

Number 154

June/July 2025

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



All You Need For Your Garden

Bedding Plants

Basket Plants

Veg Plants

Tomato Plants

Perennials

Alpines

Pond Plants

Hanging Baskets

Wild Bird Care

Lawn Care

Garden Tools

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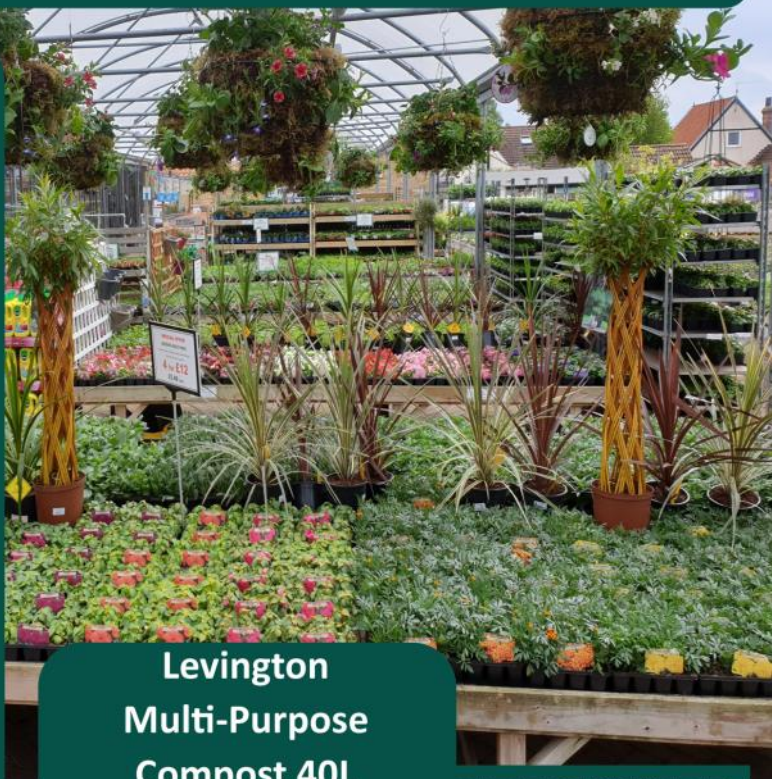
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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



Mike Smith has delighted us yet again with his classic seaside painting for the front cover. This is just half of the picture to suit our magazine format, but below you can see the whole work.

This edition of *Village Voice* marks the beginning of our advertising year. Thank you to all our advertisers who returned to support us and welcome to some new ones. When you use the services of our advertisers do mention that you have seen their advert in VV to show that advertising pays!!

A few items to draw your attention to: Thanks to the efforts of Mark Capron and others, we can now be buried in St Nicholas churchyard again! (Page 26). Those elusive birds, the nightjars, are back on Dersingham Bog. Head on down there at dusk and sit quietly on that bench in the middle and you should hear them call and perhaps fly by. (Page 10). Read all about the declining numbers of Small Tortoiseshells in Brian Anderson's latest update on page 39. Lorna has written another lively poem about her trip to Jamaica to celebrate the 100th birthday of her mother. (Page 50). There's lots on at the Library this summer, with reading challenges for children and a craft and book sale. (Page 28). It seems to be the fashion to be renovating village signs – Dersingham's (page 55) and Wolferton's (page 56). I am starting to gather together all kinds of bits and pieces to put out at the end of my drive for the Yard Sale on July 20th. Full details on page 32. And how about supporting the RSPCA at their Open Day on June 29th.

Tony Bubb is standing down as co-ordinator of the Dersingham Walking Group. Is there anyone out there to take this on? Volunteers are needed to help run so many of the village's activities. The Village Centre is urgently looking for more people to help out in various roles. So many volunteers are advancing in years and there needs to be a new generation to share the load.....

Well, I'm off to Wales for a week as soon as we get this off to the printer. Whilst we could certainly do with some rain, I hope the west of the UK stays fine!



You can get in touch with Mike on 01485 541262 or email jamijazz@mypostoffice.co.uk



Dear Village Voice



Thank you

Maria and I have been overwhelmed by the number of cards and gifts that we have received. It's not just the number of cards but the messages within them. We thought we were just running a village Post Office, but now we have realized it was much more than just that.

We would like to thank Alex Dixon for setting up a Go Fund Me page so that people could show their appreciation and to say thank you. The total came to well over £1000 and we will use this for a break in Gibraltar. Maria worked there when she was eighteen years old, and she's always wanted to take me there and show me around.

Once again, a massive thank you to everyone for your custom, support and friendship. I'm sure we will see most of you on our walks around the village.

Fraser and Maria



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Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



Many, many thanks to all those who attended our short VE beacon lighting ceremony to mark the 80th anniversary of VE day, the ending of the war in Europe. It was a chilly evening but thankfully dry and still, giving a good display from the beacon. It was a poignant moment and a reminder that we must never forget the sacrifices that were made so that we can live our lives freely. It is important for the safety of future generations to keep the memories alive. Whilst researching how Dersingham marked the occasion in 1945 I discovered that whilst there was a bonfire and fireworks, residents celebrated more on VJ day, the ending of the war in the far east, as many Norfolk men served there. We are now finalising our plans to mark the occasion on Friday 15th August, keep a watch on the notice boards around the village and Parish Council website nearer to the date.

Also, a big thank you to the Dersingham Task Force who were our main helpers in the litter pick around the village that we had in April (see page 36). Nothing unusual was found this year (previous years we have found a TV, a printer and a half-drunk glass of beer!), the main culprits inevitably being plastic bottles and disposable coffee cups. I am aware that some residents pick up litter when they are out walking; many thanks for doing this, it does help to keep the village clean and tidy, a place that we can all be proud of.

Hopefully, you will all have seen that the village sign has been returned to its location at Lynn Road near the junction with Heath Road. The Parish Council had organised for it to be repaired and repainted and you may have watched progress on the work on the village Facebook group. Photo on page 55.

We have now appointed a contractor to carry out some repair works to the somewhat bumpy paving in the war memorial gardens. The paving had lasted well since it was installed about 20 years ago, but we have agreed to remove a small area of paving (approximately 5 square metres) around the lime tree. This will be replaced with gravel to avoid damaging the roots of the tree, vital for its health and stability. The drainage channel will also be replaced. There will still be plenty of space for people to take time to sit and quietly reflect and for attendance at the annual Remembrance Day services. This work should take place over the summer/autumn.

In the last edition I wrote about the 31 dog waste bins in the village. The Parish Council pays the Borough Council to empty them weekly and this has worked well for many years. However, when the Borough Council were setting their budget in February (if you remember we have to set our budget by January) they reviewed their fees and charges. They decided that they needed to recover fully the costs of emptying the dog waste bins. This has resulted in an increase in charge of 115%. We had allowed for an increase in price but not such a massive jump. As the precept has already been set and the Council Tax bill sent out it means that the Parish Council will have to absorb the increase. However, I have taken up this huge increase with the Leader of the Borough Council and the correspondence is ongoing. I can confirm that the Borough Council have agreed to notify us earlier of any likely increase to allow us to plan our budget and that the increase will be related to the CPI (Consumer Price Index) plus 1% in future years. □



News from Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

Annual General Meeting

By the time you are reading this, the Association's AGM will have taken place. There will be a short report in the next issue of Village Voice.

If you are interested in helping with building management and finances, or activities and events, we would love to hear from you. Call 07943 499786 if you would like more information.

Coffee Shop

Each Thursday morning we catch up with our regular customers and extend a very warm welcome to visitors. On offer are very reasonably priced home-baked savouries and cakes, hot and cold drinks, along with great banter with our baristas. Tapping House takes 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 of 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

We celebrated ten years of Village Cinema last month with *A Royal Night Out*, accompanied by nibbles and fizz. The film tied in with the lead up to VE80. The film evenings generate a good income for the Centre and we appreciate our patrons' support. June's film is *A Complete Unknown*, the Bob Dylan biopic. In July we are showing *Swede Caroline*, a light-hearted film set in the world of giant vegetable growing.

Events

Very reluctantly, we had to cancel our planned VE80 event, due to low ticket sales.

The Village Yard Sale takes place on July 20th, co-ordinated by Julie Plummer who has distributed posters all around the village. Tables will also be available in the Centre for those who prefer (call 07943 499786 to book), and the Pop-Up Café will be serving light refreshments. Sign up at Dersingham Co-op or phone Julie on 07834 349946. Maps available at the Co-op from July 7th.

Looking ahead, we have booked Whirligig for the October Barn Dance.

Volunteering

We would welcome anyone who would like to volunteer at the Centre, whether helping with events or joining the Management Committee. If you are interested, call 07943 499786 for more information and to discuss what would be involved.

For more information about the Centre, What's On, contact details, visit our website - www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk. We have a Facebook Page and also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group.



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VILLAGE CINEMA
at Dersingham Village Centre
Presents on
Tuesday June 24th at 7:30pm

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (15)

**Starring: Timothee Chalamet, Monica Barbero, Edward Norton
Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie**

In the early 1960s, 19-year-old Bob Dylan arrives in New York with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. Forming his most intimate relationships during his rise to fame, he grows restless with the folk movement, making a controversial choice that reverberates worldwide.



Entry £6 Under 16s £3

Entry includes tea/coffee/squash

**Fruit Juice, Wine, Beer & Cider
available from the Bar**



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

Jan Rawstron

We were blessed with glorious sunshine and warm weather for the opening day of the 2025/26 season. Bearing in mind this was only April 5th, this was an unexpected bonus. In previous years we have got used to wearing thermals and fleeces, and sometimes



First bowl of the season

hand warmers, so to play in such lovely conditions was such a boost. Our Club President, Keith Richardson, bowled the first wood of the new season, subsequently followed by a roll-up in which 30 members participated.

The green looked lovely thanks to all the hard work over the winter months by our green keeping team led by Allen Toppin. We certainly couldn't blame the green for any duff shots we played. It didn't take long to get back into the swing of things, and it was uplifting to hear everyone enjoying the game and catching up with old friends.

After a couple of weeks settling in, we played our first match in the Albert Victor Knockout Cup against King's Lynn B on Friday April 25th. This turned out to be an amazingly closely fought match, needing two extra ends to separate the teams. Unfortunately, we lost by just one shot, and we now progress to the Subsidiary Cup at a later date. The following Friday we played our first league match, this time against King's Lynn C, we lost the match by 2 points to 6, losing the overall shots yet again by just 1 shot. A very close match! We play our first Countryside League match on Tuesday, May 6th.

Our Open Day was held on Sunday April 27th in good weather and as a result we have recruited two new members. We hope they will enjoy their bowls with us.

At the roll-up on Saturday May 3rd, the draw was held for this season's Birds League. Once the various team captains have organised their teams, we look forward to a closely fought season, beginning on Wednesday May 14th.

On Bank Holiday Monday, May 5th, we played for the Edie's Cup which this year was won by Les Allen who beat Dave Liddle in a closely fought final. Well done to both. We now look forward to hosting Cliff Parade Bowls Club in the home leg of our friendly matches this season. Also, the Centenary Cup, which will be played for on Bank Holiday Monday, May 26th.



Les Allen, winner of Edie's Cup

We have a packed season to look forward to and I look forward to sharing all the news and results in the next issue.□

Football Festival Fills Dersingham Sports Field

Judy Collingham

Much is talked of getting kids away from their screens and out into the fresh air for exercise and the skills learned through playing team sports. SCI (scievents.co.uk) have put these words into action with their programme of team sport competitions across the country and on the first Saturday in May their circus came to Dersingham. The organization, with due respect for local sensibilities and with the support of the Trustees of the Dersingham Sports Ground Association (DSGA), occupied the playing fields on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th May.

Sam Broadbent, SCI organizer reported.

"We had children ranging from under 8's through to under 12's coming from all over the country to play and we were pleased to invite Dersingham and Clenchwarton youth from the local area to take part. Thirty-four teams attended from as far away as Leicester, Hertfordshire and the Midlands. There was some amazing football played and lovely team spirit shown by all. We held a celebrity presentation at Searles Leisure Resort, with former Wales international striker Robert Earnshaw presenting the children their medals or trophies. All children that attended have been given a medal; if they made the finals they received a trophy for the winner or runner up achievement. All teams in their age group also played for a fair trophy. This was voted for by the tournament referees for the most sporting behaviour, from children and their parents over the weekend."

This latter award lines up with the FA's declared policy of zero tolerance toward aggressive behaviour by teams or their supporters.

Thanks go to Emma Daniels, former Trustee of the DSGA, for her enthusiasm and hard work in getting this tournament to Dersingham.

DSGA now needs the funds to do up the old pavilion and then in future this event will deliver, not only benefit to our football teams and their supporters, but also allow us to offer hospitality to our visitors. Please visit our website at www.dersinghamsportsground.org.uk to find out how you can help or just keep track of how we are doing. It was a good weekend for Dersingham football, our community and all those taking part. Let's see more of this kind of event and give our children every chance to grow in body and mind.



Photo by David Collingham, Chair of Trustees of the DSGA – left: Cllr Judy Collingham, Trustee, DSGA and right: Paul Broadbent, SCI)□

News from Dersingham Bog **Tom Parkes, Natural England**

As we enter the heart of spring, the weather has started to improve but there has been little sign of any rain on Dersingham Bog. In the spring and summer time our attention turns to species monitoring and infrastructure improvements across the site. Our species monitoring allows us to record the abundance of flora and fauna on the site which can help to shape our management and contribute towards national datasets, particularly for some of our target species such as nightjars, woodlarks and black darter dragonflies, as well as many acidic bog plant species.

We have now started our annual common bird census as part of our ongoing monitoring to record the bird species present and we are looking forward to restarting the satellite tagging project for nightjars on the site in conjunction with the BTO and Iceni Ringing group. Nightjars are one of our priority species on the site, so we are looking to collect more data on their behaviour while on the site and surrounding areas that are so vitally important for the species productivity and success. When tagging has taken place previously, we have found nightjars feeding using the streetlights over the village. It'll be exciting to continue with this project and collect more information.

Many of our key species have returned from their wintering grounds, mainly in Africa, to return to the bog to breed. These include tree pipits, grasshopper warbler, willow warbler and cuckoo, as well as species such as garden, sedge and reed warblers on the eastern end of the site. This is an exciting time for many birdwatchers who come to the reserve at this time of year to see these speciality species. As I type this on May 5th, nightjars have just been seen and heard on the site. The return of these species, many of which are ground-nesting birds, reinforces the importance of keeping to the track and ensuring that dogs are on leads while on the reserve.

Despite the shift in our focus to monitoring, in the warmer seasons one important bit of habitat management that we still implement is the control of the rhododendron, which is currently in bloom. Rhododendron, despite its attractive flowers and its abundance across Sandringham, is non-native and a poisonous plant, which if left unchecked can easily outcompete native plants, covering most of the available habitat. As such, we spend a significant amount of time halting its spread across the site across all of the seasons, in winter cutting and removing the plant, and in summer targeting any smaller regrowth which escaped our notice previously. □





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VILLAGE CINEMA
at **Dersingham Village Centre**
Presents on
Tuesday July 29th at 7:30pm

SWEDE CAROLINE (15)

Starring: Fay Ripley, Jo Hartley, Celyn Jones

As Caroline readies herself for the championship, the competitive giant vegetable growing world is rocked by a scandal.

Her prized marrow plants are stolen, and her life turns upside down, so she hires two private detectives.



Entry £6 Under 16s £3

Entry includes tea/coffee/squash

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The "Whybelonely Social Group" has started meeting at St. Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road, the first Friday of each month, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. It will be an afternoon of music, singing, reminisce and prizes. Refreshments will be available. Do come along and enjoy some good company, everyone is welcome.

Our Lenten Alms collections for this year were donated to the King's Lynn Night Shelter. As part of the Jubilee year events, a parish pilgrimage has been arranged to Bury St Edmunds on Saturday 21st June. A coach will be available along with a programme of the day's events. More details will be available in the weekly bulletins and on our parish website.

Our very popular Strawberry Tea social event will be held at St Cecilia's Church on Saturday 14th June, from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. There will be the usual refreshments: strawberries, scones, cake stall, plant stall, tombola and raffle. Strawberry teas £5 each and free for children, pay at the door. All are welcome, why not bring a friend.

The Pope's prayer intention for June 2025 is ***That the world might grow in compassion***; we pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his heart, learn to have compassion in the world. The Pope's prayer intention for July 2025 is ***For formation in discernment***; we pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2.00pm. and there is also a Mothers' Prayers group which meets at 2.30pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE. There is also a group who meet on the last Friday of the month for Spiritual Formation. This could be about a specific Saint or Synodal discussions, prayers or anything that people want to suggest. All are welcome, refreshments are available. Just look in the weekly bulletins for dates and times. If you would like to be on the distribution list for the weekly bulletins straight to your inbox, please send your email address to hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk. Also, if you are a new parishioner, there is a form in both church porches to fill in your details to welcome you to the parish. Feel free to ask if you can't see them.

For Parish news including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the **Parish News** page on our website. For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters see the **Links** page of our website. The Sunday Masses are at 9.00am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11.00am at OLSE, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. Daily Masses are at 10.00am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and at 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. □

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Hunstanton Croquet Club

Zena Penty

Unlike last season, the start of 2025's croquet season has provided lots of dry and some gloriously sunny days to mark out the lawns, learn or get back into playing croquet, and socialise with other club members.



Once again, a twenty-place 4 x half day 'Introduction to Croquet' training course was arranged which filled immediately, leading to some additional beginners' sessions being run to ensure potential new members would attain the basic skills and feel confident to attend the club afternoons.



The Committee have introduced a number of new initiatives this season which focus around player development (group and one-to-one coaching) and a new internal league designed to encourage more friendly but competitive play within the club and ultimately prepare motivated players for external tournaments going forward.

A huge thank you to everyone in the club who has given their time and expertise to help and support potential new members, existing ones wishing to improve and to teach other members how to measure and set out the hoops – a skill indeed!□

—TBH—

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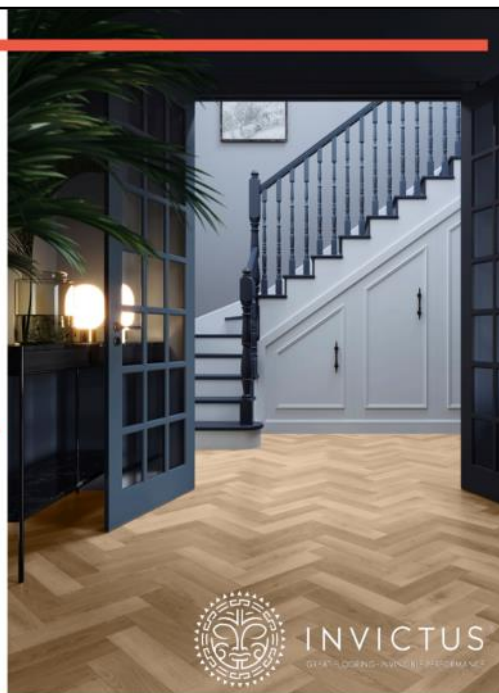
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Phobbies: Hobbies club for those with and without physical difficulties

Maggie Ponder

This year we are celebrating our 40th birthday. It is 40 years since Ann Buttler had the drive and enthusiasm to get the club started. At that time there was a Phobbies in King's Lynn but Ann wanted to have something more accessible for people from the villages round here. The King's Lynn club closed a few years ago so now we are the only club like it in the area. Sadly, Ann is no longer alive, but I know she was very pleased with how well Phobbies survived. Initially it was for people who had physical disabilities only, but it is now open to everyone with or without any type of disability.

Our membership stands at 25 with about half having a disability and the others not. The ages range from the twenties up to the eighties. Over the years the crafts and hobbies that people tackle has changed. Knitting and crocheting and rug making are still popular and we have an enthusiastic group of artists who share expertise and learn from each other. Other activities vary each week, using paper, paint, pens and glue. In the afternoon some people play cards and every couple of months we have live music. If you fancy trying your hand at painting, drawing, rug making, knitting, crocheting, paper crafts or anything else please come and join us.

The weekly subscription is £2. We provide free cups of tea and coffee, but everyone brings a packed lunch.

We need members who would enjoy assisting the less able. Even if you wouldn't want to come regularly you are very welcome to just come sometimes. We also need people who would be willing to share some of the responsibility for running the club.

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

Snettisham Gardening Club

Addie Thompson

Our meetings are held in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings.

On 25th June one of our favourite speakers, Janette Merillion, will be telling us how to brighten up shady areas of our gardens and will be bringing along some plants.

Our Annual Village Show will be held on 12th July. Show schedules are available from Stockley Chemists. You do not have to be a member of the Gardening Club to enter. Even if you do not wish to enter the show you will be most welcome to come along to see what local residents have produced. The exhibition includes crafts and cookery as well as plants, and there are cream teas available. The show is open from 1.30pm until 4.00pm with a raffle ticket included with admission, to be drawn at 3.30pm.

We do not hold a meeting at the end of July. We welcome new members, and for any further information please call Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754. □

EPIC Moves, Better Lives Appeal

As spring blooms, we're inspired by the season of renewal at QEH King's Lynn Charity. Your incredible support breathes new life into our hospital - funding vital equipment, enhancing patient care and supporting our dedicated staff.

Our **Epic Moves, Better Lives** appeal focuses on raising funds for exercise therapy to support people living with dementia and frailty. Movement reduces anxiety, maintains ability, and prevents deconditioning. With your help, we can fund tailored exercise programmes, keeping patients active, engaged and independent longer.

Thank you for making a difference - one step at a time! To support the charity please contact Charity@qehkl.nhs.uk. □



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Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone, Church Secretary



Thank you to everyone who supported our March coffee morning. We raised £382.60 which was divided equally between Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged. As usual the coffee morning was very well attended; the cake, jigsaw and book stalls were very busy, and there was a long queue for refreshments!

The quiz afternoon in early April gave people time to try and recall music titles, names of films and other interesting facts – some not successfully! Quiz master, Roger Jackson, never makes the quiz easy but it is always interesting and good fun. £142.50 was raised for Tapping House Hospice.

By the time you read this the Flower Festival and Church Anniversary will have finished. The charity we chose to support is The Leprosy Mission whose UK headquarters are in Peterborough. Leprosy treatment costs £24 to cure someone of the disease. But in many parts of the world leprosy continues to tear lives apart with suffering and stigma, leading to a life of isolation and despair. We hope to have been able to fund three community farms. I'll let you know the result of the Flower Festival.

Coffee morning date: Saturday 26th July, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, raising funds for World Mission and Methodist Mission in Britain. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Bowls Club meets on Wednesday afternoons, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm. The Jigsaw Club meets on the third Thursday 9.30 am – 10.30 am. 10p per jigsaw borrowed.□

Whybelonely Group

May saw the first session of the "Whybelonely" Group, hosted by local resident and musician Nicolas Mansell, aided and abetted by storyteller and singer David Potter from Lynn. On offer was music, communal singing, a quiz with prizes and the opportunity for a good old fashioned "mardle".

All welcome to the next session on Friday, June 6th at St. Cecilia's Church, Dersingham between 2.00pm and 4.00pm when everyone will be greeted with refreshments.□





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Monday CLOSED

Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday 7pm - 11:00pm

Thursday 7pm - 11:00pm

Friday 4pm - 11:30pm

Saturday 12pm - 11:30pm

Sunday 1pm - 9pm

Events for June/July

Friday 30th May: Sandringham and Dersingham Cricket Club Quiz

Saturday 31st May: Style (60s and 70s band).

We welcome back Style band to the club, playing mainly 60s and 70s rock-based, very danceable music.

Saturday 7th June: Mister Pink.

Simon Pink from the band Mister Pink is a pop/rock solo act playing well-known covers from bands/singers such as Green Day, Bowie, Status Quo, Bryan Adams, Stereophonics and Kings of Leon. He's travelled all over Europe and has played with some big names such as Prince and Joe Bonamassa.

Friday 13th June: Cecil Farayi

Well-known in the local area, Cecil is making his debut at the club performing live Motown and Soul hits that will have you up and dancing.

Saturday 21st June: Quiz Night

Cash prize for the winners.

Saturday 5th July: Into the Unknown

They are a local five-piece band, who have only recently formed but have all been playing/singing in other bands for years. They play a good mix of 70s, 80s and 90s rock/pop.

Saturday 12th July: Charity Prize Bingo fundraiser for the Norfolk Hospice

Saturday 19th July: The Stereotypes

Well-known local band playing non-stop Britpop and Indie anthems.

Saturday 26th July: Quiz Night

Cash prize for the winners.

Please check our Facebook page [@dersinghamsocialclub](https://www.facebook.com/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 dersinghamsenquiries@gmail.com with any enquiries regarding membership, hall hire (either daytime or for parties, wakes etc).□



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Dersingham Day Club

Members have been meeting up weekly for friendship, company, tea, coffee, biscuits, a two-course lunch, board games and dominoes. Afternoon activities have included gentle exercises with Meg, and a quiz. We celebrated Easter with a lunch followed by the bell ringers who entertained us, then kindly judged our Easter Bonnet competition with members wearing hats they had decorated.

If you'd like to know more about becoming a member or if you have some spare time on a Wednesday and might like to volunteer as a helper, then please call Wendy Raby on 01485 544975 or Maggie Langridge on 01485 543264.□





COFFEE MORNINGS – MONDAYS 9th and 23rd June and 7th and 21st July 10:00 a.m. to Midday.

Coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits available to purchase. For information please email farboy24@sky.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351.

NORFOLK and WAVENEY MIND GROUP MEETINGS

EVERY TUESDAY – 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For further information please visit the website www.norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk.

Or telephone 0300 330 5488; or email nikki.nourse@norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk

MONDAY 2nd JUNE: BINGO NIGHT – Club opens at 7.00p.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 20th JUNE: FILM NIGHT - *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* (15) – a romantic comedy starring Renée Zellweger and Hugh Grant. 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 27th JUNE: QUIZ NIGHT

– Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person.

Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email

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

FRIDAY 25th JULY: QUIZ NIGHT –

Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person.

Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email

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

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14:00-15:30 – Craft and Games Group
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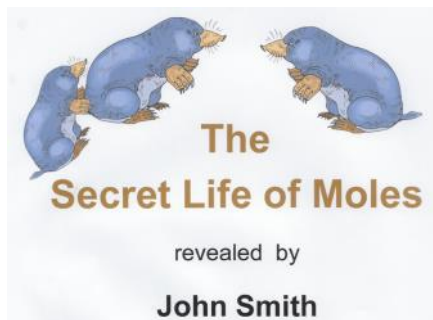
14:00-15:30 – Mens Group
 A chance to talk to a male recovery worker and meet with other men for sign posting and support

17:00-18:30 – After Work Social Group
 A chance for people to meet, chat and support each other and speak to a recovery worker in a relaxed and friendly environment

For further information please visit our website -
www.norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk
or telephone: 0300 330 5488
or email:
nikki.nourse@norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk

We look forward to meeting you 😊

Making Gardening Easier May Davey



Our April meeting was held at St Cecilia's Church because the Village Centre was busy that day. We were pleased to welcome 31 guests and members. The Committee quickly found where things were in the kitchen and got the furniture organised for the meeting. John Smith told us about the Secret Life of Moles. It was fascinating to hear about such elusive little creatures and see his illustrations. Some of us saw a real mole he had captured that day.

The new Committee took charge with Sue Neil as Chairman, Gloria Pantling as Secretary, Chris Davey as Treasurer, Kate Hathaway for Publicity and Catering and May Davey as Programme Organiser. We had a photograph taken at the AGM. Dianne Neeve and Ruth Mountain have now joined as Associates. We have 45 members.



On Friday 16th May we are going by coach for the day to Cambridge Botanical Gardens. At the time of writing, 25 people have paid, but we hope to reach at least 30 so we will cover our costs. Guests are always very welcome on our outings. Gloria Pantling can give you all the details about our outings.

On Friday 20th June we have our annual flower show at the Centre. Schedules for the flower classes are available from Gloria. This is always fun as our members choose their winners themselves. And we have a special tea.

On 18th July we will be visiting our member Sarah Warner's garden at Bawsey.

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 on 01553-671912.□



St Nicholas Churchyard

Over the previous years I have updated readers on the journey to find future burial space for Dersingham residents. Nine years ago, I began serving the parishes of Dersingham along with Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne. Within my first week I began with Churchwarden Neil Adams a survey of the remaining burial places available in the New Churchyard (opened in 1936), as then, for over ten years this had been a pressing issue.

The process then started slowly in the background exploring what other possible options there could be, and of acquiring suitable land in the village of Dersingham that could be used as a new churchyard. One option was to do nothing and then once space expired, burials would then need to be in the King's Lynn cemetery, twenty minutes' drive away and not desired by Dersingham residents. Although not a church responsibility to find new burial spaces, I wanted to try and secure this for our village.

Over the last nine years, behind the scenes I have had meetings with a number of people, including from Sandringham, regarding possible land and this involved enquiring into five different plots around the village. Finally, we had the option to use some local land. But with site visits and advice from professional land services, we were recommended not to proceed due to highways requirements and other constraints.

However, there is positive news. In recent months the law changed for the re-use of burial grounds from one hundred years to seventy-five years. This option was then reconsidered by the Parochial Church Council with advice from local grave diggers, as churchyards have been re-used over the centuries across the country.

I can now share with local residents that a formal application has been submitted to the Diocese of Norwich for permission to re-use the northside of the old churchyard (not the existing churchyard behind the tithe barn), and burials will be around existing memorials.

I am pleased that after so many years' work behind the scenes, we now have a suitable, local solution about to become reality. Dersingham residents will now be able to be buried into the future in the churchyard of St Nicholas Church, here in Dersingham.

Curate and other news

I am pleased that in July we will welcome to the team Rev Karen Gower, who will be the Curate here for the benefice of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne. She will be ordained in Norwich Cathedral on Sunday 29th June. We look forward to her also ministering amongst us in the parishes.

The recent Lent lunches have raised money to go to the King's Lynn Night Shelter, and also Mission Aviation Fellowship. Finally, Pebbles the Donkey on Palm Sunday was a much-loved star of the service!

God's Blessing
Rev Mark Capron

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

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

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Libraries are for Everyone – and Dersingham Library proves it every day!

Mary Grogan

When was the last time you visited the library? Did you know that libraries are not just about books anymore?

At Dersingham Library, we offer a wide range of sessions for all ages and interests. For little ones and their parents or carers, we have fun, and energetic sessions filled with music, movement, and storytelling.

For adults, there is help with digital skills, regular social groups, and craft activities.

We also provide a warm, welcoming space for people who simply want a chat over a nice cup of tea or coffee.

Additionally, there are volunteering opportunities, and volunteering at the library is incredibly rewarding and a great confidence boost!

The library is a place where everyone feels valued, welcomed, and supported. Come and meet our wonderful team and become part of this amazing community.

Take reading to the great outdoors with *The Summer Reading Challenge 2025*

Children can grow their imaginations with this year's Summer Reading Challenge: *Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors*, which launches in Norfolk libraries on Saturday 5th July.



Developed by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries, the Summer Reading Challenge is a free activity for children aged 4-11. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's reading skills and confidence over the summer holiday. Children can read anything they like and collect free rewards for their reading. For under 5s there is a mini challenge, so they don't miss out.

This year's theme will inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature. They can also join in

with free Story Garden activities at their local library.

To sign up to the challenge, just pop into your local library or visit the website. Children will need to be library members - you can do this in a library or online. It's free of charge and children will receive their own library card for which there are no overdue fees.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge features artwork from award-winning illustrator Dapo Adeola, whose stunning illustrations will bring the Story Garden theme to life; creating an enchanting world where children can find magical creatures, plants and flowers to inspire their next reading adventure.

Find out more at www.norfolk.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge

Library Book and Craft Sale

Do come and find a bargain at our Book and Craft sale.□

Book & Craft Sale



Dersingham Library

Saturday 14th June

10am - 1pm

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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*, *Peace Like a River* (Kumbaya tune), with many others.

Performances on Thursday 24th July at 7pm and on Saturday 26th July at 2pm. (Doors open 30 minutes before the start of each performance.)

Tickets will cost £5 on the door. There will be light refreshments and a raffle.

Looking forward to seeing you all in July.□

Dersingham Scout and Guide Groups

Elizabeth Wheeler

Thank you, Petals!

It was a very special week back in March for the Dersingham Scout and Guide Groups - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides - as they received a generous donation from Petals Tea Room in Dersingham. Richard Cross - owner of Petals Tea Room - presented Jane Wood, Chair of The HQ Committee as well as a Leader, with a £100 donation following a Bingo Evening they held. Richard Cross, who was himself a Cub and Scout in Dersingham, wanted to donate to a local charity and chose the Dersingham Scouts and Guides. A small group representing all seven of the Dersingham Groups - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, 1st Brownies, 2nd Brownies and Guides joined Jane for the presentation. □




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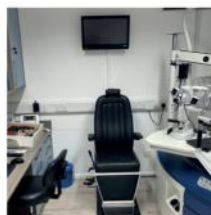
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Dersingham Runners

Dersingham Runners is a free and non-affiliated social running group. We organise longer group runs for Sunday mornings (around 10K/6.2 miles). Starting times change over the course of the year but currently we start this run at 8:30am. Our most popular event is Wednesday evenings for a shorter run (5K/3.1 miles), meeting at 18:15pm. The meeting point for all our runs is The Co-operative Food Store, Dersingham. You can find us on Facebook, Instagram and Strava and we also have a website.

This is the first time we have attended the annual King's Lynn GEAR run (Grand East Anglia Run) as a group after forming last year and recently celebrating our first anniversary. There were 18 members that attended GEAR on May 4th, with many achieving new personal bests. There were varied paces ranging from finishing times of 39 minutes to just over an hour. Our signature colour is purple and so many of us wore our Dersingham Runners tee shirts, vests and caps that arrived at the start of the year. Our members travelled from all over to take part in the GEAR run, locally and across counties, the furthest away being Maidstone in Kent. □



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Dersingham Task Force

Clare Bee

Spring has definitely sprung. After a cold, gloomy winter, April arrived with increasingly long sunny days to lift our spirits. Being on the eastern side of the country, we still had a cold wind, but the sun worked its wonders, and nature responded with her annual display of blossom and pale green buds.

At Task Force, we continue to weed, prune and tidy the two flower beds we are responsible for, one in Post Office Road and the other in the playground next to Bank Road. We are a small group – sometimes very small as we all have other calls on our time – and would love to welcome new people. We meet every two weeks from spring to autumn and nearly always go for a coffee, cake and chat after all the hard work! If you feel you'd like to join us and help to make a difference to our village, please contact Dennis on 07482 913399 or denzilweatherill@gmail.com. You don't need any gardening experience, just enthusiasm to join in.

In early April, some of us also helped with the village litter pick (see the photo below) organised by the Parish Council. About twelve volunteers set out with bags, grabbers and hi viz jackets and filled several bags. Sadly, it's an unending but necessary task, but in only an hour we all felt we had improved the look of our lovely village ☐



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.

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Focus on the Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae urticae*

Brian Anderson



In the 2024 butterfly report I said that I would cover the Small Tortoiseshell as it was clearly experiencing a precipitate decline in numbers. This is the article.

The Small Tortoiseshell is a butterfly familiar to many people. All the field guides published before 2010 describe it as very common. In my own field guides, certainly. It was the first butterfly I was able to identify at the age of seven (I was seven, not the butterfly!).



It was first described by Moffet in 1634. It has had various names: Lesser Tortoiseshell Butterfly (Petiver 1699), The Tortoiseshell (Wilkes 1741), The Nettle Tortoiseshell (Lewin 1795), but most authors have stuck with the name we have today. In Scotland, in the past it was sometimes referred to rather unfairly as the Witch's or Devil's Butterfly. For some incomprehensible reason some in Scotland call it the Red Admiral! In Germany it is called *Kleiner Fuchs* (Little Fox). In *Butterflies* (1945) E B Ford states that the Small Tortoiseshell was the last butterfly to become resident in the British Isles, although he gives no evidence for this assertion.

The butterfly is one of the first to be seen in spring. Mating occurs as soon as the weather is warm enough, and the spring brood emerges from June onwards. This also breeds and a much larger second brood emerges from August onwards. In northern regions there may be only one brood. The trigger for second broods seems to be determined by day length. The British populations may be reinforced by continental migrations, sometimes quite large. The amount of time that the adult spends in hibernation varies widely. Some hibernate really early, perhaps in late July, whereas others are still on the wing and feeding well into October. Both strategies have risks. Hibernation early and there is a risk of predation by still active mice or carnivorous insects. Stay feeding and there is danger from birds such as Tits, exacerbated as the butterflies are becoming sluggish. Small Tortoiseshells are very inclined to hibernate in human structures. If you find one in a shed or outhouse it is best to leave it alone until the spring when a means of escape should be provided.



The wing patterns of adult butterflies vary quite a lot. This is usually determined by the temperature during pupation. Clearly, this is not a genetic mutation but an environmental reaction. An example is shown. There are also genetic mutations - one interesting example is var. *bellieri*, where all colour apart from black is washed to a pale creamy silver. The wing colours are derived from a number of pigments - orange from ommochromes, blacks and browns from melanin and white from uric acid. I presume, but do not know, that the blue dots at the edges of the wings are structural colours. In *Butterflies of Britain and Ireland* (2010), Thomas and Lewington say that the Small Tortoiseshell has the worst of all worlds in terms of wing pattern when compared with the Comma (effective camouflage on both wing surfaces) and the Peacock (very effective camouflage on the undersurface and display of prominent "eyes" on the uppersurface). I wonder if this is an example of distraction camouflage, similar to the "dazzle patterns" developed for warships in the First World War.



There are a number of subspecies found in various parts of Europe and Asia with wing patterns similar to our own subspecies. One exception is the Corsican (or Sardinian) Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais ichnusa* (or *Aglais urticae ichnusa* - the taxonomists are, as ever, still arguing over its classification).

The eggs are laid on Stinging Nettle and hatch in 10 - 14 days. The females select young shoots of nettle at the edge of a patch in full sunlight. This is easy in the spring brood but the second brood presents more of a challenge as the nettles have toughened up and clumps that have been cut or trampled and regrown are selected. Young caterpillars live gregariously under silken nets that tie the nettle leaves together. Older caterpillars are solitary. Pupation occurs on a dead nettle stalk or nearby tree or wall and the adult emerges after about twelve days. Many people leave a nettle patch in some out-of-the



way area of their gardens in the misguided belief that this will aid nettle-feeding caterpillars. Unless the conditions above are met, this is a waste of time.

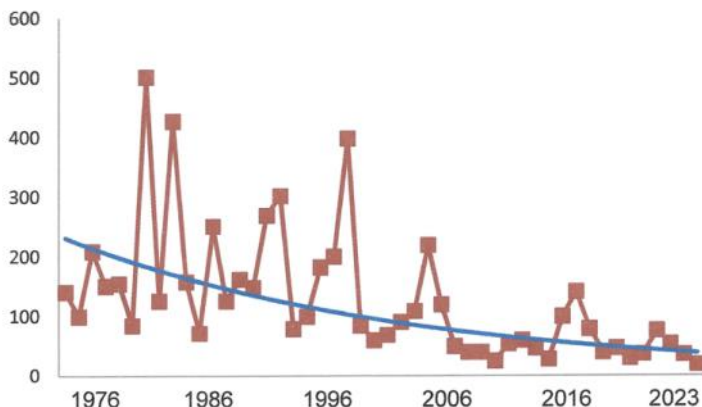
Small Tortoiseshells do not live in distinct colonies but roam the wider countryside, covering perhaps 1 - 2 km a day, a large percentage often flying much further, leading to migration. Males establish territories and will confront any other males entering. If females do not enter within an hour or two, the males fly off and establish a new territory.

There is another tortoiseshell butterfly occasionally found in Britain - the Large Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis polychloros*. Believed once to be resident, you are very unlikely to see it.

We now come to the motive for this particular article. The Small Tortoiseshell has been declining for some years. There have always been peaks and troughs, but the trend is now indisputable.

The trend line on the graph (the blue curving line) shows the collated index from 1976 to 2023.

The vertical axis is, I think, calculated from the number of sightings per kilometre walked in all validated survey methods. Based on this (and it's the best data we have) there has been a 91 per cent drop in numbers in less than fifty years. There are



bound to be caveats in this kind of data. Laboratory-based engineers and scientists (which I was before I retired) have the luxury of controlling their variables. Field naturalists largely don't.

The reason for the decline is still unknown. It has been known for some years that various parasitic flies and wasps prey on the caterpillars, but equally on Red Admiral, Peacock and Comma. In the last couple of decades a new parasite has arrived, a fly named *Sturmia bella*, which was thought to be the reason for the decline. But the decline was also happening in northern areas where *S. bella* hadn't reached. The current thinking is that environmental change, linked to climate change may be a serious factor, especially in drought conditions when the nettles are unable to accumulate enough nutrients to sustain the caterpillars. At the moment, this is still speculation. But it's worth leaving the right kind of nettle patch and making sure it doesn't dry out.

I am writing these last words on April 28th and I haven't yet seen a Small Tortoiseshell and with one exception (and one possible) neither has anyone I know.□



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Dersingham C of E Primary and Nursery School

Spring has finally sprung and the children have bounced back to school with the PTFA's bounceathon. With sunnier weather on the horizon, the school is gearing up for their newest garden project. Mr Price has been busy over the Easter break, erecting raised beds and fences ready for the children to plan the planting. This has been made possible by a grant from West Norfolk Borough Council. Any help over the summer to come and water the plants would be very much appreciated. Please contact the school office on 01485 540022 or email office@dersingham.norfolk.sch.uk if you are able to support our garden project in any way.

Easter activities and celebrations were a highlight of the term, with Year 5 leading the Easter service at St Nicholas' Church. They did a very professional job, learning their lines, performing songs and sharing prayers. The PTFA organised a fun Easter egg hunt and an Easter bingo at the Village Centre. Funds raised will be used to help support school trips and the new playground resurfacing project.

The PTFA did a wonderful job on World Book Day with their Wonderlicious Golden Ticket Hunt, and the children and staff made a supreme effort with a selection of book characters. The children enjoyed a fun morning, mixing year groups together for a carousel of activities, including making dragons, creating maps and natural sculptures, as well as sharing different exciting texts.

During Neurodiversity Week the children learnt about a range of alternative thinking styles and some of the famous people with diverse neurological differences. It is hoped that as a school we can be inclusive and celebrate children's unique talents.

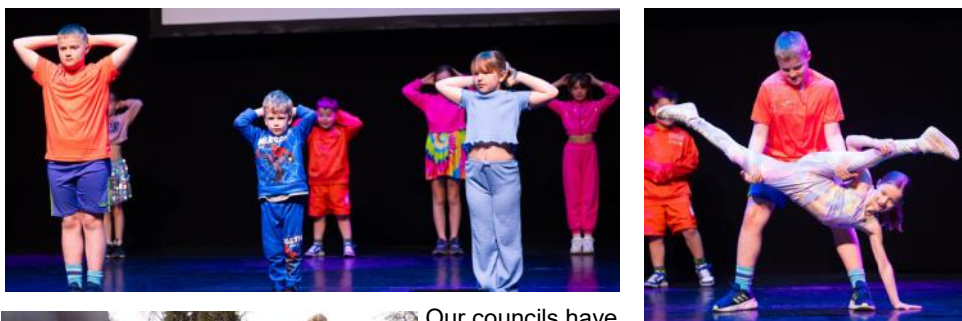
Red Nose Day was its usual bonkers fun, with children and adults dressing up to party like it's 1985, to celebrate 40 years of the charity. Jokes were shared in a celebration assembly and prizes were given as part of our 'Design a Red Nose' competition.



It was a hectic half term for sporting events, kicking off with the Year 5/6 girls' football tournament at Lynnsport. They secured maximum points from the league stage before battling it out for 4th position. A huge achievement out of 15 schools and extremely competitive games. The Year 5/6 hockey tournament followed closely on the heels of the football. The team won all their group games and finally got knocked out by the eventual winners but went on to win bronze. The Year 3/4 Bee Netball Festival proved to be a fantastic way to develop skills, and the Year 5/6 tournament, where the school provided two teams, saw Team Storm winning bronze. By far the most exciting game was when they played each other, with Team Thunder being pipped at the post. The Year 3/4 football team put in a fine performance at the Glebe tournament, narrowing missing out on gold by just one goal. They were very proud to receive their silver medals. The KS1 children took part in the fun football festival at the same venue, mixing with other schools in a round robin event. All the children showed superb respect and team spirit in each sporting event..



Lucy Rollason has been running an after school dance club and the troupe performed at the Corn Exchange to a packed audience of family and friends. They showed great flare and talent, performing acrobatic moves and grooving to a disco themed beat!



Our councils have been very busy with the Sports Council raising money for new playground equipment. A big thank you to the PTFA for contributing £250 towards the toys and providing the school with a new PA system, which will be invaluable at sports day and the summer fair. The PTFA have also paid for a new kit and Mr and Mrs Hammond have organised the new school logo to be put onto some of the existing shirts. Their support is very much appreciated.

The Eco-Council have taken part in a litter pick within the school grounds. A big thank you to Mr and Mrs Dubois for supporting the children. The School Council have been raising funds by selling pre-loved school uniforms, ably supported by Mrs Hopkins.

Last half term proved to be very busy within the classroom, as well as in the wider school community. Nursery children immersed themselves in their Julia Donaldson's *Squash and a Squeeze* text, even milking Milly the cow in their role play area! Reception children enjoyed sharing traditional tales, making a home for the three little pigs, writing recipes and making pancakes for the wolf and gingerbread men for Mother's Day.



Year 1 travelled to the savannah and enjoyed booking safaris in their role play area. They learnt about the big five animals and all their wonderful and sometimes disgusting habits! Year 2 became adventurers and explorers, learning about famous aviators such as Amelia Earhart and the Wright brothers.

Some of the highlights in Key Stage 2 included a science morning for Year 3, delivered by students from Smithdon, and a walking tour of King's Lynn, as part of their Norfolk Tales Topic. Year 4 have travelled to Pompeii, written kennings about volcanoes and hosted a fabulous French Café for parents, in conjunction with Year 3. Year 5 had a road trip to the USA and discovered the wild west and the pioneers who crossed the western frontier. Year 6 had a 'thrilling' half term studying Phillip Pullman's text *Clockwork*. In science the children dissected a pig's heart as part of their science investigation into the circulatory system.

The summer term is looking very busy, with Year 6 studying hard for their up-and-coming SATs tests. We would all like to wish them the best of luck. It's a time for school trips, enjoying our extensive grounds in the sunshine and moving into summer sports such as cricket and athletics. With lots to look forward to in the coming weeks, we are sure the children will embrace the opportunities open to them at school. □

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Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb



In the last edition of Village Voice there was an error made with the grid reference for the walk on Wednesday May 28th. It should have read TF757285 rather than 727285. Hopefully you should receive the latest Village Voice in time to see this.

The longest days of the year are covered with our latest walks and though we have had a hotter than usual spring the trees and bushes should not look too tired yet for us not to enjoy on our excursions.

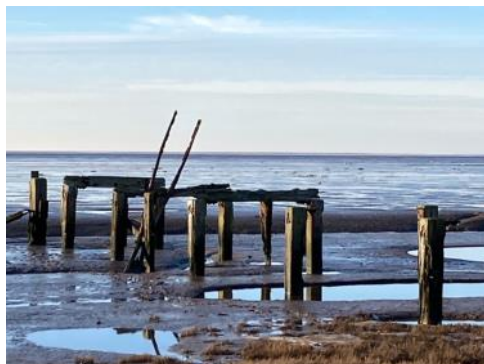
I have been co-ordinating these walks for six years and I think now is the time to hang up my boots and hand over to someone new, whoever that may be. I will still be walking and leading some walks, so get in touch with me to become the new organiser. It has been a pleasure to do this job as I hope my successor will find as well.

Wednesday June 11th

Down and around the RSPB bird reserve at Snettisham is one of our more popular walks with plenty to see and the tide may even be in. Approx 4.5 miles. Start point Dersingham Station, TF 681308. Leader Brett Thomas 07801 095510.

Wednesday June 25th

A walk along Heacham Beach towards Snettisham, returning along the bank that lies inland. About 4.5 miles. Meet at Brays Pit duck pond, Heacham, TF 673373. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 543638.



Wednesday July 9th

One of Brian's legendary walks through the woods. A sort of 4-mile mystery tour, even to him, starting at the Heath Road car park in Dersingham, TF 686298. Leader Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

Wednesday July 23rd

Footpaths, lanes and farm tracks make up this circuit starting from East Rudham village green. Start point near The Crown pub on the village green, TF 827281. About 4.5 miles. Leader Stephen Martyn 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, starting at 2:00pm from April to October. Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers plus some folk from further afield and to explore the local area. There is no cost involved, just turn up. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do their best to look after you.

PLEASE NOTE THAT the leaders are happy to organize and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. If you want more information about any particular walk, then please contact the leader.

Group coordinator: **Tony Bubb**. Tel: 01485 542638. Email: frostytrees@btinternet.com.



This gorgeous annual floral event seems even better this year. A master pruner has been at work at the junction of Post Office Road and Chapel Road. It will all be over by the time you receive this, but keep a look out next year!! ☐

Singalong at the Village Centre Jo Jones

On Friday 25th April a group of us enjoyed another Singalong with Steve Davis and other musicians at the Village Centre (now in 'The Garden Room'). These are taking place on the last Friday of the month from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm with 30th May and 27th June at least still to go. You can scan this QR code to be able to view the updated songbook from which we can all choose songs to sing. Tea or coffee and biscuits at half time!!



Anyone is welcome whether you sing and or play an acoustic musical instrument or simply want to come along to listen and be a part. For further information contact Steve at steve.dersingham@gmail.com or 07885 721158 (call, text or WhatsApp). Also visit his website: dersingers.uk from where you can also view and download the songbook. ☐



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Mother's Significant Birthday

What an achievement becoming a centenarian.
Is it genetic, careful living, or being utilitarian?
There was a gathering of family and friends from near and far,
They came by foot, by plane, by minibus, by car.

Varying blues of sea and sky, a joy for the picture taker,
Bright sunlit days, family, friends, food on the island of Jamaica.
No need for the coat, cardigan, boot or glove,
Warm sands, refreshing sea...what's not to love!



The exciting party day dawned warm, bright and clear,
Tho' perversely on the horizon of the gathering clouds we were aware.
Plans had been made for an early afternoon start,
The request was to wear a touch of red or gold, colours bright and smart.

The house was festooned with balloons and decorations of gold and red,
Sounds of greetings, laughter and chatter from the arriving guests invited.
In the garden were tented areas set out with table and chairs,
On the far side was the bar, with soft drinks, booze and beers.

Reggae music began to throb with its loud and insistent rhythms
Carried widely to the garden, on the spaced out speaker systems.
This lady had a birthday which made her an Aquarian,
All eyes eagerly waiting now to see the centenarian.

She emerged looking lovely, dressed in cream and red,
From her red shoes and cream corsage to the upswept hair on her head.
Tho' her sight is lost, it was amazing how well she was aware
Of how many steps, where to hold and where to find her chair.
A ripple of appreciation went up from the crowd;
We sang Happy Birthday to her, and it was mightily loud.

The local pastor stood up and blessed the occasion,
He said a prayer and read a tribute which brought a standing ovation.
The microphone was handed to her and she in good voice sang a hymn,
There were mobile phones and a camera or two recording this on film.

With much pleasure I read to her our birthday card we wrote and made;
Following that, the card from the Palace and its greeting was relayed.
Many cards from family and friends, and another special from the twins at nursery,
Fabrics and items pasted on for great grandma to feel...it was sensory.

Soon the need for cooling drinks, drew many to the bar,
A waft of wind brought spicy smells, meant dinnertime wasn't far.
A selection was made for Mother and taken to her on a tray,
The assembled line now drooling at the delicious food on display.

Later to the table was brought the decorated Birthday Rum Cake;
With great grandson Shaun, the first cut she did make.
Steve, 'Rock-da-Box' DJ, selecting tunes played her a favourite one,
She stood up and danced ever so sprightly with her son.

The food, the drink, the chatter, the laughter and the heat,
A tropical experience, the throbbing music and dancing was upbeat.
She sat replete and listened with a happy looking face,
Thanked God for allowing her this very special day to embrace.

With a laugh she said she was happy to be blessed and not cursed
For the celebrations today were so enjoyable that 'HER GLAD BAG BURST'!!!

Lorna MMXXV



We will be pleased to welcome you to our June meeting on Monday 16th at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton at 2.00 pm when beekeeping and the life cycle of bees will be explained by Judith Evans MBE.

Our July meeting will be on Monday 21st at the same venue. We have yet to receive confirmation of our speaker but look forward to seeing you at either or both meetings.

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

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Dersingham Evening W.I.

Katrina Mundy, President, Dersingham Evening W.I.



We started our April activities with a visit to The Ffolkes Arms at Hillington for brunch. It was a lovely way to start the day, the choice of food was great, and it was all beautifully cooked. Many thanks to Diann for organising this.

Our April meeting was our 63rd birthday party and 28 members came along to celebrate. We started the evening with members singing Jerusalem and we were all in fine voice. Sharon (President) then presented our member Shirley Brooks with a special birthday posy as it was also her 90th Birthday on the same day and we all sang Happy Birthday to her



We had a hog roast supplied by Kings Butchers of King's Lynn, which was delicious, and was followed by cheesecake for dessert. During the meal a toast was proposed to our W.I. with all members raising a glass of Prosecco. Sharon had also supplied each table with a quiz on chocolates and sweets. This kept the ladies very busy thinking of the answers, especially as some of them are not even sold now. A few samples of the questions were: 1) A far away planet. 2) Talk quietly. 3) Belly dancer. 4) Disjointed cat. 5) Soft children. Answers at end of this piece.



Our competition for the evening was an Easter bonnet which our President judged blind, and the winner won a bar of chocolate (I shared it with my husband.) We later had the eight bonnets modelled by their owners for a photo call. It was a lovely birthday party with everyone enjoying themselves.

In April the Book Club read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. This is set in WWII and is a story about a blind French girl and

her father who flee Paris when the Germans invade to live with her uncle in Saint Malo, and about a young German boy who joins the Wehrmacht. War, the search for a lost jewel and how these two people meet and interact during wartime make quite an interesting book.

Their May book was *A Spot of Bother* by Mark Haddon. This is the second adult book from Mark Haddon. His first was *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. *A Spot of Bother* again examines mental health issues from the perspective of the patient, George Hall who is a 57-year-old hypochondriac and his effect on his family.

The Craft group have made various cards out of different media and Babs always makes sure that we come away with lovely cards to send out to family and friends. The Crochet group is still going strong with members having already finished a mixture of items from a multi-coloured scarf and a round cushion cover to a granny square throw. The next hard task to master for some of us is a pattern which at first just looks like a foreign language, but we (I) will persevere.

On April 23rd nine of our members attended the Group meeting at South Wootton Hall which was a fashion show by Allez Chic of Castle Rising. This was a most enjoyable evening with some lovely clothes on show, plus a chance to grab a bargain.

By the time you read this we will have had our May's meeting which is our Resolution meeting, and we will have discussed the pros and cons of "Bystanders can be Lifesavers". There are over 30,000 out of hospital cardiac arrests a year in the UK and less than one in ten people survive. Women have a lower chance of surviving than men. Early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillating can more than double the chances of survival. National Federation call on W.I. members to work together to increase public confidence and training in the delivery of CPR and to work with local organisations to help to improve access to defibrillators in their communities to give every person the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest. We did have Carl from NARS come and talk to us some years ago and he also came back to show us what to do if we came across someone in this position.

We will also be having a talk from Norma Howell on Medical Detection Dogs. The dogs are trained to detect the odour of human disease with the aim of developing faster, more efficient and less invasive diagnostics that lead to better patient outcomes. They also train Medical Alert Assistance Dogs to detect minute changes in an individual's personal odour triggered by their disease and alert them to an impending medical event, helping them manage complex, life-threatening medical conditions and improving their quality of life.

June's speaker is Ralph Jackman who is talking about "How to Become a Roman Empress" which explores the traits, behaviours and characteristics required to rule the Ancient World as an Empress. Ralph is an award-winning author of historical fiction. For July's speaker we are having a talk from the King's Lynn Town guides on "The Darker Side of Lynn". More about these talks in the next edition.

ANSWERS to the quiz questions: 1) Mars. 2) Whisper. 3) Turkish Delight. 4) KitKat. 5) Jelly babies.

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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Here is our beautifully restored village sign, looking vibrant in the spring sunshine!!!!

What's on in Wolferton

Wolferton Social Club

Hot on the heels of one of the most successful spring coffee mornings, raising funds for the King's Lynn Happy Memories Group and Wolferton Church funds on 29th March, the Easter craft fair held on April 12th was a great success. A total of £812.14 was raised in aid of Churchill Park Academy for disabled children and will go towards providing sensory toys. A big thank you to the organisers, stall holders, people who helped and to everyone who attended both events.

Looking ahead to June and July we've got:

Cash Bingo

Sunday 1st June: doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Sunday 13th July: doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Prize Bingo

Tuesday 17th June: doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Tuesday 15th July: doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

St Peter's Church

We had a four-legged visitor on Palm Sunday! Lulu the donkey led us through the lych gate, along the path and into the church for our morning service.

Upcoming services:

Sunday 8th June: Family service starting at 9.15am

Sunday 22nd June: Holy Communion starting at 5pm

Sunday 13th July: Service of Mattins starting at 9.15am

Sunday 27th July: Holy Communion starting at 5pm

After each of the 9.15am morning services we provide tea and coffee and refreshments at the back of the church. All welcome.

We plan to have a cake stall at Sandringham church during the month of August. Please look out for further details on the Sandringham Group website. Any donations of cakes or produce would be welcomed.

Improving Wolferton's "Public Realm"

Public realm is government-speak for the built environment around us. English Heritage defines it as relating to all parts of the built environment where the public has free access. The Parish Council has recently completed three projects to improve the public realm in Wolferton, and it was Rectory Road – the road with the least vehicle traffic – which has particularly benefited.

The traditional village sign on the green by Station Road and Rectory Road was completely refurbished in March. Sandringham Estate undertook the work, and the splendid new sign was carved and painted in their workshops. Not only was the sign replaced but the finger posts have been cleaned and painted and the seating around the base re-treated, all in all giving it a number of years of future life.



Before that, a new bench seat, made and donated by the village-based Iron & Brass Bed Company was installed at the corner of Rectory Road and Church Road. This specific point arguably has the best view across the village to The Wash and the seat is very special as the plaque on it reads “In memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022” and “A fellow resident of Wolferton”.



Friday 4th April brought a temporary road closure as a new bus shelter was delivered and fixed in place in Rectory Road. This is where the morning bus picks up the Springwood High School students. For years – decades – the bus has started from the junction of Station



Road and Rectory Road, without any shelter, leading to a congregation of cars gathering at the corner as children wait in them for the bus to arrive.

That will be a thing of the past, and parents need not take them to the stop and wait there now that a proper shelter facility is being provided. The Parish Council hopes to be able to add a secure cycle rack at the stop so that the parental car never need leave home!

These upgrades have been funded mainly by Sandringham Estate and the Iron & Brass Bed Company with contributions from Norfolk County Council and from some local residents.□

Sandringham Parish Council

IMPORTANT – the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council which was due to be held on 6th May was postponed and will now take place on Monday 2nd June 2025 at 7pm at Wolferton Social Club. All members of the public are welcome to attend



Before



After

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Do you have a “Side Hustle”? How is it taxed?

Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

One of the consequences of the changing economy is that openings have for some years been appearing for “side hustles” – a way of earning some extra money outside the normal environment of employment. There is an enormous range of opportunities ranging from selling one’s old and unused possessions on eBay to full time online trading where goods are bought in bulk and sold on to create a profit, and it is sometimes hard for a “hustler” or someone with a “side gig” to know when HMRC need to be involved.

One of the consequences of the IT revolution is that HMRC now have access to hundreds of databases including those of online trading platforms so in some cases they will know more about the “side gig” (and particularly about the gross income) than you think – for example the online trading platforms will be providing HMRC with details of all those accounts selling more than 30 items a year.

In February HMRC issued some quite detailed guidance, identifying five key areas of interest:

- Buying or making things to sell
- A “side gig” – e.g. driving or delivering outside your main job
- Self-employment with multiple jobs
- A “content creator or influencer” making money for social posts or vlogs.
- Renting out property.

All these categories are likely to have a tax consequence. As a general rule, any activity carried out “with a view to profit” is subject to tax. There is a limited relief where turnover from a trade or self-employment is below £1,000, but it is important to note that this threshold relates to gross takings, not profit, and the £1,000 applies to total income, not each source. Similarly, there is an allowance for gross rental income of £1,000 (which relates to total rents from all sources, not per property) and a rather more generous £7,500 “Rent-a-room” relief where part of your main residence is shared. Beyond these limits the income is taxable, and it is necessary to register the self-employment. Failure to do so can lead to interest, penalties and even worse, the stress of dealing with an HMRC enquiry.

On 12 March 2025 HMRC announced that the limit over which a “side hustle” needed to be declared in a formal tax return would increase to £3,000 “by the end of this parliament”, but it is unclear whether this means that the exemption will be increased or whether there will be a “simplified return” for such additional income only.

We are currently seeing an increasing number of clients with “second incomes”, some of which have reached a size where they become full time work. It is vital that you keep proper records from the outset. If you are just casually selling unwanted belongings from time to time it’s unlikely you’ll need to pay any tax on it, but buying and selling to make money is a different matter and needs to be taken seriously – it is always better to tell HMRC than to wait for them to come knocking.

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

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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Claire Ling, Breast of Friends - raising money for the Breast Care unit and Chemo room at the QEH.
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Denise Carter, Experience the Existential - unusual Spiritual artifacts.
Denise Cowell, Demz Gemz - handmade fashion jewellery.
Ellen Clayton, By The Beach – handmade jewellery containing Norfolk sand.
Emily Bunton, Tied with a Ribbon – girly pamper gifts
Fiona Hillier, Hillier Flowers – selection of plants and fresh flowers.
Fran Blaydes, Hazel's Gift Shack - doorstops and homeware items.
Kim Kasprzak, IAMKDK – author of adult and children's books.
Lynn Hailfax , Lavender Lace - raising money for charity.
Laura Knowles, Laura Loves 2 Felt - unique range of handmade felt animals.
Louise Davis, Hung up on You – handmade fabric items, hangers, swinging bins...
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Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

SADDLE	CLOG	CORVETTE	MOCCASIN
CHAIN	SLINGBACK	HAND	PEDAL
BROGUE	ARK	DORY	SHOULDER
CARRIER	PUMP	KETCH	BALL

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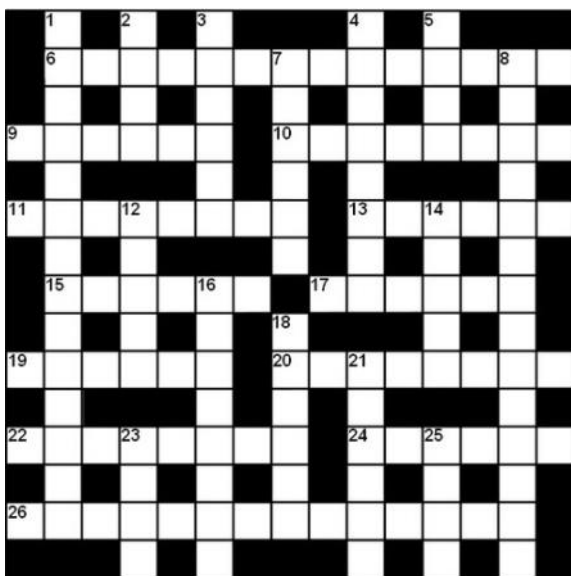
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Across

- 6 Quotation marks spoiled varied commas (8, 6)
 9 Men tug frantically for seasoning (6)
 10 Make previously effective as careless Kate reverses cab with daughter (8)
 11 Stylist tailor resigned (8)
 13 Jo rioted recklessly (6)
 15 Brawl over torn scarf encompasses a disturbance (6)
 17 Grins at small distance (6)
 19 Exercising your discretion – but not pig in a poke (6)
 20 Permission required to make approximate runs here (8)
 22 Rice Alec cooked to create vegetable (8)
 24 Fruit is hidden in drops (6)
 26 Busy National Trust cleaner brings out shine in flimsy light (7,7)

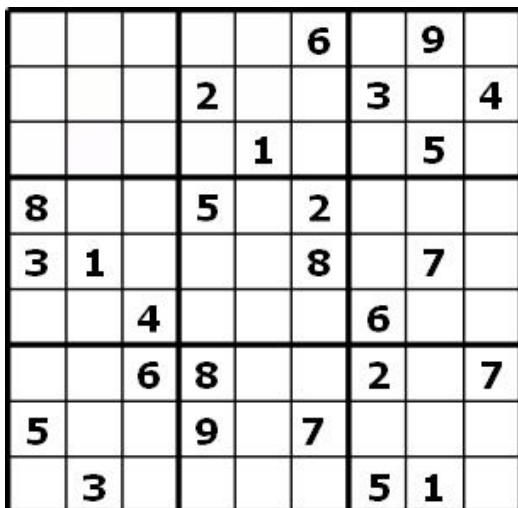


Answers Page 64

Down

- 1 Converted huge fee for pics into metaphor for instance (6,2,6)
 2 The French leave amount somehow to give life to egg cell (4)
 3 Juan surrounded paper komodo (6)
 4 I came round and caught the first lady busy preparing dessert (3,5)
 5 Amongst morning papers delivered by confused girl (4)
 7 English doctor acquires old boat to climb aboard (6)
 8 Prepare for conflict – Waterloo for example (6,8)
 12 Middle Eastern terrorists join TV talk show (5)
 14 U.S. soldier up north uses small room in cold house (5)
 16 Engineer rang site most annoyed (8)
 18 Order clean cycle and scratch (6)
 21 Cunningly entrap father for instance (6)
 23 Trouble brewing when alien used sodium to arrive in planet naked (4)
 25 Seen but not escaped frost (4)

Sudoku



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Crossword Answers

Across

6 Inverted commas. **9** Nutmeg. **10** Backdate. **11** Designer. **13** Editor. **15** Fracas.
17 Smiles. **19** Opting. **20** Approval. **22** Celeriac. **24** Raisin. **26** Chinese lantern.

Down

1 Figure of speech. **2** Ovum. **3** Dragon.
4 Ice cream. **5** Amid. **7** Embark.
8 Action stations. **12** Iraqi. **14** Igloo.
16 Angriest. **18** Cancel. **21** Parent.
23 Etna. **25** Iced.

Word Wall Answers

... **Bags:** Carrier ..., Hand ..., Saddle ..., Shoulder ...

Bicycle items: Chain, Pump, Pedal, Bell

Footwear: Brogue, Clog, Moccasin, Slingback

Boats: Corvette, Ark, Dory, Ketch

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

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

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Editor: Jo Halpin Jones Assistant Editor: Rob Smyth

Layout & Administration: Geraldine Scanlon

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