except for the Co-op, which at that time had its own Fair Share scheme. Fraser offered the services of his shop. Donations poured in from sympathetic residents, who also offered money. The money was collected and also passed on to the King's Lynn Foodbank. Not only that, but Fraser, using the non-Post Office section of his premises, accepted used novels for re-sale along with jigsaws and other puzzles and even bedding plants given by local gardeners. He gave all the money from these enterprises to the Foodbank. The result of this enormous generosity was that, apart from the food donations, he gave the foodbank £3630 in 2020, £3387 in 2021, £4370 in 2022, £4900 in 2023 and £5000 in 2024. This is £21,287 over the five years. To all his other qualities, we have to add 'prolific fundraiser'.

For the twenty-three years Fraser has managed the Post Office, and for the twenty-three years of his father before him, an energy has emanated from No. 8, Post Office Road and has lit up Dersingham with an essence of human qualities of service and a sustainable presence of financial security.

On 24th March 2025 that light goes out – forever.□

Post Office closure Fraser and Maria Lindsay

My family has run Dersingham Post Office for forty-five years. Over these years there have been many ups and downs, such as the "Horizon Scandal", but we have managed to survive.

Unfortunately, the Post Office cannot continue in its current format any longer. Over the Christmas period I had to make the difficult decision to resign.

It has been a privilege for me to have been your subpostmaster for the last twenty-three years, and I thank you all for your custom, support and loyalty through some very difficult times.

Our last day of trading will be March 24th 2025.□



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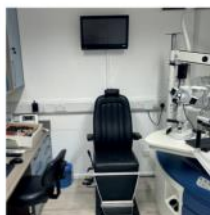
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The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust

Right of reply

In the last edition of Village Voice we published a letter from someone who had had a difficult experience in the QEH A&E on Christmas Day. We wrote that we would ask the QEH for their response, and here it is.

The following is in response to a letter published in Dersingham's Village Voice in January 2025 from an anonymous writer who was highly critical of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) Emergency Department. The letter contained a range of factually inaccurate claims and opinions that may have caused distress and alarm to readers, and, importantly, could have deterred people from seeking urgent medical assistance.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital takes all feedback seriously. Despite an extensive search through our Christmas Day arrival records, we have been unable to identify the author of the letter. We urge the writer, if they are reading this response, to contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) at 01553 613351 or 01553 613343, or by emailing pals@qehkl.nhs.uk.

PALS is our dedicated team that supports patients with any concerns about NHS care and ensures that complaints are thoroughly investigated and responded to within 48 hours. No complaints reflecting the writer's experience have been received.

Christmas Day at the QEH

Emergency Department attendances are at record levels, having increased by 42% over the last decade. In December alone, 1,165 more patients attended compared to December 2023.

On Christmas Day 2024, 192 people attended the department with a wide range of healthcare concerns, from seasonal ailments to life-threatening conditions. This was slightly fewer than the 220 patients seen on an average day. Among the cases were chest pains, potential stroke symptoms, breathing difficulties, as well as falls, back injuries, and urology issues.

In total, 68 patients arrived by ambulance. 50 were admitted to hospital, while the rest were treated and assessed as well enough to return home.

Some of the patients who presented with flu symptoms sought care in the Emergency Department as GPs and pharmacies were closed on Christmas Day. Some were directed here by NHS 111, while others required only reassurance and paracetamol. Every patient is triaged to ensure that clinicians treat those with the most urgent needs first.

The Emergency Department is designed to treat people with serious and life-threatening conditions, such as heart failure, stroke, or uncontrollable bleeding. Some patients arrive by ambulance, others are directed here by their GP or NHS 111, and some walk directly to the hospital.

We treat patients based on the severity and risk to life of their condition. As a result, some patients will wait longer than others if their condition is less clinically urgent.

In October 2023, we opened a newly reconfigured emergency department treatment area, at a cost of £2.7 million, with patient care in mind. This has provided more space for ambulance handovers, improved triage areas for walk-in patients, and a layout that makes it easier for staff to monitor and treat patients. We have also recently added additional seating in the waiting room to accommodate the increase in footfall. However, it is important to recognise that The QEH was built 40 years ago using RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) and has a limited physical footprint.

Patient safety is always our top priority. We would never ask patients to sit in any area outside the Emergency Department where they cannot be monitored by clinical staff, as this would compromise their safety.

Accessing Appropriate Care

We understand that the writer accessed district nursing care, which is likely provided by a community NHS provider, not an acute hospital. The patient was under the care of a district nursing team in London while visiting Norfolk on Christmas Day. District nursing teams do have on-call services for urgent care.

We would like to remind readers that calling NHS 111 is the best option if you need healthcare assistance for non-life-threatening conditions. NHS 111 operators have access to all healthcare services and can provide appropriate advice.

We also offer a GP front-door service from 9am to 9pm every day to assist patients who do not require emergency care.

Addressing Factual Inaccuracies

The QEH does not "hide things under the carpet," as the writer suggests. The writer also asked, "Is nobody available in management?" The answer is yes — senior management is available 365 days a year, including bank holidays and weekends. We have a robust on-call system and clear processes in place to manage large volumes of patients simultaneously, and indeed there was a member of the senior management team on site on Christmas day.

The writer claimed we have no on-call urology or ENT specialists. This is incorrect. We do have on-call medical provision, including ENT and urology services, provided by Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals, who treat patients at the QEH.

The writer also mentioned a "wait time in excess of one year for patients waiting for a referral to the cardiology clinic." As of January 2025, the wait time for cardiology referrals at the QEH ranges from 16 to 48 weeks, with urgent cases prioritised. Please note that these wait times fluctuate weekly and are accurate as of the time of writing.

We hope this response addresses the criticisms raised in the letter and reassures readers of the Dersingham Village Voice that, although some patients may experience wait times in the Emergency Department, we have a dedicated team aiming to provide high-quality care 24 hours a day 365 days of the year.□



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 in the conservatory at 11 a.m. onwards, for coffee, and many stay for lunch.

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 07564 834292. E-mail: alison.schultz@oddfellows.co.uk □

King's Lynn Festival Chorus

The King's Lynn Festival Chorus performs popular works for choir and orchestra by Rutter and Britten in their first concert of the new year on Saturday 5th April 2025.

Although affectionately and popularly known as Santa Claus - largely because of his practice of unprompted gift giving - the story of Saint Nicolas goes far beyond its seasonal associations. Here brought to life in a dramatic cantata by Benjamin Britten, the musical narrative tells the life story of this fourth-century bishop, including such legendary tales as his restoring to life three boys pickled by a butcher - the infamous 'pickled boys' - and others besides. Whether a lover of the work or approaching it for the first time, this vivid and exhilarating tale is not one to miss. The part of Saint Nicolas is sung by Suffolk-born tenor, Jonathan Hanley, whom the chorus is delighted to welcome back.

Ever popular with choirs and audiences alike and one of the country's most prolific composers, John Rutter evokes the spirit and character of another prominent religious figure in his vibrant Magnificat. A joyful and uplifting celebration of the Virgin Mary, the work is packed with Rutter's characteristic melodic richness and rhythmic vitality, blending elements of both traditional choral music and modern idioms with musical influences from around the globe. The chorus is once again joined by The British Sinfonietta - now a popular favourite with our audiences - who make a very welcome return. The concert is conducted by its own Music Director, Ben Horden.

Time: 7:00pm at King's Lynn Minster.
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Dersingham Day Club

Dersingham Day Club members and volunteers had a lively start to the New Year singing, dancing and clapping along with Sean Moyses, aka The Banjo Man, one afternoon, and Caprice Duo another afternoon. We also met at the United Services Club in Hunstanton for a carvery lunch.

There's friendship, chat, board games, dominoes, craft, tea, coffee and a two-course lunch available every Wednesday. If anyone is interested in adding their names to our waiting list, then please call Wendy Raby on 01485 544975 or Maggie Langridge on 01485 543264.



5k Your Way – Move Charity Celebrated its One-Year Anniversary

On February 22nd **5k Your Way (5KYW) 'Move Against Cancer'** group celebrated its one-year anniversary at Sandringham parkrun. 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. We have ambassadors from The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust there each month to welcome people and to walk and talk around the beautiful 5K route in the Royal Parkland. 5K Your Way links in with parkrun, a charity organisation which manages every parkrun event.

Sandringham parkrun started in September 2021 and has gained in popularity since then. Saturday February 22nd in parkrun language is "TuTu" day and for Sandringham parkrun and 5KYW we had plenty of participants wearing TuTu. Thank you as always to all the amazing volunteers from Sandringham parkrun and 5KYW who make the event possible, as well as our ambassadors, who work tirelessly to promote the initiative to patients and their families and accompany people around the route.



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

When and time: Every Saturday; please arrive by 8:30am to 8:40am for the parkrun briefing; event start time is 9:00am.

Where: The event takes place at Sandringham Royal Park, Sandringham, Norfolk, PE35 6AB. We all take part for our own enjoyment. Come along and join in, whatever your pace. We encourage participants to bring friends and family members and increase the number of walkers at parkrun events.

Please register before you first participate. Only ever register with parkrun once and don't forget to bring a scannable copy of your barcode. Car parking for parkrun is free for parkrun until 11:00am.

Sandringham 5K Your Way: Welcomes anyone impacted by cancer. If you or anyone you know has been affected by cancer, please join us.

Participants can walk, jog, run, cheer or volunteer, or sit and have a coffee and enjoy the surroundings.

When: Last Saturday of every month.

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

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



'And all that Jazz'



Dersingham Choir's Summer Concert will have a jazz theme and will feature *And All That Jazz*, *All The Things You Are* and some other traditional songs such as *Go Down*, *Moses* and *Peace Like a River* (Kumbaya tune) with many others.

Performances take place on Thursday 24th July at 7:00pm and on Saturday 26th July at 2:00pm. (Doors open thirty minutes before the start of each performance.)

Refreshments and raffle as usual.

Looking forward to seeing you all again.□



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Events for April and May

COFFEE MORNINGS: Mondays 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. 14th and 28th April, and 12th and 26th May. Coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits available to purchase.

For information please email farmboy24@sky.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.

MONDAY 7th APRIL: 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 11th APRIL: Film Night. Conclave (12A) The double BAFTA winning film starring Ralph Fiennes and Stanley Tucci in a gripping thriller drama based on Robert Harris's best-selling novel about a papal election. Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake - secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church. Club opens at 7.00 p.m. Film starts at 7.30 p.m. Admission £5 at the door.

For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465.

FRIDAY 18th APRIL: Acoustic Music Night. Club opens 7.00 p.m. An evening of local singers and songwriters. Fully licensed bar.

FRIDAY 25th APRIL: Quiz Night. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully licensed bar, raffle.

For information email anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.

MONDAY 12th MAY: Bingo Night. Club opens at 7.00 p.m. "Eyes Down" at 7.30 p.m. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a "Flyer Card" and £2 for a "Cash Accumulator" card. Fully licensed bar and raffle.

For information email anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.

FRIDAY 16th MAY: Film Night. Title to be confirmed.

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 30th MAY: Quiz Night. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully licensed bar, raffle.

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Spreading my Wings

Sheila Davies

It was the summer of 1958, and life was good. Jobs were plentiful, the music scene was brilliant, with Elvis and Buddy Holly topping the charts, and it was a great time to be a teenager. I was working in the office of the local canning factory, and was reasonably content with my life, yet a yearning to see what else the world had to offer, apart from what I had in the sleepy market town I was brought up in, kept surfacing.

My elder sister had left home quite early to go into the Army as a nurse. I knew my limitations, and guessed nursing was not for me, but surely they had a variety of jobs which might suit me? So, one sunny morning, armed with the address I had gleaned from the telephone directory, I set off on the train to the Army recruiting office in Cambridge. I said nothing to my parents; just that I was off out for the day. I sat in the station buffet at Cambridge station watching the world go by and having a luncheon sandwich, then set off to the shopping centre to find the address I needed.

On reaching it, it was in total darkness. Trying the door, I found it was locked. It was closed! My disappointment was keen. I cursed myself for not checking the opening times. Fate, however, had other plans for me. As I dejectedly wandered off around the corner, there, in front of me, brightly lit, welcoming, and very much open, was the Royal Air Force recruiting office! This was obviously meant to be, and set the seal for the next five years, which was to become a highlight of my young life.

I was asked to attend RAF Duxford for my medical; this in itself seemed an adventure. After a couple of weeks I received a letter telling me I had passed my medical and told me to attend RAF Wilmslow in Cheshire for my induction into the Royal Air Force. The first week there you still wore your own civilian clothes and had the choice to decide if the life was for you. A couple of the girls left due to being homesick, but I had no such qualms. I came from quite a large family and life was quite harsh at times; I was brought up in a variety of fenland farmhouses (tied cottages) with very few mod cons (no running water inside or electricity), so being billeted in a large room with around twenty others with just one large fire for heating didn't present much hardship. I immediately enjoyed the comradeship of the other girls, and you were kept so busy learning how to march, making choices as to which branch of the force you would be suitable for, "bull nights" and kit inspections, that I had little time to dwell on my previous home life. The food was plain but wholesome - three cooked meals a day - and you usually fell into bed quite exhausted and were woken up very early. This lasted for six weeks. Then it was on to RAF Compton Bassett in Wiltshire for my trade training. I had decided to go into Signals as I loved communication and technology. This lasted for three months and was pretty intensive. There was no real social life, just the occasional coffee in the NAAFI canteen in your small amount of free time, but this was fine as life was still an adventure with everything being so new. I think you were allowed about two long weekends to go home during this period. At the end of your training, if you passed the necessary exams, you were presented with your Signals flash to proudly sew onto the arm of your uniform.

My first permanent posting was to RAF St Mawgan, just outside Newquay in Cornwall, where I was assured I would have my first "real" taste of the Royal Air Force. I well remember the train journey down to Cornwall. Having only seen the flat fenlands of home, with the occasional Sunday school outing to Hunstanton - although they were charming in their own right - this was very different. As the train took me further west, the rugged headlands and pounding seas of Devon and Cornwall were awe inspiring! I couldn't wait to begin my new life.



In the last few months of my service career, I was posted to RAF Wyton near Huntingdon. We had a visit from the commandant of the WRAF, Dame Jean Conan-Doyle (the daughter of Arthur Conan-Doyle) and I was chosen to meet her. She asked me the obvious question: "Why had I decided to join the WRAF?" I gave the usual answers about wanting to travel and see the world, which were quite true, but decided not to mention the real reason I had chosen the Royal Air Force - because the Army office was closed at the time!□

Little Discoverers receives cheque from Arts Society

The Arts Society North West Norfolk presented a cheque for £500 to Little Discoverers at their 20th anniversary party in Dersingham Village Centre on Saturday February 15th. Little Discoverers offers early therapy and education for children aged 0-5 who have complex needs, movement difficulties and delayed development. Staff work with children through music and singing and through art. The children become so engaged and visibly thrive when rhythm, melody and feeling is used. The organisation offers a vital service to these vulnerable children and their families.

The cheque was presented by Vicky Keith on behalf of the Arts Society NW Norfolk as part of their Young Arts programme in the local area, supporting a variety of projects aimed at giving children the opportunity to experience a range of artistic activity.□



Guidance for seeking care support Able Community Care



Due to budget changes in October 2024 the cost of home care and residential care support has increased. It is suggested that the minimum hourly rate should be approximately £32.14* per hour, up from £28.53 last year. (Higher rates in Greater London).

When arranging care packages, whether privately funded or state-supported, it is essential for families to:

Compare Multiple Providers

- Obtain quotes and information from several care providers
- Research their services thoroughly

Key Questions to Ask

- Total cost breakdown
- Care worker actual wages
- Staff training programs and qualifications
- DBS (Criminal Record Check) verification
- Insurance coverage details
- Out-of-hours support and on-call systems.
- Are there initial registration fees?

Information gives families the power to choose their provider, to ascertain the value of the care support that is being offered, and also to have the knowledge to change providers if they are not happy with the support.

Here are some more questions and answers from Able Community Care:

Question – I wish to appoint two people as my Power of Attorney. What happens if one of the individuals dies, can the one who is left, still carry out my wishes?

Answer - Under Section 13(6)(b) and (7) of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, if multiple attorneys are appointed '**jointly**', the death of one makes the LPA ineffective. However, if appointed '**jointly and severally**', the remaining attorneys can continue their duties.

Question – I want to purchase a pre-paid funeral plan, what advice can I have about purchasing one?

Answer - If you have a pre-paid funeral plan, your provider must be registered with the FCA (Financial Conduct Agency) and authorised to administer your plan. All providers must follow certain rules which include making sure your money is looked after and used responsibly.

The Financial Conduct Authority is controlled by the U.K.'s Treasury and Parliament.

Able Community Care is a Live-in Care provider operating throughout the UK and happy to answer any questions that you may have.

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The Gods and Goddesses of Egypt

Brian Anderson



Let me say at the outset that I am not going to deal with *all* the ancient Egyptian gods. There are a great many of them and I have no wish to upset our editor by requiring the whole edition of the magazine.

My interest in ancient Egypt began (I can remember) in September 1959. I was on holiday in Margate with my parents. One day I found a dusty old second-hand bookshop and on the shelves was *True Ghost Stories* by Cheiro, published in the late 1920s. One of the stories told of the mummy case of an ancient Egyptian priestess which brought misfortune on all those involved with it. Cheiro was the *nom de plume* of William John Warner. I make no comment on the veracity of his story. Such references to Egypt were common enough in the 1920s - Tutankhamen's (or Tutankhamun's) tomb had been discovered in 1922 and Egyptomania swept the world. The awe in which this was held can be illustrated by a quote from R. Austin Freeman's *Mr Pottermack's Oversight*, published in 1930:

"There is always something impressive about the relics of Ancient Egypt. Their vast antiquity, the evidence that they present of strange knowledge - a rather uncanny skill, with suggestions of a state of mind by no means primitive, yet utterly unlike our own, gives them a certain weird quality that makes itself felt by most observers."

The civilisation of ancient Egypt lasted a very long time - from 3150 BCE to 30 BCE. Its capacity to absorb external influences and modify them was probably the most important factor, allowing the survival of religious practices, even if the Pharaohs were Nubian or Greek.

The Egyptians believed that the world was created as a dry space arising out of an ocean of chaos. The commonest Egyptian creation myth is the *Ennead*. Three sibling gods, *Osiris*, *Isis* and *Set* are prominent in this myth. *Set* murders his brother *Osiris*, but *Isis* brings him back to life. *Isis* was considered by the Greeks to be a version of *Aphrodite*, as was *Hathor* (see below). The sun god *Ra* was an essential element, and the god *Ptah* gave the world order, structure and language. The goddess *Ma'at* ensured that truth, justice and order were maintained, and judged the dead, which determined whether the *Ka* and *Ba* (elements of the Egyptian concept of the soul) would be reunited in the afterlife. She is normally depicted with a feather, which she used to weigh the heart of the departed. If the feather is lighter, the *Ka* and *Ba* are not reunited.



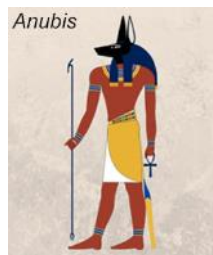
Amun was a god from another creation myth, known as the hidden one, he was a god with many aspects. He was linked to the Pharaohs and was regarded as their spiritual father. In the New Kingdom (1570 BCE) he was linked to the sun god *Ra*, becoming *Amun-Ra*.



Bastet was the goddess of cats, fertility and childbirth. Cats were considered sacred and were frequently mummified and placed in the tombs of the departed. (I pass over the uncomfortable thought that the cats may have been killed to accompany their owners in the afterlife.) *Bastet* is normally depicted as a cat-headed woman. She was believed to guard against evil spirits and disease. She can be seen as a milder version of *Sekhmet*.



Anubis was the god of the afterlife, who guided the dead through the underworld. His rather predatory appearance with a jackal head belies his gentle and caring role with the dead. I once had the experience of meeting an avatar of *Anubis* below the Hunstanton cliffs. We were strolling along when a large brown dog bounded up. I turned and looked at his snout and pointy ears and said, "You're *Anubis*!". A woman's voice from behind said, "He's a Pharaoh hound". Which, I suppose, was quite fitting. If I have a favourite god, it's probably *Anubis*!



Hathor was the goddess of love and joy with the power to protect against illness. Along with *Bastet* she was a milder incarnation of *Sekhmet*. Some images show her as a woman with the head of a cow. All depictions have cow horns, usually as a headdress. More temples were dedicated to *Hathor* than any other Egyptian deity. Egyptian queens invariably wore a headdress including cow horns.

Sekhmet was the goddess of war and strength. She was believed to have power against pestilence and evil. Shown as a lioness-headed woman in her full glory she became, when calm, *Bastet* or *Hathor*.

Thoth was the god of wisdom and knowledge, usually shown as an ibis-headed human. He was known as the originator of hieroglyphs and was a great magician. He was the god of scribes and scholars.

These then are a few of the gods in the Egyptian pantheon. If you total up all the gods, goddesses and lesser deities you find you have about 2000!



But the worship of these gods was not continuous. The Pharaoh *Akhenaton* (1353 - 1336 BCE) abolished the worship of all these gods and dismissed all the priests. In the fifth year of his reign, he replaced this ancient and complex structure with one god - the *Aten*, a version of the sun god. Egyptologists are divided over whether this new religion was monotheistic. The heresy (as it came to be known) did not survive *Akhenaton*. After his death, the old religion was restored.

One notable thing about this pantheon is the emphasis on protection, wisdom and healing. War and violence take a relatively minor role.

When I first read of *Ma'at* judging the dead by weighing the spiritual heart, I was struck by the similarity to "You have been weighed in the balance and found wanting" (Daniel V:27), describing the judgement on Belshazzar. Was the story influenced by Egyptian religion? It could hardly have been the other way round, as the Egyptian religion had already been around for millennia before the Book of Daniel was written (6th century BCE). And there are other pointers.

The creation myth is similar to that given in Genesis. The first humans were made from soil or dust. The use of incense and burnt offerings is the same as in early Judaism. When Egyptian civilisation was already old, the Jewish religion was evolving from Bronze Age Canaanite religion. It is very tempting to think Judaism contains the only surviving elements of Egyptian religion. But I speculate - it is not proof.□

Dersingham Institute Bowls

Jan Rawstron

As I write this on Saturday March 1st, we are, weather permitting, only five weeks away from the start of the 2025/26 bowls season on April 5th. There will be the usual roll-up at 2:00pm after the green is officially opened by our Club President, Keith Richardson.

The draw for the teams in the Dickie Murrell Memorial League (The Birds League) will be made on Saturday May 3rd, with the league itself starting on Wednesday May 14th. Until then, there will be roll-ups at 2:00pm on Wednesday afternoons and of course on Saturdays as usual.

We are eagerly awaiting the fixtures for the Albert Victor and Countryside Leagues, captained this season by Iain Brown and Terry Thompson respectively.

The first trophy of the season, The Edie's Cup, will be competed for on Bank Holiday Monday, May 5th at 2:00pm, but just prior to that we will be holding our club Open Day on Sunday April 27th, weather permitting. If you wonder what lawn bowls involves, and would like to try it out, free of charge, come along and meet us. Just wear flat soled shoes to avoid damage to the green. All equipment will be provided, as will light refreshments. Help will be on hand from some of our experienced members. We look forward to seeing you there between 10:00am and 4:00pm.

We will also be hosting a friendly match against Cliff Parade on Sunday May 18th, which is always a closely fought event, played in good spirits.



After a winter of hard work by our green keeping team, the green is looking lovely, as do the surrounding areas. It will be a joy to be playing outdoors again. Thanks to the team for all your hard work during the winter months when the weather is not the best.

I think that takes us up nicely to the next issue, when more fixtures and results will be available. Meanwhile, we look forward to seeing all our friends, old and new, for the new season.□

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Events for April / May

29th March: 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. (This a change from what was previously advertised.)

5th April: KARAOKE NIGHT. 8:00pm. Following on from the success of our Non-Valentine's Karaoke night we are doing another one. Come along and pick your favourite song. We had everything from Frank Sinatra to Rage Against the Machine last time, with some brilliant performances and some that were entertainingly bad! It is all about the taking part after all!

12th April: 2ND SUNSET. 8:00pm. 2nd Sunset are a local energetic six-piece band, performing a wide range of hits that you know and love and are sure to get you up on your feet and dancing.

19th April: EASTER QUIZ NIGHT. The club will be open from 12 noon. Quiz starts at 8:00pm. £2 pp, teams of six maximum. Cash prize for the winning team.

3rd May: 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.

10th May: CLUB QUIZ NIGHT. The club will be open from 12 noon. Quiz starts at 8:00pm. £2 pp, teams of six maximum. Cash prize for the winning team.

17th May: CHARITY DOG RACING NIGHT in aid of BREAST OF FRIENDS. Tickets on sale from 6:30pm. Races start at 7:30pm. A great night of races and family friendly fun. Bets, raffles and auction will be cash only. All proceeds of the evening go to the QEH Breast Unit and Chemotherapy Unit. Bordoli's Pizzas and Crafty Burger will be attending in the car park

23rd May: THE LAST TRAIN TO LONDON. A Top Rockin' Duet with Big Al on vocals and Georgie on Guitar/Vox and backings. A real mix of tunes from soft rock classics to pop, swing, soul and party anthems. If you've seen Big Al perform at the club before as vocalist for Dead Horse, you will know what a great entertainer he is!

31st May: STYLE BAND. We welcome back Style Band to the club, playing mainly 60s and 70s rock-based, very danceable music. Three 45-minute sets starting at 8:00pm.

Please check our **Facebook page @dersinghamsocialclub** for more details and any minor changes to our events. 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 dersinghamscenquiries@gmail.com with any enquiries regarding membership, hall hire (either daytime or for parties, wakes, etc)□



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Monday 12th May 2025

The Female Gaze - Photography from Julia Margaret Cameron to Lee Miller
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Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy, President



On February 19th our speaker was John Vigar who spoke on “Leave No Stone Unturned” about the lives and burial places of the famous and infamous. John uses their gravestones or memorials as a starting



place for an investigation into their lives. Subjects ranged from Florence Nightingale to Jerome K Jerome and Disraeli, to name but a few. We learnt that Florence Nightingale’s tomb just has her initials on it and no other wording. Disraeli was useless with money and was only able to keep his house because a wealthy widow gave him the money on condition that when she died, she was to be buried with him and his wife. As John pointed out, it would be interesting to know who is in the middle! It was an interesting, informative and amusing talk with images of portraits, houses and churches, all helping us to explore the theme of social history. Next time you take a walk around a graveyard, keep your eyes open for the unusual. It appears that many of our members walk around them, so perhaps a visit to the Hardwick Cemetery will be on the agenda. We also had two new

members join and I hope they will enjoy their time with us.

During the evening, a presentation was made on behalf of our members to our Secretary, Ann Mason, who is stepping down and leaving the W.I. for now. We thanked her for all she has done for our W.I as a member and as our Secretary over the years. I know I, for one, am very grateful for all the support she has given me in my role as President, and we wish her well. Due to this I will now be stepping into the Secretary’s role and Sharon Fettes will stand as our President until our annual meeting in November when a new Committee will be voted in.

On February 12th a group of us visited Lynn Museum to see their exhibition “Woof”. We had an interesting time looking at dogs in art and how we started domesticating our trusted friend. 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 in myth and legend, including a Roman coin, an Egyptian cartonnage (part of the coffin for a mummy), and an Anglo-Saxon urn. The exhibition included natural history and archaeology facts, plus art works, including works by renowned artists Sir Edwin Landseer, Andy Warhol and David Hockney. One very interesting exhibit was a coat a gentleman had made from the fur of his St Bernard dog.



We also had a good look at the Seahenge. This circle of 55 closely fitted oak posts plus its huge central stump was discovered in the Holme beach sands in 1998. It makes one really wonder how they made and transported it, especially the central stump, to its position with only simple tools. I have to confess that this is my first time visiting this lovely small museum, but it will not be my last.

Our groups continue monthly with the book club reading *Death Comes to Marlow* by Robert Thorogood, which is the second book in the *Marlow Murder Club* series. Judith, Suzie and Becks (The Murder Club) are invited to a wedding, but at a party the day before, the groom to be is found crushed to death in his study. It's up to the Murder Club to find his murderer. This is not a series I know but I will certainly be looking out for it now. Robert Thorogood is also the author of the four *Death in Paradise* books of which the TV series is adapted from.

The Craft group made some lovely cards which involved some intricate assembling to enable them to stand up when opened. Babs does keep us on our toes with her ideas. I think next month's are cards suitable for men (I always find it difficult finding the right ones for men, so hopefully these will be stored away for future use.)

The Crochet group missed a meeting in February but will re-meet in March when I for one will have started a new project which will hopefully not be as large as the last one.

On Thursday February 27th our members met for our monthly coffee morning at Sharon's house for a good chat, a lovely cup of coffee/tea and a chance to put the world to rights.

Our speaker for March was Caroline Dudley from Magpie Riding for the Disabled based in Wallington. They offer activities such as riding and carriage driving to people of all ages and disability. They have been based at Wallington Hall for over 30 years. We were told that it costs over £200,000 a year to keep this Centre going and most of this money comes from donations from the public and businesses. Caroline told us how it has been shown that riding increases confidence, boosts communication skills and also helps build relationships. It also aids physical and fitness gains. Caroline also told us of their "Tea with a Pony". Participants can meet/greet a special pony, have time to stroke and talk to it, as well as have a cup of tea at the same time, which is most beneficial, especially to those living with health and mobility difficulties.

Our March coffee morning was at Thaxters Coffee Shop - a chance to indulge in one of their lovely cakes. (I am not trying to work my way through them all.) Our next dining outing will be in April when we are going to try brunch at the Ffolkes Arms, which will be different for us.

Now for some new news: from **March** Dersingham Evening W.I. has been holding our monthly evening meetings in Orchard Close Community Hall from 7.15pm every third Wednesday of the month. We would like to thank St Cecilia's Church for all their help and support over the many years we have been meeting there, especially Stuart, who is always ready to help with any requests we have had.

We are sorry to hear about the closure of two of our local W.I groups - Anmer and Snettisham - and we wish them all best wishes.

Posters advertising all our Evening meetings are displayed around the village with timings and venue. You are invited to come to three of our meetings, which could also be a coffee morning or one of the groups, but on the third visit we ask that you join the W.I if you wish to keep coming. We have a voluntary charge of £4 for guests.

If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening W.I. please contact Katrina on 01485 544773 or Sharon on 01485 543096.□

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We are seeking volunteers for the St John County Fellowship Hospital Library Service (HLS) at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn. Very much in line with our St John Ambulance (SJA) remit, the service provides someone with a friendly face, who is from outside the hospital environment and its routines, and someone who has time to talk and, importantly, to listen. This un-prescribed tonic is very much welcomed by both staff and patients.

I am therefore asking whether any of your *Village Voice* readers might be interested in becoming an HLS Volunteer. Our volunteers work in pairs and spend an hour or so providing this valued service. It is not necessary for volunteers to have, or have had, any connection with SJA, but they will need to become members of the SJA Fellowship, and for insurance cover be registered with the Hospital Volunteer service.

The Hospital Volunteer service will carry out training (mostly online) for the Hospital procedures and a DBS check for Safeguarding purposes

Books are provided by the NCC Library and Information Service. They are ordered by the Senior Volunteer in the hospital. The HLS provide the book trolley and the distinctive burgundy polo shirts for the volunteers to wear. Car parking is free for all volunteers at the hospital whilst they are on duty.

I hope this might light a spark with someone soon and I will be very happy to provide further information to anyone who may wish to know more about this interesting and helpful volunteering role.

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We would love you to be involved.....

The Flower Team at St Nicholas are planning to make a "Cascade of Poppies" to decorate the church for Remembrance Sunday 2025.

To achieve this we need as many poppies as possible. The Poppies can be any textile creation - knitted, crocheted, felted - that can be attached to make the cascade, which will be displayed inside the church.

Patterns can be downloaded from the internet for both knitted and crocheted poppies.

If you would like to join in, or would like more information, please contact Val Coleby on 01485 543481 or Anne Hynde on 01485 540696.

QEH rebuild - what happens now? Gordon Taylor, Save the QEH Campaign Group



On January 20th this year, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to rebuild the QEH in King's Lynn. Great news, you may think, but sadly, it is far from it. The revised plan the Secretary of State for Health announced has a start date of 2028, and a completion date of 2032, at the earliest. So, what's the problem with that, I hear you say.

Going back beyond last year, the management of the hospital made public the news, following surveys, that the current Queen Elizabeth will not be able to operate as a working hospital beyond 2030. That is why for some time there has been a great emphasis on the need for a new building to be completed by this date. In September last year, we were told by the Government that the rebuild would 'proceed at pace'. On January 10th, just ten days before the latest statement was made, the hospital management announced that they expected the new building would be completed by 2030. In addition, they said work on the car park would begin this summer. That will now not be happening this year, and possibly not until 2027.

The MP for South West Norfolk said he was 'delighted' that a date had been set for the building of the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital to begin. Whereas it's good news that we have a start date, it's not exactly re-assuring that the completion date will be at least two years after the current building will have effectively closed its doors for safety reasons. And following this delay in releasing funds for a new hospital, what guarantees are there that this will not be delayed once again?

The question to be asked now is, what is the plan for the two-year period when there will not be an operational hospital in King's Lynn? People that live in this part of Norfolk cannot be expected to make trips to Norwich or even Peterborough for essential care or for operations. What about Accident and Emergency? The new announcement, far from reassuring people about the future of a hospital in King's Lynn, will, if anything, increase their concerns.

The Save the Queen Elizabeth campaign group, of which I am a part, has made the decision to restart our campaign, something we hoped would not be necessary. Politicians from both the two main political parties have been contacted, asking for their comments. We have also invited local MPs and Councillors to meet with members of the group to listen to our concerns later this month □



The West Norfolk Singers

With the pending retirement of our Musical Director later this year, the West Norfolk Singers are looking to find either

a new Musical Director

or alternatively

a new Accompanist

to replace our present accompanist
Loc-Mai Yuen who is prepared to step up as
Musical Director but would prefer not to do
both roles at the same time!

**We rehearse at Heacham Methodist Church
on Wednesdays, 7.15pm to 9.15pm**

Please visit our website at : www.westnorfolksingers.org.uk
If interested, please call our chair — Anne Davis on
07900 320612

She will be delighted to tell you about the activities our
Singers enjoy and discuss with you any possibilities.

Devolution proposal and consultation

**David Wiles, Communications and Engagement Manager,
Borough Council of KL and WNorfolk**

This consultation seeks views on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority for the local government areas of Norfolk and Suffolk.

In December 2024, the government published the [English Devolution White Paper](#). This sets out plans to move power out of Westminster and back to local communities, ensuring that every part of England is covered by devolution.

The local authority leaders from councils have since written to government expressing their interest in taking forward devolution within their area through the establishment of a Mayoral Combined County Authority, with the first election for a mayor taking place in May 2026. Before taking a decision on whether to proceed with the making of the necessary legislation, the government is seeking views from interested parties, including those who live and work in the area.

Scope of this consultation

This consultation seeks views, particularly from interested parties, including those who live and work across Norfolk and Suffolk, on the effect of establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority in the area. It includes questions on the proposed geography and how the Combined County Authority will make decisions, together with questions on the effects of working across this geography through a Mayoral Combined County Authority.

Why your views matter

Your opinions are valuable to us. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to share your opinions on the proposal for the establishment of a Mayoral Combined County Authority across this area. Thank you for taking the time to read the consultation document and respond.

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/lggc/norfolk-and-suffolk-devolution-consultation> □





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Welcome to the Great Chalk Way

The recently launched Great Chalk Way is a family of established walking and riding routes linking the Dorset and north Norfolk coasts across central southern England following the ancient trading route along the chalk ridge, forming a coast to coast route of around 400 miles.



The Great Chalk Way links several established long-distance paths and two National Trails, traversing a chalk ridge that includes the Wessex Ridgeway, Cranborne Doves Way, Sarsen Way, Ridgeway National Trail, the Icknield Way, and the **Peddars Way National Trail**. Whether you're an experienced walker or someone who enjoys exploring new landscapes, this route offers an unparalleled opportunity to experience the beauty and diversity of southern England.

For more information visit www.greatchalkway.org.uk □



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Dersingham C of E Primary and Nursery School

With the new year celebrations in the dim and distant past and spring tantalisingly close, it has been a quiet time for sporting events. This hasn't meant staying inside however! Four year groups have enjoyed science and environmental lessons in our Forest School area and there were a host of birds spotted while taking part in the RSPB Big School Bird Watch, including robins, blue tits, red kites and dunnocks.

The School Councils have been working with the PTFA, who organised a film night linked to Children's Mental Health Week. The children watched *Inside Out* and carried out activities during the week to explore what it means to have emotional resilience and strategies to self-regulate. They dressed in their favourite colours and outfits and thought about how 'knowing yourself can help you grow.'

A huge thank you to the PTFA who have donated £250 towards new playground equipment, which the Sports Council have already spent on a variety of exciting games to encourage children to get active at break time. They also bought a brand-new portable PA system that can be used at outside events, like sports day and the summer fair. The PTFA are looking for sponsors for the children's bounceathon, so if you know a local business willing to support the school, please phone the office on 01485 540022.

There was great excitement during the NSPCC Number Day, with prizes awarded for the best costume in each key stage and a host of fun maths activities throughout the day.

The first parent's cafe of the year was very well attended and included a presentation from Phil Turner from the schools and communities' team.

The school is also taking part in the PINS project (Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in schools), which is an exciting opportunity to further embed good practice and upskill staff with the latest evidence-based strategies to support neurodiversity.



Reception: Baby Basics



Reception

Reception have been inviting lots of superheroes into the class this half term. The children asked questions about how they help people in our community. A big thank you to Nurse Bradley, Rev Capron and Maggie from Baby Basics; PC Savage; and Kate

Craven from the RNLI for taking the time to talk to the class. The children were inspired by how Maggie from Baby Basics helps people and decided to collect items to support new mums and their babies.

Year 1 have experienced the North Pole this half term and studied the Inuit people, past and present. They enjoyed learning about and making their own inukshuks, improvising during their Forest School sessions. They have explored different weather patterns and delighted in the amazing colours and patterns produced by the Aurora Borealis! The children enjoyed a wonderful afternoon experiencing Chinese New Year activities. It's the year of the snake!



Year 1: Inukshuk, Forest School



Year 1

Year 2 were busy last half term learning about Australia and how it is similar to, and different from, the UK. The shark nets at the beach were very interesting! The children enjoyed making clocks



Year 2: Christening

and playing a game during the NSPCC Maths Day. RE was enriched by visiting St Nicholas Church to learn about a christening ceremony. Rev Mark took the class through the service step by step, even allowing the children to dress up and christen 'Baby Annabelle'!



Year 2: Number Day

Year 3 have been River Explorers, utilising maps to investigate the local area, including the Great River Ouse. During science, the children have been learning about forces, including magnetism and ramps with a rough and smooth side, to explore friction, using toy cars. This has provided a great deal of fun and generated some super investigative skills.

Year 4 have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons, exploring Anglo-Saxon gods and the rise of Christianity. They used their historical enquiry skills to find out about the burial mounds at Sutton Hoo and gave their own interpretation of the grave goods found within the mound. Forest School has been fantastic fun, catching freshwater shrimps, digging up slug eggs and making useful tools from things found in the forest.

Year 5 have had an amazing time learning about Ancient Greeks. This culminated in an

immersive Greek warrior workshop. The children learnt how to march and chant like the Spartans and use the bow and arrows to aim at the beasts, Cyclops, Wolf, Hydra, Medusa and many more. As part of Safer Internet Day, the class took part in a live webinar, organised by Norfolk Constabulary, promoting online safety. The children learnt about online scams, phishing and some of the rules surrounding various Apps and websites, including age restrictions, which were surprising!



Year 6 focused on evolution through natural selection during their topic entitled 'Evolving Islands.' The children enjoyed building on their prior knowledge of animal classification, which included a fabulous visit to Norwich Bug Parc, where the children handled exotic species of insect. The class text *The Island at the End of Everything* provided some wonderful writing opportunities, including a balanced argument about the morality of the animal artwork of Damien Hirst!

Spring is shaping up to be exceptionally busy, with the school looking forward to taking part in Neurodiversity week in March, a host of sporting events each week and of course the climax to the term, EASTER!□



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2025 Music Festival News

Hunstanton and District Festival of Arts is excited to announce that this year the Music Festival of live bands will be able to go ahead. Thanks to the help of the community and local businesses, plus the use of our remaining funds, we will be able to cover the costs. The HDFA is very grateful for the heartwarming response we have had to the possible loss of this popular Festival.



Please support our Craft Fairs at the Town Hall as they are a big part of our funding and are now in their 30th year. The first one is on April 19th.

Chairperson Wendy Croucher says, "We are hoping to put in place measures that ensure the Music Festival continues in future years, but we do need your help. The removal of the grant has been a great blow, and our current committee has come to the end of its ability to continue. It is hoped that younger people in the community will respond and step up to take on this important role, as there is funding out there."

For this year the HDFA are proud to announce that the Hunstanton Music Festival will take place on Saturday August 2nd and Sunday August 3rd from 12 noon till 7:00pm on the lower green. We have an exciting line up, including popular band *Second Sunset* plus some regular and some new artists with music in the pop, acoustic, reggae and folk style to suit all tastes.

Come along and join us for a wonderful weekend of music on Hunstanton's sea front.

Further information from Dawn Davies on 07729952297 or Wendy Croucher on 01485 532988. □

Snettisham Gardening Club **Addie Thompson**

Our meetings are held in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham PE31 7LX.

On Wednesday 30th April Michael Croot will be joining us to update us on the nursery business and will also bring some of his excellent plants for sale, so best bring some money!! We are sure you will be tempted.

On 28th May Barry Gayton will be telling us how to grow and care for Cacti.

Our Annual Village Show is to be held on 12th July. Schedules are available from Stockley Chemists or by joining us at the monthly meeting.

We welcome new members, and for any further information please call Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754. □





Why the “family farm tax” isn’t just about farming

Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Readers will not have failed to notice that one of the key announcements of the Autumn 2024 Budget was that in future, full Agricultural Property Relief (APR) for Inheritance Tax (IHT) will be restricted to the first £1m

of relevant property with the excess being taxed at 20%. Full details have not yet been published, and the Government has been disingenuous about the number of farms affected (at best). Most industry commentators think that it will impact on virtually every commercial farming operation.

What many have overlooked is that **the changes to the IHT rules are not simply aimed at farms**. Although the change in APR has been widely publicised, there has been much less concentration on the similar Business Property Relief (BPR) which is available to almost all trading businesses and their shareholders. BPR will now be restricted to the first £1m of qualifying assets.

Whilst the number of farm businesses is relatively small (of about 200,000 only about 40,000 are of sufficient size to be fully commercial “family farms”), the number of private sector businesses is much greater, at something over 5.5m, with over 27m employees. Obviously, not all of these will be worth over £1m, but in 2021-22 there were over 4000 claims for BPR, of which 13.3% were for amounts over £1m. Since then, we have had inflation of about 20% (which will affect both the value of the businesses themselves and also the other assets of the deceased) and the existing IHT bands are not expected to increase at all until 2030, if then. Given that average domestic house prices are currently close to £300,000 and the IHT Nil Rate Band has remained at only £325,000, we can reasonably foresee that by the end of this decade most families will at least be within the scope of IHT (although married couples will generally be able to use both Nil Rate Bands) and anyone with a business or share in a business worth more than £1m will potentially be facing an IHT bill, **overturning a policy of encouraging private sector businesses which has been in place for over 30 years**.

In a remarkable piece of double speak, ministers have already said that things are not as bad as they look, since there will be ways of avoiding the tax charge for some – notwithstanding that they are also stating that they are looking to restrict tax avoidance generally (even though avoidance is entirely legal). What we can say is that those in business, and particularly those who are looking to pass the business to the next generation, need to be looking at their potential liabilities as soon as possible and in some cases considering the acceleration of the succession process. The seven year “potentially exempt transfer” window is still there, although with some anti-forestalling measures where the donor of business assets dies within the seven years. There is also potential for the use of Trusts to further take assets out of the Estate at death, although this may mean a modest IHT charge within the Trust every ten years.

What is also clear is that sticking one’s head in the sand is not a very constructive approach here. Without a doubt, there is a problem on its way: we are all getting older, and the new rules take effect from April 2026. Reconstructions and Will planning all take time, and the sooner business owners, as well as the farmers, take specialist advice from both their accountant and their solicitor (who will normally need to work together here), the better.

Memo: The Spring Budget is scheduled for 26 March 2025.

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

© Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants 2025 **N.B. Article written January 2025**

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

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RAF Bircham Newton – Open day Schedule 2025

Sunday, April 20th Easter Sunday (First open day)
Sunday, May 4th
Sunday, May 18th
Sunday, June 1st
Sunday, June 15th
Sunday, June 29th
Sunday July 13th
Sunday, July 27th
Sunday, August 10th
Sunday, August 24th
Monday, August 25th (Bank Holiday Monday)
Sunday, September 7th
Sunday, September 21st
Sunday, October 12th
Sunday, October 26th
Sunday, November 9th (Remembrance Sunday – Final open day)



For more information regarding open days and stories about the former RAF Station please visit our Facebook page, simply search RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre. If you need to contact the Heritage Centre team, please call Chairman of Trustees, Jamie Heffer: 07807098348.
Or email at: jamie_heffer@hotmail.co.uk

RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre is looking for volunteers to assist as curators at the centre. No military or other training is necessary, just an interest in military or local history. The requirement is for a few hours on occasional Sundays between Easter and November.

We are also creating an archive of the activities of the 50+ squadrons who were at the base between 1918 and 1962, and developing the national archive of the RAF Administrative Apprentices between 1925 and 1973.

If you would be interested in more information or giving up some of your time for these exciting projects, please contact us.

Ian Jacklin 01485 528286
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Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club

Carol Edwards



Hello everyone, as we look forward to lighter nights and better weather!!!

We have had a busy few months, but it seems ages ago since we went to the Pantomime, which was enjoyed by all, oh yes it was!!

The Christmas party was great, and as usual a great spread was put on for all members to enjoy, along with games and quizzes; a great afternoon of fun, thank you to everyone.

A meal out to the Le Strange in January was a great success and as a result another one is planned for March.

Our Singles competition this year was won by Ulla Aldridge and the runner up was Bobbie Merriday. Well done to Carol and David for organising this.

We look forward to another great year of bowling. □

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

END	DISTEMPER	CLOSE	ACRYLIC
STOP	BANK	MATT	PACKAGE
GLOSS	LIMITS	EASTER	SIDE
BREAK	COAT	BUSMANS	COMPLETE

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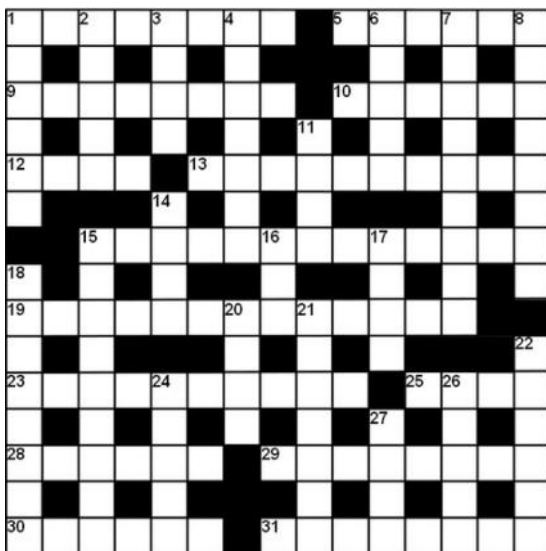
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Across

- 1 Cleverly refasten window (8)
- 5 Diverted cars lead first and second beetle (6)
- 9 Huge redesigned sun room occupied by English giant (8)
- 10 Stir the porridge (6)
- 12 The French interrupt Canadian forces pitch symbol (4)
- 13 Cunningly dial O and it will provide bonus (10)
- 15 Harry is in top secret complex for desk workers (13)
- 19 Refill here amongst crude rotten oil taps (6,7)
- 23 Misbehaving menial (bygone) volunteers work alongside railway canal (10)
- 25 Injury in first half against marines (4)
- 28 I disturb comic scene for relatives (6)
- 29 Withdraws a boycott on teachers (8)
- 30 Stop to see tides changing in September (6)
- 31 Reached dishevelled Tania and Ted scored (8)



Answers on page 72

Down

- 1 Foreign Royal Naval chef cooking for Macron (6)
- 2 Soon earl got tangled with lasso (5)
- 3 Changeless rocky tableland (4)
- 4 Ranchers work in dour pun drive (5,2)
- 6 Initially crown or soldiers pet (5)
- 7 Did it come up over the animal house? (6,3)
- 8 Slob seen strangely with annelids for example (8)
- 11 Fruit enjoyed after first half kick against Womens Institute (4)
- 14 Recall contents of speech on line (4)
- 15 Busy left arteries frequented by shopkeepers (9)
- 16 Small alcohol-free round (3)
- 17 Engineer in L.A. to fasten device (4)
- 18 Spain drops Ed when injured (8)
- 20 Place it in Kent for instance (4)
- 21 Writhing hoodie on a tense gymnast (7)
- 22 Entertained by Medusa's transformation while we welcome mixed drink (6)
- 24 Head of tribe left wigwam to form blades (5)
- 26 Foreign company ran by fruit and nut case (5)
- 27 Quechua not Abel when confused (4)

Sudoku

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



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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Fenestra. 5 Scarab. 9 Enormous. 10 Prison. 12 Clef. 13 Additional.
15 Receptionists. 19 Petrol station. 23 Alimentary. 25 Harm. 28 Nieces.
29 Abandons. 30 Desist. 31 Attained.

Down

1 French. 2 Noose. 3 Same. 4 Round up.
6 Corgi. 7 Rising sun. 8 Boneless.
11 Kiwi. 14 Echo. 15 Retailers. 16 Tot.
17 Nail. 18 Sprained. 20 Site. 21 Acrobat.

Word Wall Answers

Off...: Offbreak, Offend, Off-limits, Offside
Finish: Stop, Close, Coat, Complete
Paint: Gloss, Matt, Distemper, Acrylic
Holiday: Bank, Busmans, Easter, Package

Sudoku Answers

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

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. 154 (June/July25)	Tuesday 6th May 2025	Monday 26th May 2025
No 155 (Aug/Sept 25)	Monday 30th June 2025	Monday 21st July 2025
No 156 (Oct/Nov 25)	Monday 1st Sept 2025	Monday 22nd Sept 2025
No 157 (Dec25/Jan26)	Monday 3rd Nov 2025	Monday 24th Nov 2025
No 158 (Feb/Mar 26)	Monday 5th Jan 2026	Monday 26th Jan 2026
No 159 (April/May 26)	Monday 2nd March 2026	Monday 23rd March 2026

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