

Number 155

August/September 2025

Village Voice

**THE DERSINGHAM
MAGAZINE**



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Editor's Notes Jo Halpin Jones



Our thanks to Chris Holt who offered us the striking photo of Hunstanton cliffs in the evening sunshine. He is a member of the Hunstanton and District Camera Club who meet for part of the year in Dersingham. You can see more of the work by some of the talented photographers of the club on pages 44 and 45.

Many of the contributors have remarked on the unusual June heat we've been having. I can't resist also adding my comments. It seems it may be lasting for a while yet and may be a sign of the weather in years to come. I would still prefer this heat to endless days of drizzle and grey skies which we have had in some summers. It's certainly influencing the plants I put in my garden – capable of withstanding summer drought and freezing winter temperatures.

I am still engaged in my long-term battle with the local muntjacs, whole families of them. I have tried various barriers and have put down bars of soap, which I read could deter them. They took a few sniffs then totally ignored them and leapt high over my carefully constructed barricade. My latest effort consists of netting on a frame, lodged between the oddly parked car and the house. It's a little cumbersome and needs refining, but at last some success - the trail camera shows several individuals, at different times in the night, coming up and sniffing all around the blockage for several minutes. They then retreat down the drive in great frustration. Victory, until they find yet another way to squeeze in here and eat my favourite flowers and demolish my roses.



We hope you will enjoy this latest edition of *Village Voice* which very much relies on you sharing with us what's going on in the village, but also sending us any other items that you think might interest our readers. That might be short stories you have written, or about your life, a favourite recipe, any puzzles we could add to our current ones, old photographs of the village, etc.

In this issue you will find details of the September Flower Festival at St Nicholas (pp 54/55); a delightful story from Brian Anderson about *Jed and Mary* (p 13); an update on the Sports Pavilion project (p 19); you can see how the Bowls Club scares off pesky creatures (p 23); read that the Singalong at the Village Centre has been extended until the end of the year (p 24); and catch up on the latest developments on and around Dersingham Bog from Natural England and the Dersingham United Charity (pp 46/47).

Have a good summer and we shall be back again to cover October and November – goodness me, that sounds very autumnal, time goes so fast.□

POST OFFICE RELOCATION

Residents of Dersingham and the surrounding area will be delighted to hear that Post Office services will be relocated to Dersingham News, 25 Hunstanton Road, Dersingham, PE31 6NA from Friday 26th September 2025 at 1:00pm.□

1st Dersingham Scouts vs 1st Dersingham Guides – It's Competition Time!

May was time for the Annual Scout vs Guide Competition. This year the Scouts were choosing the events and they chose camp skills. The competition would have three parts: pitching and packing away a tent, lighting a fire and keeping it alight for a set amount of time and cooking a two-course meal (without knowing the ingredients in advance). They also had to wash and tidy away before the meal could be taste tested by the leaders.



Every year, the evening is always great fun with lots of friendly rivalry between the teams, especially if there is a family containing Scouts and Guides! Anyone who came past the Scout and Guide HQ would have seen lots of Scouts and Guides having a great time.

All the young people did really well and although the Guides won the cooking section, the Scouts were victorious overall.

The score now stands at 3 : 3 and next year the Guides are choosing the challenges.□



Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd



I hope you have all been enjoying the warm and dry weather we have had recently. Last month a big issue in the village was the growth of weeds in the gutters of many roads around Dersingham and many were in a shocking state. The treating of weeds in the gutters is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council and they spray weedkiller twice in the summer months. They have advised us that last year, because the summer was very wet, the treatment was ineffective. The Parish Council agreed to raise with them the issue of the appearance of the village and the need for rapid action. However, whilst we were gathering a portfolio of photos the spraying was done and you will have noticed that the weeds are now all brown. The removal of them is where the Borough Council become involved as they are responsible for sweeping the gutters. This is done mechanically and such sweeping is unlikely to remove the larger and more persistent weeds. As the weed spraying and road sweeping is the responsibility of two different councils, the work does not seem to be coordinated, e.g. the recent road sweeping in Dersingham took place in the village just before the spraying. The saga continues and we will be taking this matter further with both parties.

You will probably be aware that the Post Office services will be returning to Dersingham on Friday September 26th (1:00 pm to be precise.) If you haven't heard, you will find the new post office services at Dersingham News, Hunstanton Road, between Tropics and the Spar. The opening hours will be between 8.00am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 8.00am and 1.00pm on Saturdays. It will be a welcome return for us all and I wish them all good wishes and success for the future.

Other news on the Parish Council front - we have renewed our contract with K and M Lighting for another three years. They will be continuing to provide us with a maintenance contract for our streetlights. If you see a streetlight not working and you would like to check to see if it is a Parish or County Council light, please check our website at www.dersingham-pc.gov.uk and look under services. Please report any Parish Council broken lights to our office by email at contactus@dersingham-pc.gov.uk.

The Parish Council has agreed to prepare a neighbourhood plan for the village and has appointed a consultant to help us bring it to fruition. A neighbourhood plan is part of the planning process and will help us to decide the future of the village, rather than having it imposed by the Borough Council. The plan will set out preferred sites for new development, and include policies to help preserve the character of the village and to protect and enhance its environment. It will have policies to influence development, such as the design and mix of houses. Other issues such as recreational facilities and the needs of the business community can also be included. Once adopted, a neighbourhood plan becomes part of the Borough Council's local plan. It does mean that the village will have a greater influence over planning decisions and will mean that 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money will be allocated to the Parish Council for infrastructure projects.

We now look forward to commemorating VJ day on Friday 15th August and we are keeping it simple with a service at the War Memorial and lighting of our beacon in the evening. Do please keep a watch on the notice boards around the village and Parish Council website nearer to the date for times. □



News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

Association Matters

We said farewell to three long standing trustees at the AGM in May, but welcomed two new people onto the Management Committee. However, we still have a couple of vacancies. If you would like to be involved in running the Centre or helping with activities, please do give us a call on 09743 499786.

We are currently reviewing our fees and charges; any changes will take effect in October.

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 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

Our August film is *Mr Burton*, a biopic on the life of the actor, Richard Burton. September's screening will be *Bridget Jones*, *Mad About the Boy*.

Please note the August film will be shown on the 19th due to the Centre's summer closure.

Events

The Village Yard Sale took place on July 20th. Tables were available in the Centre and the Pop-Up Café served light refreshments.

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

Summer Closure

The Centre will close for a week for maintenance works after sessions on Sunday 24th August and re-open on Monday 1st September.

For more information about the Centre, what's on, contact details, visit our website - www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk. We also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group.□

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Hunstanton Music Festival

The new brochure for the summer programme for the Hunstanton & District Festival of Arts is now available in shops and Tourist Information Centres throughout the area. Featured are all the Craft Fairs held throughout the summer at Hunstanton Town Hall starting with Saturday July 26th. Here you will find handmade gifts, creams and potions to delight the senses.

The main event this year is the free **Hunstanton Music Festival** of live bands held down on the lower green seafront on August 2nd and 3rd. The Hunstanton Music Festival has become a major event for the town and is in its seventh year. Organised by the HDFA, it is a free event attracting 2000 music lovers for the two-day festival. This year it will be held on the weekend of August 2nd and 3rd, starting at midday and closing at 7pm.

Bands from all over East Anglia come to perform and have said, "This is a major festival where we can highlight our music." Headliners this year are 2nd Sunset on Saturday and Vic Burns and the Flirtettes on Sunday. The Festival also supports new talents, and opening each day will be school bands from King's Lynn and Hunstanton. This Festival will appeal to all tastes with a mix of music from rock, country, pop and punk. It first started in the back room of a local pub and has grown over the years due to public demand. There is a full stage and PA system so everyone can hear the incredible talents on stage. Sadly, this could be the last one as new sponsors are needed as the HDFA's funding has now been withdrawn, despite the popularity of this Festival. So, bring seating and a picnic as it may be your last chance.

Ian Wells, Music Director, says, "I hope that it can continue and look forward to hearing from any business or individuals who are interested in supporting this wonderful event." You can contact Ian via the HDFA website www.festival3bythesea.org. □

Hunstanton
u3a

We do not hold a meeting in August, however we will be pleased to welcome you to our September meeting on Monday 15th at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton at 2.00 pm, when Kate Craven will be talking about the RNLI - a very important part of the Hunstanton community. Did you know that 50% of the people who get into difficulty off our coast had not intended to get wet?!!

For further information please see our website hunstantonu3a.org



Dersingham C of E Primary and Nursery School

The final half term of the school year started with some lovely sunshine and the Eco-Council attending the Sealife Centre as wildlife ambassadors. They enjoyed travelling by public transport and carrying out activities to help understand how to care for marine life and protect local habitats.

The Sports Council have been busy participating in online meetings with Mrs Tracy Bower from the West Norfolk School Sports Partnership, helping to organise a KS1 sports festival, along with other Sports Councils in the local area.

In the sports department, the school fielded a strong mixed cricket team, who performed splendidly at Snettisham Cricket Club. The Tri-Golf team enjoyed a fun festival at Heacham School, providing a Year 2 and Year 3 team, who showed super skills as they progressed through the afternoon. The popular Off Road Cycle Race held at Glebe School, saw children from Year 2 to Year 6 competing on a very gruelling course, with a smattering of medals and large dose of will power and perseverance!



Year 2: Tri-golf



Year 3: Tri-golf



School cricket

The annual Sports Day took place on one of the hottest days of the year so far, but didn't thwart the enthusiasm of our young sports people! The children enjoyed a round robin of fun games in the morning, superbly run by our Year 6 sport ambassadors, followed by a picnic lunch with parents on the field. The track events took place in the afternoon with sprints, a toddler race, beanbag on bats, egg and spoon and skipping races. All carried out with great sportsmanship, with the youngest to the oldest cheering one another on, in true Dersingham style.



Reception: planting

The Reception children looked at all things living and growing last half term, planting seeds and caring for African snails. They enjoyed watching them move and feed. The topic was rounded off at Church Farm, along with Year 4, where the children enjoyed engaging with different animals.

Year 1 launched their 'Turrets and Tiaras' topic with a fabulous trip to Sandringham House, where they learnt about monarchs past and present and enjoyed looking round the gardens and house. Both Year 1 and Reception

visited the Methodist Church to open this year's Flower Festival, where they performed songs, retold stories and led prayers, before enjoying a drink and biscuit with parents, friends and some of the congregation. Year 1 are embarking on a gardening extravaganza as the year draws to a close and are hoping to work on the newly erected flower beds at the front of the school grounds. They are learning about healthy eating and using DT to chop and prepare fruit and vegetables to make a smoothie.



Year 2 enjoyed their Springwatch topic last half term, finding out about animals' offspring, habitats, and the rewilding at Ken Hill, where the children had a lovely day out bug-hunting and exploring the woods. For the final half term, the class are learning about seaside holidays now and in the past, different sea creatures and hope to visit Hunstanton



This half term, Year 4 have been learning about the rainforest and how to identify and classify different species. The children have been exploring the amazing Amazon River and comparing it with the Nile, including looking at settlements and how the rivers support life and communities in those areas. They took part in a brilliant trip to Church Park farm, along with Reception, where the children had the opportunity to meet some of our native animal species and look at some areas of ancient woodland and local farmland.

Year 3 are currently learning about the 'Rampaging Romans', designing traditional shields, creating mosaic helmets and finding out how the empire became so strong. The children have also been learning about the various modern-day ways of life that the Romans introduced to the lands they conquered.

Over the last few months, Year 5 have been learning to play the violin with a specialist music teacher. This culminated in an amazing workshop and concert at Sedgeford Village Hall as part of the Norfolk Primary School Orchestra project, part funded by the



North West Norfolk branch of The Arts Society who co-ordinated the event. Children were able to learn and perform alongside students from The Purcell School of Music in Hertfordshire, as well as children from other local schools. The performance was stunning and the children absolutely loved taking part in the entire experience.

In May, Year 6 completed their SATs. They all equipped themselves well for these exams and displayed maturity and resilience over the course of the exam week. For this final half-term the topic is, 'Islamic Enlightenment.' The unit of study will look at the Golden Age of Islam and the history of the Middle East. Additionally, this is the half-term where Year 6 start their production. The children will be performing *Star Warts*, a tongue-in-cheek play where the Evil Umpire faces off against Luke Warmwater. Will Luke master 'the sauce,' and save the galaxy?

With the up-and-coming Area Sports at Smithdon, the Bishop blessing the library, the school's annual summer fair, the Year 6 leavers' assembly and transition days, the summer term is far from over! There will be much excitement as the holidays beckon, as well as some fond farewells to staff retiring and moving on to new challenges. As another school year closes, it's a time to reflect on the huge progress the children have made and look forward to further challenges in the months and years ahead.

(Ed: For about the last thirteen years Sue Picton has been compiling these school reports, but she is now taking a well-earned retirement. We thank her for all her efforts keeping us in touch with all the amazing activities that now go on in schools – much more interesting than in my day!!)□

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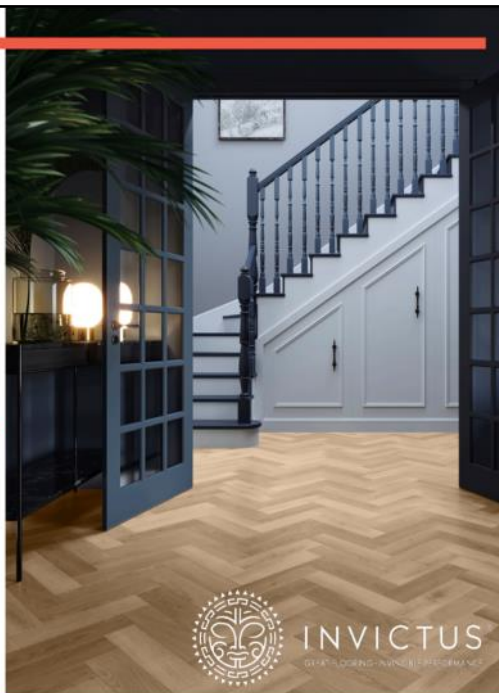
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Jed and Mary

Brian Anderson



Jed felt a light touch on his shoulder and struggled to wake up. His father said, "Time to get up, boy. 'Tis nearly light and we've got a fair bit to do. Your Mam's got the breakfast ready."

"What are we doing?"

"You should remember well enough - we've got to muck out the byres now the cows are out, and stables too, now the horses have gone."

"Gone? Gone where?" Jed was suddenly alarmed.

"Don't take on so! They've just gone to Jacob's field while we muck out. The beasts are on pasture now the grass is good enough. Now just get up and

get breakfast - your Mam's got your vittles ready."

Jed got up and splashed some water from the jug into the bowl on the washstand, gave his face and neck a light rub and pulled on his trousers and shirt, then went through to the kitchen. His mother had put out bread and cheese and a thick slice of fried gammon, nearly the last of last year's pig. He sat down and ate slowly.

"Aren't there any eggs?"

"You had eggs yesterday and the hens haven't laid this morning - now drink your tea."

He finished his tea, picked up the bottle of cold tea his mother had left and went outside. His father, old Tom and Ned were there with shovels and rakes.

"You and Ned tackle the stables and Tom and me'll do the byres," his father said and picked up a rake. Jed picked a rake and Ned a shovel and they set to in the stable, raking and shovelling the dung out into the yard. It smelt slightly of ammonia but Jed didn't think it too bad - it was, in a way, sweeter than the cow dung. The work was hard and Jed soon started sweating. He didn't mind the work - it made him feel useful. He'd been working with his father over a year now. It would have been longer but his parents both insisted that he get some learning at the dame school in the village. He'd quite liked that as he was clever and learned to read and write and learned his numbers. Old Miss Perkins was a good teacher and quite kind and sometimes spoke to the class about geography and wild plants and animals. Any misbehaviour would be dealt with with a sharp rap over the knuckles with her heavy ebony ruler. But his schooling days were behind him now.

The morning wore on and the rather flat piles of dung grew larger. It was left in the yard to drain a bit through the cobbles before being carted off. Jed knew this would reduce the weight - his father didn't believe in overworking horses and the dung heaps were over half a mile away.

Halfway through the morning his father called a halt and they settled down for a drink of cold tea. His mother came out with hunks of bread and dripping and they sat and munched. It was a beautiful day, sunny with a light breeze and not too hot. After the break, they carried on until the stables and byres were clear. Then they gave them a sweep out and laid fresh straw in the stables. The byres would be left until the beasts came in the autumn.

"Dinner," said his father and they all walked to the well to wash. After the fourth bucketful his father said, "'bout time we had a pump. I'll have a word with Mr Pritchard next week. He shouldn't mind as it'll improve the property." Mr Pritchard was the landlord. Jed's

father was a tenant farmer and thought quite highly of Mr Pritchard - much better than some landowners he had heard of. Jed's mother was ladling stew onto large plates - beef with carrots, swede, potatoes and onions. They ate with little said - they were all hungry and Jed was anyway a little distracted, thinking about Mary again and when he would see her. After the stew, his mother served suet dumplings with jam and when that vanished his father said, "Best be getting on, we've got the hedging to do on Prior's field."

"I thought I might be able to see Mary," Jed said.

"I was wondering where you head had got to," said his father. "You'll be able to see your Mary soon enough, but we've got to do the hedge. You know it needs doing - the sheep got out this last back end and I don't want it happening again. We should be done by three o'clock and then you can see Mary."

Prior's Field was roughly rectangular. Jed's father said that the field was enclosed before Queen Vicky's time. Jed could see the area needing work - a section of hedge was gappy with broken quickset branches and overgrown trees. Tom and Ned were already there, along with Jacob from Hankey's farm. They'd already brought up the whips and stakes and Jed could see the gleaming steel of the billhooks and the great mass of the wooden mallet.

Jed's father told him to work with Jacob. They went over to the hedge and Jacob chose a tall hawthorn and turned and asked, "You done this before, boy?"

"Not much. Looked on a bit and helped with holding the trees and piling the brash."

"Right, we'll get you started. Grab that tree and cut like this." He cut down at an angle, stripping the bark, then made another deeper cut. "You do it like that," he said, then made another cut in the same place, this time cutting into the sap wood. He continued cutting until the trunk was nearly cut through, just leaving a layer of sap wood. Then he picked up a length of hazel pole that had been cut and split to a vee at the end, pushed it into ground and together they laid the tree gently into it.

"Now your turn," said Jacob, and Jed tentatively used the billhook and cut into the next tree. "Harder than that," said Jacob. Eventually he had the knack and the tree was laid on top of the first one.

"Time for stakes," said Jacob. The stakes had already been sharpened at one end and Jacob used the mallet to hammer them in along the line of cut trees. They carried on until they reached where the others were finishing the dead hedging. Then they went along with the hooks trimming off any bits that were poking out.

"Know what we call these laid trees?" asked Jacob.

"Pleaches" - of course he knew that.

"Get some of them whips," said his father. The whips (thin hazel wands cut from coppice) were twisted together and then woven in and out of the stakes above the line of pleached trees. "Not a bad bit of 'eathering," said his father, looking at the twisted hazel. They took the cut brash and used it to fill any remaining gaps, weaving it in. This should make the hedge stock proof until the pleaches and boles sprouted.

"Right, we'll call it a day," said his father. "Tom and Ned go back and see what your gardens need. Jacob, tell Mr Hankey I'm grateful for letting you come." He slipped him a coin. "Jed and me will go find Mary. Jed might need a bit of a chaperone make sure nothing untoward happens." Jed blushed - he knew his father was teasing. They walked slowly down the hill. Jed was eager to see Mary but still didn't hurry. He knew he loved Mary. Her beautiful chestnut hair, her aura of calm, her steady gaze with those big brown eyes.

They passed the barn and there was Mary. He'd brought her a present. He said, "Hullo Mary" and she turned and looked at him. He went up to her and offered the present. She took the carrot in her front teeth and gave a gentle snort. He stroked her nose and fondled her ears. She was the most beautiful horse in the world.□



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Sandringham Parish Council

Ben Colson

The Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 2nd June at Wolferton Social Club. Two members of the public were present, one representing the Sandringham Estate, and a third arrived towards the end of the meeting. County Councillor Stuart Dark was also in attendance.

The Parish Councillors were reconfirmed as:

Cllr Tony Bubb

Cllr Ben Colson

Cllr Robert Frost

Cllr Stephen Thompson

Although remaining a Councillor, Cllr Thompson indicated his intention to step down from chairing the meetings, and proposed Cllr Colson to replace him; this was approved unanimously.

In his annual report, the outgoing Chairman referred to the number of projects in Wolferton which had been completed this year, but also noted that the shelter in West Newton is increasingly in need of repair. He also raised the constant issue of the difficulty for pedestrians and cyclists seeking to cross the A149. Cllr Bubb raised the state of the ancient monument, Butlers Cross. County Cllr Dark agreed to take both matters again to the West Highways Manager of Norfolk County Council.

The ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held on the same evening. The same Councillors and members of the public were present.

It was noted with thanks to those concerned that three projects in Wolferton had been completed. The addition of a simple bike rack at the new bus shelter is under consideration.

The Borough Councillor, Tony Bubb, advised that Andy Bullen had been voted as Mayor of the Borough Council for the year 2025-26, and also that litter clearance had recently been completed along the A149.

County Councillor Stuart Dark, who had just completed his year as Chairman of the County Council, said that he had devoted his year to highlighting the critical role that volunteers play in keeping our communities alive and in good fettle, and he included all the Parish Councils in that, as Councillors volunteer their time too. He noted that the government had withdrawn £5.4m of grant aid to the County this year, yet despite this they had managed to keep all the libraries and refuse tips open.

Every ten years each county level authority is required to update its policy on mining and quarrying. There is a growing need for silica sand because of the increase in house building, but the County had proposed, and the government inspector has accepted, a ten-year plan which takes none from the coastal strip in this area.

He updated the Council on the upcoming reorganisation of local government in the County. It is clear that the government intends to make sweeping changes, the first for over fifty years, and this includes Norfolk and Suffolk sharing a new strategic Mayor, voted directly by the electorate. The election for this position is expected to be next year. In addition, it is doing away with the "two tier" system of County and Borough (District) Councils and replacing with one "unitary" level of local government. At this stage it is

unclear how many new unitary councils there will be in Norfolk – the case has been made to government for just one, covering the entire county, or two, or even three. There is a trade-off between reducing costs and reducing democratic accountability – the smaller the number of councils and both reduce. It is expected that the Government will announce its decision by the year end.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is at 7pm on Tuesday 5th August. At the time of writing the venue is still to be confirmed.□

What's on in Wolferton

Wolferton Social Club

The Social Club is open on Friday and Saturday evenings from 8pm to 11pm and Sunday lunchtime from 12noon to 2pm. In addition:

Cash Bingo

Sunday 3rd August. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Sunday 14th September. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Prize Bingo

Tuesday 19th August. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30 pm

Tuesday 16th September. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30 pm

Tuesday 23rd September. A prize bingo in aid of the Happy Memories group for people living with dementia and their carers. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

St Peter's Church

We were blessed with glorious sunshine on Saturday 10th May for our Grand Plant Sale held on the village green in Wolferton. Thank you to everyone who helped organise and support this very well-attended event. Over £2000.00 was raised and shared to support both our parish churches - St Peter's (Wolferton) and St Peter and St Paul's Church (West Newton).

On Saturday 9th August we will be having a cake stall and providing refreshments at Sandringham Church to raise funds for St Peter's Church, Wolferton. Any donations of cakes or produce would be welcomed.

Please contact Judy Scott 07885 821120 if you are able to help. Thank you.

Upcoming services:

Sunday 27th July: Holy Communion starting at 5pm

After our 9.15am service we provide refreshments at the back of the church. All welcome.

Please check the Sandringham Group of Churches website for service details for August and September □

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Introducing The Friends of St Nicholas Church

Janice and Ron Cossou

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We are fortunate to have inherited this beautiful historic building which has been an integral part of village life over the centuries. Imagine how many weddings and funerals it has hosted, how many alms distributed, and consoling prayers offered up to help generations of villagers make the best of their lives. It has been the backdrop to village life for over 600 years. However, like many of us, as we get on in years we find ourselves relying on good friends to help us get by. We all need friends occasionally and your village church is no exception.

The Friends of St Nicholas Church is a registered charity, set up in 1994 by a group of likeminded residents of Dersingham; their intention was to raise funds for the maintenance and improvement of the church building, including the church grounds, completely independently of its Christian ministry.

During the past 30 years The Friends have raised over £139,742 and have made many contributions, large and small. These range from pew cushions in 1997 at £150 to a new heating system in 2010 at £42,000 and most recently £21,695 for new toilets in 2024. These and other items are all intended to make the church a more pleasant welcoming space for all to enjoy and to ensure its longevity for the generations to come.

If you are interested in helping us maintain this beautiful, historic building please contact us by emailing Pat who is the Chair at p.connell74@icloud.com. Or come and meet us in person at our Annual General Meeting to be held in the church at 3.30pm on 5th August, all welcome without obligation.□



News from Dersingham Sports Ground Association

David Collingham, Chairman DSGA

Much has been happening of late in our vital quest to renovate the old sports pavilion at the Pastures. Our new Association was set up eighteen months ago with the brief to plan and deliver a new, fit for purpose pavilion for use by the growing sports clubs in Dersingham and beyond. For example, next season Dersingham will be fielding up to 14 football teams - comprised of senior, junior and ladies' teams. In addition, several cricket teams, and social and league tennis teams regularly use the ground. We cannot over-emphasize the need for modern changing and social facilities to meet these needs.

So.... I can now report we are on the point of tendering our plans to selected contractors in the hope of selecting a partner to renovate and enlarge the current pavilion.

Key achievements over the past months:

- Detailed building plans' specifications have been drawn up for contractor tendering
- Planning approval has been obtained, subject to certain environmental conditions
- The sports ground leases have all been agreed between Sandringham Estate, Dersingham Parish Council and the Sports Ground Association
- The Football Foundation has shown a very positive willingness to make a grant for which we are finalizing the extensive information required for a successful bid. Meanwhile, application has been made to a number of grant bodies. Local community fundraising has started via our website
- Public consultation has been completed, and the many positive comments have endorsed our vision
- The sports field has had a new car park installed, and usage by the sports clubs has increased this past season.
- Dersingham Sports Ground hosted a major youth football competition in May, when 34 teams from around the country competed over that weekend, supported by Searle's Leisure Resort.

Dersingham Sports Ground Association needs additional community funding to add to charitable grants in order to achieve our vision and welcome players, families and supporters to what is one of West Norfolk's best and largest outdoor sporting facilities.

For more information, including how to donate, please see

www.dersinghamsportsground.org.uk. □



VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on
Tuesday August 19th at 7:30pm

MR BURTON (12)

Starring: Toby Jones, Harry Lawtey, Lesley Manville



The story of the wild school boy Rich Jenkins, son of a boozy miner and an English teacher who recognised his talent, Philip Burton.

Entry £6 Under 16s £3

Entry includes tea/coffee/squash
Fruit Juice, Wine, Beer & Cider
available from the Bar



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



VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on
Tuesday September 30th at 7:30pm

BRIDGET JONES, MAD ABOUT THE BOY (15)

Starring: Renee Zellweger, Hugh Grant, Colin Firth,
Emma Thompson, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Leo Woodall

After jumping back into
the dating pool,
single mother Bridget Jones
finds herself caught
between a younger man
and her son's science teacher.



Entry £6 Under 16s £3

Entry includes tea/coffee/squash
Fruit Juice, Wine, Beer & Cider
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Please bring in small bundles tied with string, carrier bags or boxes.

Donations are left in the covered Porch of our HQ (bottom of The Feather's car park, Manor Road)

THANK YOU

The money raised goes towards the our HQ and all donations are gratefully received

STRIMMER WARNING

Every year many hedgehogs are seriously injured or killed by cutting machines in the garden.

Please check grass and hedges thoroughly before using mowers, strimmers, or hedge cutters.

A hedgehog's natural defence is to roll in a ball rather than run away, but their spines are no match for a strimmer.



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Tel: 01584 890801 info@britishhedgehogs.org.uk

www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk

Surviving the Railway: Memories of Far East Prisoners of War Exhibition Until 21st September 2025 at King's Lynn Town Hall

With the 80th anniversary of VJ Day falling on 15th August this year, find out about this oft-overlooked part of Second World War history that left an indelible mark locally. The ill-fated 18th Infantry Division was a territorial formation of East Anglian battalions including the 4th, 5th and 6th Royal Norfolks, along with Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Regiment battalions. Being Territorial battalions, they contained a high number of Norfolk men.

The display features an archival film exploring the grim realities of internment together with objects and accounts held by the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum.



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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron



Summer has well and truly arrived, with temperatures soaring. As bowlers, we are used to having games cancelled due to heavy rain, but it's a rare occurrence to have to do so because of heat. But this is exactly what happened on Saturday June 21st, when the first leg of the Men v Ladies Challenge had to be postponed when the mercury rose to over 30°C. This match was re-arranged for Saturday July 12th, with the second leg moved to Saturday August 9th. Hopefully the weather will co-operate this time! The following Sunday (July 20th) saw us playing the return leg of our annual friendly match against Cliff Parade Bowls Club in Hunstanton. This will be swiftly followed by the Eddie Roye Pairs competition on August Bank Holiday Monday.

Our Countryside League Captain, Terry Thompson, reports that, "having got off to a slow start by losing the first two matches we have managed to get back to winning ways. Although we are out of the KO Shield (over two legs) we lost by only one point to Searles. We have successfully passed the first hurdle in the Eddie Hipkin cup by beating Searles at our home ground, but now soon have to face last year's champions, Ingoldisthorpe. Regarding league positions, my information only takes us up to 14th June when we were sharing top spot with Snettisham.

I would like to thank the newer members of our club for supporting Dersingham and hope they are enjoying their matches too."

We are making slow progress in the Albert Victor League. Our team includes several new, inexperienced members and they are settling in nicely. Our team captain Iain Brown is rotating the available players in order to give everyone the opportunity to play. We have progressed to the quarter final of the Subsidiary Cup, which will be played away to Sandringham B team. I will update you on the results in the next issue.

We have had some very favourable comments about our green from some of our visitors, which is very encouraging as it's quite a challenge maintaining the green in these hot conditions, but thanks to a lot of watering and hard work, the green, although looking a bit dry, is holding up well. This is all down to our green keeping team, all volunteers, led by Allen Toppin. Well done to you all. Dare I say that we desperately need rain. We have had an addition to the team in the form of our bird scarer. He takes the form of a very lifelike model hawk, which we leave on the green when not in use. The pigeons and crows are very wary and are leaving the green alone instead of damaging the grass. The rabbits are also not so much of a problem at the moment, and as previously reported we are on constant mole alert.

On a sad note, many of our members, along with members of the Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club, and the Scout movement attended the funeral of our dear friend and fellow bowler, Mike Picton, on the 24th. Our thoughts and condolences are with Rita on the loss of her dear husband. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

That just about sums up all our news, so until the next issue.....□





Village Singalongs Steve Davis

Our Last-Friday-Afternoon-of-the-Month Singalongs at the Village Centre (Garden Room) have continued to thrive and we're now booked in to continue them up until the end of the year, the next three being scheduled from 2-4pm on Fridays:

25th July
29th August (see below) and
26th September.

For the August Singalong, we hope to meet outside, so please contact me for details nearer the time.

We have great fun together and anyone is welcome to join us whether you sing, croak or just enjoy listening and being a part. Everyone gets the opportunity to pick a song from our now extensive songbook or something of their own choosing, and if you play an acoustic instrument of some sort you'd be most welcome to bring it along. We break half-way through for tea/coffee and biscuits.

Full details can be found on the website dersingers.uk from where you can also download an up-to-date copy of our songbook to save to your phone, tablet or laptop, although we do maintain some printed out copies in folders that are brought to the Singalongs. More songs are added as time goes on, and we're always open to suggestions for inclusion.

Contact: steve.dersingham@gmail.com or 07885 721158 (call, text or WhatsApp).□



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Phobbies Disabilities Activity Club Celebrates 40 years

Phobbies, the Dersingham club that provides activities for adults with a range of disabilities, celebrated its 40th birthday on Thursday 19th June with a party at Dersingham Sports and Social Club.

Members of Phobbies sang and danced to live music by Jamming Joe, coloured in banners, played a prize raffle, ate party food made by its volunteer members and generally had a good catch up.

Maggie Ponder, chair of the club's organising committee, said, "It's amazing how long Phobbies has been running; the range of activities we do is brilliant, and it is a highlight of the week for many of our members, and we thought that this was really worth celebrating. The way that all our volunteers have come together for this party has been fantastic."



Dersingham Phobbies was set up in 1985, originally as a hobbies club for adults with physical disabilities, following a club established in King's Lynn a few years earlier, which unfortunately no longer operates. Dersingham Phobbies continues to meet each week in the Social Club on Lynn Road and has expanded over the years to include anyone with a disability or suffering social isolation. The club is run entirely by volunteers, and anyone who enjoys assisting the less able or who can help with fund raising or club administration is welcome to come along. No regular commitment is needed. Activities vary from painting, drawing, model making, knitting, rug making and helping each other.

Phobbies meets every Thursday from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm at Dersingham Social Club, Lynn Road. The weekly subscription is £2. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided free but everyone brings a packed lunch. Anyone who is interested in joining can just drop in on a Thursday session or contact Maggie Ponder on 07967 799816.□

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Dersingham Day Club

Angela Allman

Dersingham Day Club celebrated VE Day with a party; on another afternoon we sang and danced along to Steve who came in to entertain; and the Heacham Songsters joined us one morning for a singalong concert. We meet each Wednesday from 10am in Dersingham Village Centre. It's a happy, relaxed and sociable atmosphere for members and is a self-funding charity run entirely by volunteers. There is a nominal charge to members which provides a midday meal, tea, coffee and biscuits.

We play dominoes, board games and there's occasional entertainment.

We've recently welcomed two new volunteers and their help has been very much appreciated. Maybe you have some spare time and might like to volunteer your help too?

If you are over the age of 70 or know someone who is and who might benefit from a day out each week to socialise and enjoy the company of others, then do get in touch with Maggie Langridge on 01485 543264 or Wendy Raby on 01485 544975 for more information. At the time of printing there are a couple of spaces available.

We will be taking a few weeks' break during August but will be back in September.





Snettisham Gardening Club

Addie Thompson

By the time you read this we will have held our annual Village Open Show and have visited Tudor Lodgings at Castle Acre under the National Garden Scheme in July.

We will be having a stall at the Snettisham Village Summer Fayre on the Playing Field on Saturday 9th August 11.00 am - 4.00 pm and are hoping for fine weather.

We will be back in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham for our monthly meeting on Wednesday 27th August when our speaker will be Sally Bale who will tell us about the influence of the famous landscape gardener Capability Brown in Norfolk. The meeting on 24th September will be our members' Autumn Show and Auction.

Our meetings start at 7.30 pm and we always welcome new members. For any further information please call Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.□



Robin Hood and the Dersingham Brownies

Lynne Wheeler

During the May half-term, girls and leaders from the 1st and 2nd Dersingham Brownies descended on Patteson Lodge (Girlguiding Norfolk centre in Coltishall) for their annual Pack holiday. This year the theme was Robin Hood, so all the leaders and Brownie sixers names were linked - they were Maid Marian's Ladies, Sheriff's Soldiers, Woodland Villagers and Robin's Outlaws. During the holiday, the Brownies helped in preparing the meals, keeping the holiday home clean and tidy, making their beds, washing up, playing outside and having lots of fun.



At Patteson Lodge, we are very lucky to have a room we can use as a Craft Room (although we called it Nottingham Castle) and the Brownies enjoyed a wide range of arts and crafts. They made archery target Hama bead magnets, a medieval style money pouch, decorated a wooden sword, designed an illuminated letter, and designed a mask to hide themselves from the sheriff. In the grounds there is a mosaic trail with designs linked to the history of Girlguiding, so after searching and identifying them all, the girls created their own mosaic coaster.



Robin Hood is famous for his archery skills, so we crossed the road to the Hautbois activity centre (Girlguiding Anglia centre) for an afternoon of archery. The girls also enjoyed a pyjama parade, toasting marshmallows, an indoor campfire, sewing badges onto their blankets and playing lots of games.



Girlguiding

Dersingham

Visit www.girlguiding.org.uk
to register your interest or
contact Leader Lynne
Wheeler (01485 544753)



Rainbows 4 – 7 years

1st Dersingham Rainbows



Brownies

1st Dersingham Brownies



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Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy, Secretary

A group of our members enjoyed a most interesting visit early in June to Hunstanton Heritage Centre. This took them on a journey about Hunstanton's past, from the Neolithic/Bronze Age through to the development as a purpose-built Victorian resort and its rapid growth, to the changes due to the increase in tourism from the mid-1800s. The Heritage Centre is situated in the old Barclay's Bank in Hunstanton and is manned by volunteers; admission is free although any donations help towards the continued upkeep. This was followed by lunch at a local eatery.

Our June evening meeting was a talk by Ralph Jackman on "How to Become a Roman Empress". Ralph is a seasoned public speaker and gives a wide range of talks. He has written two books so far in the *Res Gestae* series, which are novels based in Ancient Rome, and he is a Norfolk man.

This was a most entertaining talk about Agrippina the Younger who was the mother of Nero. Ralph took us through the ten stages of her life from her childhood and her influential parents, Germanicus (a Roman General) and her mother Agrippina the Elder. Her father was murdered by Tiberius (Emperor) so her mother challenged Tiberius with the help of her supporters which resulted in him making the family his heirs. Agrippina's family thought the Emperor was not a good man and started scheming how to get rid of him, but he instead exiled her brother and mother to a deserted island where they starved to death.



Ralph Jackman

Agrippina's surviving brother eventually became Emperor Caligula and he gave her and her sisters special status as Goddesses. Of course, we all know about Caligula and how strange he was, so our heroine decides he needs to be done away with, but is found out and exiled. Agrippina is now destitute, but this doesn't deter her and when Claudius, her uncle, becomes Emperor she is back in favour. This leads to her marrying her uncle Claudius (after he changes the law about incest and becomes her third husband) and so she becomes Empress in 49AD. In 54AD when Claudius dies in suspicious circumstances (quite a few influential personages seemed to die in suspicious circumstances – poisoning seemed to be the preferred method!), Agrippina's son Nero becomes Emperor, and she is Empress Mother. Agrippina was certainly a very powerful, influential woman of her time and continued to be until her son Nero decided he had had enough of his bossy mother and murdered her. He had to attempt this twice!!

What a time to live in, but this just made some of us more interested in getting to know more about this formidable lady. (How I wish my history teacher at school had been as enthusiastic as Ralph about his subject.) We may well have Ralph back to speak about "Ten steps to becoming an Emperor."

Lyn Weatherill then gave us her report from The National Federation annual meet in June and said the Resolution for 2025/2026 would be "Bystanders can be Lifesavers". All W.I. groups would now be asked to help deliver CPR and defibrillator training across its membership and check the accessibility of their nearest defibrillators. Members will also be asked to demand a change by working with local partners and charities to reinforce

the need to include gendered training, increase defibrillator competence, and how to look out for the symptoms of a cardiac arrest in women."

By the time you read this we will have had our July evening meeting - a talk given by the King's Lynn Town Guides about the "Darker Side of King's Lynn". We discovered ransoms, massacres, traitors, a missing body and naked bodies! We are hoping to go on one of these walks in the future, but who knew all this history was so near. (Perhaps a few more details in the next issue.)

The book club in June read *The Hunting Party* by Lucy Foley. This is a psychological thriller about a group of nine old college friends that gather to celebrate New Year in a remote Scottish lodge, which means that when a blizzard traps them in, tensions rise and old unspoken secrets and bitter resentments come to the fore, culminating in a shocking murder on New Year's Day. Sounds like my kind of book!

In July they read *The Silence of the Girls* by Pat Barker. This recounts the story of the Iliad from the point of view of Briseis (the childless wife of King Mynes) who was abducted when the Greeks sacked Lyrnessus. She was then given to Achilles and he yields her to Agamemnon. Another interesting read. The book club certainly pick a very broad genre of books.

The craft group made a card with triangles and stamps – this was supposed to be the easy one to start with and then progress to a harder one that involved folding into a fan, but not that day. Babs is so patient with us - we did start the fan one which didn't seem as complicated as we thought. Babs does keep us on our toes with this card making. But they are certainly appreciated when we send them out to friends and family.

The crochet group is still enjoying their efforts and we have moved on to new projects - some of us have mastered the granny square! Just what do we do with them now is the problem.

Most of our groups will take a break in August and restart activities in September. Diann has kindly organised a lunch at Sandringham for us in September.

Pam opened up her house for a coffee morning in June which we all enjoyed, a good chat among friends is always uplifting. In July Alison held a coffee afternoon which we enjoyed in her garden. In August we don't hold a coffee morning as our monthly meeting is our usual afternoon tea meeting which will again be catered by Sally G – so no lunch that day!

We will have also visited the "Stories of Lynn" in King's Lynn Town Hall to visit their "Surviving the Railway War" exhibition. The 80th Anniversary of VJ Day falls this August 15th and the ill-fated 18th Infantry Division was a territorial formation of East Anglian Battalions which included the 4th, 5th and 6th Royal Norfolks and this exhibition features an archival film relating to the grim realities of internment on the Thai-Burma railway. It also includes objects and accounts held by the Royal Norfolk Regiment Museum. This was a most interesting and emotional exhibition.

Eight of our members will have also been to the Home and Garden Show at Ely Cathedral in July. This show featured plants, garden-related goods and furniture. Also, beautiful homewares, soft furnishings, decorations, clothing, body and skin care products, plus artisan food and drink. (I think the plastic may well have taken a battering that day!)

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.□

1st Dersingham Rainbows Summer Trip to Church Farm **Lynne Wheeler**

On a very hot Saturday at the end of June, the 1st Dersingham Rainbows and the 1st Ingoldisthorpe/Snettisham Rainbows set off for a summer trip to the Rare Breeds Centre at Church Farm, Stow Bardolph.

The Rainbows had a great day and got to meet a variety of different animals: goats, sheep, rabbits, chickens, rats, donkeys and lots of pigs! There were piglets that were less than a week old and three-month-old piglets that like to nibble shoelaces! The girls were able to go into the paddocks or enclosures and stroke the animals, and during the tractor ride around the farm there was the chance to feed the pigs. The Rainbows were very excited when they were able to meet the rats and give them a stroke. A highlight is watching the Pig Racing - fresh from their performance at the Norfolk Show! In between meeting the animals, there was lots of hand washing, a picnic lunch, an ice cream, a visit to the shop and a chance to play in the adventure play area.



All the Rainbows and leaders had a lovely day.□



Coffee Morning in aid of Tapping House Hospice at Caley Hall Hotel

Over the past few years, the staff at Caley have raised money for several different charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support, the RNLI and The MS Trust. During 2025 / 2026 we'll be raising money for Tapping House. Our next event will be a coffee morning on Thursday 18th September. Everyone is invited so please join us between 10 am and 12 noon for coffee and cake and a great prize-winning raffle. We'll also be hosting a quiz night on Wednesday 15th October.

Find out more at <https://caleyhallhotel.co.uk/events/>



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MONDAY 4th AUGUST: 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 07899872351.

FRIDAY 29th AUGUST: QUIZ NIGHT. Club opens at 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts at 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.

MONDAY 1st SEPTEMBER: 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 12th SEPTEMBER: FILM NIGHT. Title to be confirmed. 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 26th SEPTEMBER: QUIZ NIGHT. Club opens at 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts at 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.□

Table Tennis

Join us in Dersingham Social Club on most Monday afternoons between 2.00pm and 4.00pm at a cost of £2 per session for a game of table tennis. There is no age or gender discrimination, and although some of the ladies can be very competitive there is a lot of laughter. We mostly play doubles to win and even the gentlemen have been known to exchange information (gossip) between games.

For any further information please contact Sean Fox on 07815 295726 or the Social Club.□

Hunstanton Croquet Club

Zena Penty, Press Officer



The first round of the new internal league (designed to encourage more friendly but competitive play within the club) has been completed with many closely contested games and round two drawn. Playing a game through to completion rather than the 30-minute timed sessions on a club afternoon has been really helpful for players hoping to start to compete in tournaments.

The excellent lawns and club facilities have already hosted a number of internal and external competitions, including the Hunstanton Golf Croquet Championship, which included a large proportion of international standard players. The winner, Mark Avery, therefore qualifies to take part in the national tournament, 'The Ascot Cup'. We wish him good luck.

A huge thank you as always to everyone in the club who regularly set out the lawns, help with refreshments and maintenance tasks, and those who continue to give their time and expertise to help and support new members and longstanding members. □



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The Elastic Band and the Christian Faith

Rev Mark Capron

The humble elastic band may seem an unlikely subject for an article, but it is a symbol of spiritual truth and shares similarities with the Christian faith. Like an elastic band in use, faith is not static, it is meant to be stretched, tested, and challenged, sometimes beyond comfort, but never beyond purpose. Similarly, the Christian life is not one of rigidity but of growth and transformation. Believers are called to stretch in faith—to love beyond convenience, to forgive, and to trust beyond understanding. As James 1:3 reminds us, *The testing of your faith produces perseverance.*

Elastic bands are also designed for a purpose, to hold things together. In many ways, faith functions similarly; it binds a Christian to God and to others. Faith enables strength in weakness and hope in despair. When everything else seems to fall apart, faith, like the elastic band, can hold life together with quiet strength. So next time you pick up an elastic band, perhaps remember, it's not just a humble piece of office stationery, it's a small reminder that Christian faith, like that simple band, is stretched, and in the stretching it finds its true potential and strength in following Jesus Christ.

Churchyard final update

Following my last article, I am pleased to confirm that the faculty application to the Chancellor (High Court Judge) of the Diocese of Norwich for the re-use of the northside of the old churchyard of St Nicholas Church, Dersingham has been granted. To confirm, this is not the existing churchyard behind the tithe barn, but the old one nearest the church, and burials will be around existing memorials. This finally provides for Dersingham residents into the future.

Flower Festival

To be held at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham from Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th September with a theme of books. This will conclude with the much-enjoyed Hymns and Pimms!

Little Nippers Baby and Toddler Group

The group has spaces following a number of children moving up to school. Little Nippers meets on Monday mornings in term time 9:30-11am in St Nicholas Church, Dersingham for playtime, crafts, songs, action Bible stories and snacks. The group is for babies and children up to 3 years old along with parents, grandparents, carers/ nannies. Please contact Maggie for more information or to book a place: 07876 034281.

Alpha

Each year we offer an opportunity to explore the meaning of life and the Christian faith, open to people of no faith, Christian faith and those agnostic (unsure). It is a great way to learn more about who is Jesus. Alpha begins on Thursday 25th September at the Well café, Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall, with complimentary barista drinks and homemade cakes each week. For more information and to register contact Debbie: 07396 743042 or admin@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk.

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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Equus Asinus

24 February 2022, the Russians, they put the boot in;
An attack on Ukraine, was sanctioned by Putin.
Sitting there out of reach in his ivory tower
The Jackass with death and destruction in his power.

Frantic calls and efforts were in vain... was the say so
The West said they couldn't legally help, Ukraine was not in NATO.
This was looked on as a blip that would all soon pass,
The Donkey kept his head down, munching in the sweet grass.

Rifles were handed out to the willing hands of civilians;
They urged some to make petrol bombs and use to stop the villains.
Hysteria and panic grew, people's desperation was causing mayhem,
By train, by road, by foot they fled to countries who would have them.

The EU and various allies furiously worked on sanctions,
Using some recent wars as a tightrope for their actions.
At last they sent equipment, to fight in the air and on the road,
The Ass could now help to carry some of the heavy load.

Three years on and a lot more grief is happening,
Now even some of the Russian people are suffering.
At last government bodies had agreed more help as a rule
When an election changed the White House, and it now had a mule.

We've had world wars and cold wars,
Tongue in cheek, we've even seen Star Wars.
But now we have a conflict of another kind,
World shaking tariff levying, which concentrates the mind.

'Tis said, 'The pen is mightier than the sword',
No mention of the harm emanating from the written word.
Now there's AI, and swarms of drones, nukes in the sky,
A new way of fighting....a new way to die!!

A Jackass idea makes Donkey an Ass to think a Mule could be a
glorious Racehorse!
Makes no Horse sense..!!

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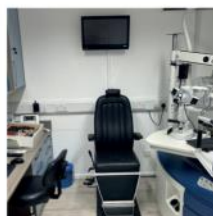
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Question – I need some help to get an older relative's feet looked after. Where can I get such help, and does it have to be paid for?

Answer - If it is a foot condition that limits movement, then your relative may qualify for free chiropodist and podiatry services through the NHS. Many Age UK branches also have trained workers who will provide a basic level of foot care, such as toenail cutting, and can offer general guidance. If such footcare is not freely available in the area in which your relative lives then you will have to pay a podiatrist, also known as a chiropodist, to get the help needed. To find one locally, visit the regulating body, the [Royal College of Podiatry's website](#) for a list of their members.



Question – Being a person with a disability I can purchase some pieces of equipment and other things VAT-free. Can I do this with the online retailer Amazon?

Answer - Amazon can issue VAT refunds on eligible sales to customers who are registered disabled or chronically ill. To apply for your VAT refund, after your order has been completed, you'll need to fill out an eligibility declaration form which can be requested from their Customer Service department or obtained directly from HMRC (HMRC Notice 701/7 VAT reliefs for disabled people). Visit their websites for further details.

Question – I have read that most hospitals have a PALS office, but what exactly do they do?

Answer – PALS stands for Patient Advice and Liaison Service. It is an English NHS Service which provides and offers confidential advice, support and information on health-related matters. It is a point of contact for patients, their relatives and carers. They also are there if a person has any concerns about the service being received in hospital, have a complaint, or would like to give a compliment about service received. Usually the PALS team have an appointment system and appointments can be booked by ringing your local hospital.

Question – I am a Blue Badge holder, do I have to pay toll charges on UK roads, such as if I go through the Dartford Tunnel?

Answer – If you hold a Blue Badge you may be exempt from some toll charges. Visit the website below where you can read where the exemptions are, including details regarding the London Congestion Charge.

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Hunstanton and District Camera Club

Malcolm Hayward

The variety of subjects depicted by the Hunstanton and District Camera Club is constantly becoming broader and more interesting.. You will see from the pictures published here that we have visited a wide range of places around Norfolk and are constantly seeing places we have not previously visited - many more still to come! We would welcome additional members interested in such a wide range of photography.

The opportunity to spend time with other photography enthusiasts is very rewarding and enables building new friendships as well as travelling around Norfolk and discussing photography. Where members meet varies with the season, but more information is available from Malcolm Hayward - mdhultrasonics@gmail.com or call 07979 503049.

PHOTOS:

Egret at Snettisham Pits - Chris Holt

Tulips - Danny Harvey

Ringstead Poppy Fields - Malcom Hayward

Orange Boat - Danny Harvey





PHOTOS Clockwise:

Budding Plant - Danny Harvey
Looking Down the Grave - Dave Rye
Sandringham Gardens - Malcolm
Hayward
Thurne Windpump - Chris Holt



Natural England at Dersingham Bog

Tom Parkes

Hello from the Natural England team here at Dersingham Bog. Hopefully you have been managing to enjoy the hot weather, though from my perspective I think a couple of drops of rain would be nice! Below is an article from a couple of our long-term weekly volunteers, to give you all an insight into what we get up to through the year.

Volunteering at Dersingham Bog by Alex and Arthur

We have been volunteering at “The Bog” for Natural England for over ten years as part of a small team of volunteers. Although we are based at the Smithy in Wolferton, we also work at an ancient woodland near Swanton Novers, Holkham Beach and Scolt Head off Brancaster.

The work at Dersingham Bog during the winter is usually scrub clearance which involves trying to reduce the spread of rhododendron, by cutting then burning the larger bushes or spraying the small regrowths. Small birch and pine saplings are pulled by hand or cut using loppers or a clearing saw. In this way the team has been able to gradually restore the bog and surrounding heathland.

In the summer the return of the ground nesting birds necessitates a change of the work we can do. A frequent visitor is the nightjar; we try to locate their nests by trudging across the heath carrying a rope in a long line. When the nightjars fly away we can then locate their nests, and if we are lucky count the eggs or newly hatched chicks and so monitor their numbers. This is a time consuming and frustrating exercise, especially if no nests are discovered after several hours of dragging a rope across the heath. It was thought that technology would come to our rescue as a drone with thermal imaging capabilities has been trialled. This seemed to be the way forward, but unfortunately the thermal hot spots did not distinguish between nightjars, small animals and recently deposited cow pats from our Galloway cattle - so back to the rope.



During the summer we tend to do maintenance work, for example we recently replaced the handrail on the steps near the Scissors car park.

We particularly enjoy a change of scene by working on Scolt Head Island and Holkham Beach where we erect temporary fencing to protect the nesting sites of sandwich terns, ringed plovers, oystercatchers and especially the little terns. For all our ground nesting bird species it is crucial that they can nest with as little disturbance as possible if they are to breed successfully and so we do what we can to keep people, and especially dogs, at a distance. Please bear this in mind when walking your dog – we put the signs up for a very good reason.

At Swanton Novers, an ancient woodland near Fakenham, much of our work is to help the coppicing in several woodland compartments. Preventing the deer from eating the new growths typically involved erecting electrified fences around each compartment, but we have recently installed Heras fencing in the hope this will require less maintenance. We also keep the rides clear and try to control the spread of holly and *Calamagrostis*, an invasive grass, using tri-blades.

So why do we do it? The work is varied, labour-intensive, physically demanding but immensely enjoyable. I think all the volunteers enjoy working outdoors, whatever the weather, and feel they are doing something useful. None had any expertise before getting involved. We are a great team to work with, the banter is endless and the NE staff, Nathan, Tom, Matt and Gavin are incredibly supportive. There are opportunities for formal training courses so that we can carry out all the work safely. It keeps us fit and it is much cheaper than gym membership! □

The Planned Works on Dersingham Commons and Fen - Fifth Update

Alex Coombs, Clerk to Dersingham United Charities

General Update

Well, we are now over halfway through our ten-year conservation plan and as usual we started the season on the Fen with our contractor removing gorse and scrub and cutting the reeds from our two small mire plots. I remember him clearly working in warm weather with his shirt sleeves up, but a few days later, on 19th October, our volunteers came to bag up the cut material and winch it away and the heavens opened. They were quickly soaked to the skin, handling heavy, sodden reeds with quagmire conditions underfoot. Despite this they did a fantastic job clearing the site which should allow the low growing bog plants to thrive without competition from the tall, overshadowing reeds. Strangely, when we cleared our large mire plot the previous year we had sub-zero temperatures all day – this is clearly a job for only the hardest souls!

Afterwards, a couple of sessions had the cut gorse and scrub burnt allowing us to switch our attention to the Shut-Up Common where we tackled the last of the rhododendron. In clearing the eastern corner of this invasive plant we have rid the Commons of it and will only need to do a little spraying in the summer months to prevent any regrowth. Hopefully this work will encourage the establishment of a better woodland understory, but we are concerned at the impact that grazing animals may have (especially muntjac) so to monitor their influence we will be erecting two 'exclosures' to keep them away from the regrowth. It will be interesting to see what, if any, difference these show up.

In our last two sessions of the season we started to thin the large holly stand by the entrance of the Common. As you are probably aware, holly is a native plant and has a useful role to play in our woodlands, however as it can be invasive we will be reducing its presence by about a third just to keep it under control. All being well this work should be finished next season.

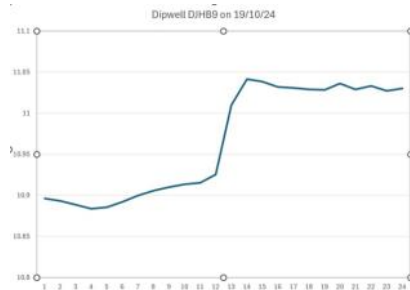
Right at the end of the season our forester returned to thin the woods on the Fen. Unfortunately, due to his work schedules, he decided to split this work into two. He spent a week thinning the leading edge of the woods away from the open heathland and will finish thinning the blocks of woodland in September. Because of this fractured work pattern it wasn't feasible to bring the horses to help him clear the felled logs.

Water levels

Whilst writing I thought I would mention the issue of water levels on the Fen. Actually, the Fen is the northern part of the Dersingham Bog SSSI, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, because it is a rare form of wetland. So, we have been liaising with Natural England, who manage the Bog and are also the government's policing body for the country's SSSIs, on its management.

I mentioned in my article on the Fen (Village Voice issue 139) that two dipwells were to be installed. Well, they were (along with eight corresponding ones on the Bog), and they have been automatically recording the water levels hourly ever since. This data was recently downloaded.





Dipwell 09 readings on 19th October showing jump in water level at lunchtime

Since installation, on 21st October 2022, we have 20,973 readings per dipwell! They show a difference between the highest and lowest water levels (for each dipwell) of 1.356m and 1.147m which, calculated over the 13-hectare site, equates to approximately 174,877m³ and 147,939m³, or tonnes of water. I mentioned 19th October 2024 above - on this particular day the dipwells recorded an increase in the water level of 0.1576m (6.2in) and 0.1478m (5.8in). The nearest rainfall figures I can find are for Heacham where the Met Office recorded 0.30mm/hr (drizzle) until noon, but then 5.1mm/hr (downpour) until 2pm, dropping to 1.8mm/hr then 0.5mm/hr by 3pm. These are very simplistic calculations of mine; the two dipwells are

sited in areas where water may have run and collected from other areas, so they need to be analysed with greater skill than I possess! We also have to bear in mind that the Fen is largely fed by underground aquifers, so rainfall has a relatively minor, short-term impact. Still, there should be some interesting data collected.

In addition to the dipwells, Natural England have kindly provided us with a depth board which you will see on the bridge and will give us an indication of the extent to which water levels may fall in the dry summer months. Our depth board was installed at the same level as two installed on the Bog, again so that correlations can be made across the SSSI as a whole.



I hope you can see that the water levels are carefully monitored. There have been a few instances when someone has removed the outflow board from under the bridge, allowing water to flow away. They presumably thought that the water level needed to be lowered, but it didn't. In fact, the board was installed at an appropriate height to keep the water level at a corresponding level to the Bog. Both the Bog and the Fen need to hold as much water as they can at the end of winter to ensure they remain hydrated through the summer. We have reinserted the outflow board and secured it in position so that this shouldn't happen again.

As a last comment, can we remind everyone to dispose of their rubbish in the bins (there is one in the Heath Road car park) or take it home. This especially applies to dog 'poo bags' which shouldn't be left lying around. Local people, visitors and wildlife should all be able to enjoy these spaces equally.

If you have any queries feel free to contact me: Alex Coombs, Clerk to Dersingham United Charities at ducclerk@gmail.com.

Postscript

Since writing this article, dipwell 09 (which gave us the graph for 19th October) has been vandalized and the sensor stolen. At £581.24 each it is too expensive for us to replace, so unfortunately there will be no further data from this source. The data can only be downloaded with specialist equipment (borrowed from Natural England) so it is of no use to anyone. If you know where it is (a Rugged Troll 100 Water Level Logger), can we have it back please.□



The Whybelonely Social Group will continue to meet at St. Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road, on the first Friday of each month, 2.00pm - 4.00pm, for an afternoon of music, singing, reminisce and prizes. Refreshments will be available. The next one will be on Friday August 1st. Don't miss out, come along and enjoy some good company, everyone is welcome.

Our very popular annual Strawberry Fayre, on Saturday June 14th, was a great success; a very enjoyable afternoon, with money raised going to the Red Cross. Thanks go to all the people involved on the day or behind the scenes, who worked hard to make it such a success.

Bishop Peter Collins visited our church in Hunstanton on June 16th to officiate at a Mass to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for four young boys receiving the special grace of the Holy Spirit. There was a social gathering afterwards with food and refreshments. Please keep the boys in your prayers as they embark on their faith journey.

On Saturday June 21st a group of parishioners undertook a pilgrimage coach trip to Bury St Edmunds as part of the Jubilee Year of Hope. It was a very enjoyable and prayerful experience, despite the heat of the day. We celebrated Mass at the Catholic Church before visiting the Abbey and Cathedral. Our main theme for the day was food poverty, but we prayed for all six of the themes throughout the day. We also took with us the prayers of those who were unable to join us for whatever reason.



The Pope's prayer intention for August 2025 is **For Mutual Coexistence**; we pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons. The Pope's prayer intention for September 2025 is **For our relationship with all creation**; we pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

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

For Parish news, including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the **Parish News** page on our website. For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese

and related matters see the **Links** page of our website. **The Sunday Masses are at 9.00am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11.00am at OLSE Sandringham Road, Hunstanton.** Daily Masses are at 10.00am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays. **Website:** www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.uk **Email:** hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk **The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.** If you require a priest urgently, telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email parishpriest763@gmail.com □

Dersingham Walking Group

This is a big bold blank because no one has stepped up to take on the co-ordination of the walks since Tony Bubbs decided to hand this on to someone else after his many years in the role. IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE?????

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Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone, Church Secretary



Dersingham Methodist Church definitely had a very happy 135th birthday with lots of people sharing in the celebrations with the flower festival and Songs of Praise. The theme 'Biblical Occupations' was well interpreted in flowers and other items.

Our very grateful thanks to everyone who came, particularly the children and teachers of Reception, and Years 1 and 2 of Dersingham School. Their singing, reading and actions were excellent and enjoyed by the parents. The display by Years 1 and 2 about Noah, a builder, was very colourful, with well written stories and a lovely Noah's Ark with lots of animals. Our thanks also to Dersingham Rainbows whose display showed lots of occupations all brightly coloured.

The flower festival was well attended with local people and also visitors to the area. The stalls and refreshments were kept very busy each day. Apart from the thirteen flower arrangements there was an excellent display of the Church history, put together by Elizabeth Fiddick. People enjoyed looking at the information and photos. It was very interesting and how pleased we are to be able to celebrate 135 years of Christian worship in the village.

The total raised after expenses was £2,359.01. We have made a donation of £500 to the Leprosy Mission, hopefully to purchase three community farms. The Songs of Praise service was taken by the Revd Jackie Goddard; the collection raised £158.50 for a new project to provide internet access for the Matjinge School, Zimbabwe. Our grateful thanks for your generosity and support.

Coffee mornings 10:00am – 11:30am

Saturday 26th July: for Methodist World Mission and Mission in Britain.

Saturday 27th September: for Tools with a Mission.□

Snettisham Art Group



2025 SUMMER ART EXHIBITION

with associated crafts will
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Bank Holiday Friday to Monday
22nd to 25th August

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

Dersingham & Choir

Making Music, Making Friends

Keeping you up to date with the choir's activities:-

- We have a new logo that states simply what the choir stands for.
- We recently held an 'Open Garden' to provide funds for the choir, and this will become an annual event.
- Our first coffee morning to raise funds for the choir was very successful and more are planned.
- We have recently achieved charitable status which will aid us with funding requests.
- We hold a fun, free 'theory corner' every week before our rehearsals to help with musical knowledge.
- Our website provides more information, and for members the opportunity to practise songs, either individually or in small groups.
- We sing everything from pop to jazz to show tunes to classical songs.
- Our concerts have been very successful and average 100 audience members.

We are an all-inclusive community choir that is welcoming, fun and providing proven health benefits that singing brings.

So, watch this space for more events and/or come along to our new term rehearsals, starting on **Thursday 4th September**.

We'll be rehearsing for our Christmas Concert in December, which will, as always, include audience participation in singing carols.

From 7pm - 9pm at St Cecilia's Hall, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham PE31 6YE.

First session is free and after that it's £6 each rehearsal.□



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Dersingham Task Force Clare Bee

This spring and early summer have proved to be among the warmest and driest on record, and our plants and gardens have responded accordingly. The roses and lavender are some of the plants which have flourished in the warmth and have possibly produced some of the most beautiful displays in recent years.

At Task Force the two small gardens we care for have also started to blossom. The plants we put in last autumn all seemed to have survived and are beginning to bed in nicely. The lavender in particular is looking spectacular in both gardens and the roses in the Post Office Road garden are still producing pretty dark red blooms.

We are very happy to report that we have recently recruited three new members to our team. Welcome to all of them! This makes our work much easier and enjoyable (it is indeed true that many hands might light work) and inevitably leads to lively and interesting discussions over coffee and cake at Thaxters afterwards.

The photos below show the whole team working on the Post Office Road garden.□



Before



After

**Restoration of damaged
or faded photographs**

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A Flower Festival with a difference! at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham Thursday 11th - Sunday 14th September

The title of this year's festival is:

**Read it! Read it!! Read It!!!
- it's all about books!**

Our dedicated team of flower arrangers will once again be bringing their flair and imagination into the church to create floral displays. This year they will be interpreting their favourite books. We would love you to join in!

We're inviting you to make this a village project by trying your hand at a simple arrangement from the Schedule below. The arrangements will have a section of their own in church. Entry forms can be found at the back of church, or around the village. Make your choice from the Schedule of Classes below, complete an entry form and post it in the Flower Festival Post Box at the back of church. The deadline for completed forms is Sunday August 31st.

Schedule:

Class 1: A "line" arrangement with five flowers

Class 2: An arrangement in a natural or unusual container

Class 3: An arrangement from the seaside

Everyone is welcome to join in - the more the merrier! For more information contact please Yvonne Fuller 07971 896653, Val Coleby 07787 360809 or Anne Hynde 07885 956321.□

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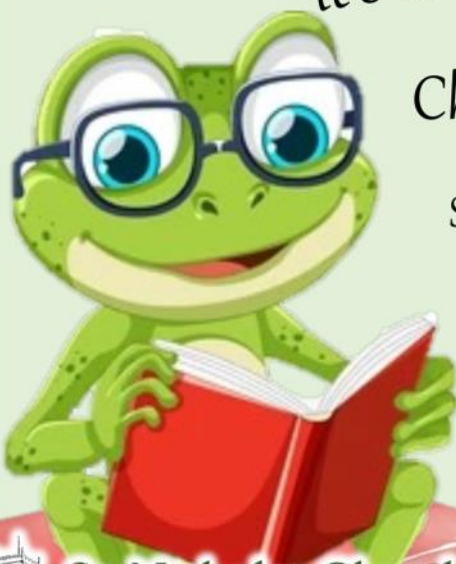
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St Nicholas Church Dersingham
11th-14th September

“Read It! Read It!! Read It!!!”
it's all about books!



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Medical Moments

Valerie Anckorn



So, with a horrifying **nine month waiting list** at the QE hospital to be seen about my thyroid problems, and at the suggestion of my many Facebook friends (!) I decided to go private. I first had to go to the doctor for a letter of recommendation.

I went to the Spire Hospital at Norwich. To get an appointment I phoned the hospital number, which turned out to be a call centre. It took me an hour to make the appointment... They take the money out of your account a few days before the appointment, so there can be no shilly-shallying.

The nice lady on the sat nav took us on a scenic tour of Norfolk where the appalling roads made the car so juddery, my teeth were rattling inside my head. I clung on to every available surface in the car to stay seated. I was buttoning my lip in any event as Remote Control Man loses his temper (he has road rage in the Co-op car park) and already we had wasted about half an hour of our journey time with him unsuccessfully trying to locate our destination on the car sat nav, but in the end he hooked his phone up but without sound. It was a tense journey, with a few moments of bliss when I noticed banks of dog-daisies flourishing by the roadside.

On reaching the Spire, I tottered out of the car and opened the entrance door to a large, lofty space that held no humans. I tentatively walked along silent corridors, passing many doors with notices stuck on them that said, 'staff only'. After many twists and turns, I was faced with two flights of stairs. "Oh God"! I heard myself say. I don't do stairs. But of course, I had to. I hadn't noticed a lift anywhere. Still no people, no reception. I staggered up the stairs, noticeably disturbing my heart, that soon was hammering away like Thor - and blimey, my brain threw out that analogy beautifully, so something's working up the top - and suddenly I was in a waiting room/reception with a load of people standing around looking as bemused as I felt. I immediately realised that all these people were like me - not a lot of money but hadn't got anywhere with their doctor's ten-minute appointments and desperate to get better, and so had gone private. Not a good advert for the NHS.

After a long wait standing in the queue my heart managed to slow down, and I was eventually in front of the receptionist. I gave her my name and the consultant's name, and she handed me a tablet. Not the pill sort of tablet, but a computer thing. She had lots of them she was handing out. I had to tap in my name, date of birth and all the details. I got annoyed because technology is not my thing - and nor, did I think, was it for most of the patients waiting, all old and doddery. In the end, I just said, 'wouldn't it be quicker if we talked, and I told you my details?' and handed her the tablet, which she took and tapped madly away at it. There was no dialogue between us, other than my irritated remarks. It took far longer to use the device than it would have been asking and telling. But I suppose it was a record of events.

I didn't have long to wait. The consultant came to fetch me himself and I failed to keep up with his fast pace. He did turn round to see if I was still there, and I was. I wasn't going to run. I was paying for all this. I noted he wore multi-coloured striped socks and had large feet with pointy toed black shoes. Luckily for me, as well as being well versed in thyroids, he was also a diabetic consultant of some standing. I am a diabetic sufferer of some long standing and have never managed to keep it under control.

About a week ago I had a round plastic thing rivetted into my under-arm, and given a monitor, so that now I can just hover the monitor over the round thing, and voila, my blood sugar shows up on the screen. Abso-flipping-lutely marvellous. Doesn't hurt at all.

I refused to keep whacking needles into my fingers to test my blood sugars as it was so painful. Now I can keep a check on things, which is nothing but a GOOD THING. Hurray and hoorah. But that is by-the-by.

Back to my private consultation. The nice professor glibly and smoothly extracted a piece of paper from his desk, flourished a pen and proceeded to draw a picture of inside the brain, and I am looking at it now, seeing if I can understand it. No, I can't. Apparently, there is a stimulating hormone (TSM), and it is supposed to send messages to the rest of the body and if this gets blocked, you are in trouble. On the sketch he has made for me, there are the words, 'pituitary gland', 'thyroid gland', 'follicles', 'nodules', thyroxine (T4) and (T3). Then 'toxic nodule' and in large caps 'BLOCK'.

He kept asking me if I was following him, and not wishing to appear completely stupid, I nodded vaguely and said, "Kind of".

Anyways, he is going to ask my doctor to prescribe certain medication for me, which takes about six weeks to kick in, then after that, I will be given a toxic blast of radioactive iodine treatment and told not to get in close contact with anyone, my cats or my great grandson. A small percentage of people can die of this, I am informed. Fair enough. If it's my turn, then so be it. Oh, and if the whites of my eyes go yellow, rush immediately to A & E.

I asked if my itching scalp and loose nails were symptoms of thyroid malfunction, and he affirmed. Now, why didn't my NHS doctor put two and two together when I complained about those things? Just said it was fungal, which I didn't believe.

I had half an hour with this nice gentleman and at one stage I nearly burst into tears. It was so good to have someone talking to me, asking questions, *listening*.

In defence of our NHS doctors, I feel it is impossible for them to diagnose a patient in ten minutes. Most of that time is spent reading the patient's notes on the computer. In the old days doctors knew their patients and all their health issues, and things went quickly and smoothly.

On leaving, I asked if there was a lift. I knew there had to be, as all those tottering oldies on frames couldn't possibly have navigated stairs. Ah yes, there it was. I don't like lifts at the best of times, but once inside it I had to choose which button to push. One said, 'push and keep finger on'. Really? I found out that it was, yes, really. I took my finger off and the lift stopped, put it back on and the lift began its descent. I found it scary.

So, now I must wait for the medication, then eventually go and get radiated and see if I survive that and then eventually, hopefully, I will feel like a new woman and my life can push-start once more. Pigs might also begin to fly.

Oh, by the way, I needed three teeth filled. Forced to go private, it cost me £500. My small savings will only go to about four more teeth...

When the National Health system came into being we all thought it was wonderful. It's got out of hand now, hasn't it? So many people to heal – not all of whom actually live in the country – and not enough funding. Not enough doctors, nurses, space, hospital beds and so on. Ranks of ambulances waiting outside the hospital with very poorly people having to wait hours for admittance...

If we had known it would go downhill so badly, we might have taken out medical insurance – but that is often too expensive for most people. My American friend told me that those in the States without medical insurance just die. Simple as that.□

Whybelonely Group
David Potter

The popular Whybelonely sessions are now well and truly up and running and all are most welcome to take part. The group meets every first Friday of the month at St.Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham between 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

You can look forward to an afternoon of music, quizzes and social interaction.

Refreshments will be served.□



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Making Gardening Easier May Davey

Summer is here! Is it hot enough for you? Most of us keep looking desperately at the skies for rain. Perhaps by the time of publishing, this hot, dry spell will be over and people will be longing for sunshine.

On Friday May 16th we went by coach to Cambridge Botanic Gardens. Our driver took us through lots of villages, avoiding the busy A10, so we had a bit of a mystery tour getting to Cambridge. There were 29 of us, including visitors. The gardens were extensive and busy with visitors. The greenhouses were interesting, full of unusual plants from all over the world. We had taken packed lunches and had tea in their canteen. A good day out.



Tea at the Botanic Gardens

On Friday June 20th we had our own Flower Show in Dersingham Village Centre. This was well attended and fun as we “judged” the items by putting a ticket beside the entries we liked. The committee had made cakes, so we had a good tea. Ruth Mountain won Best in Show with her delightful little jug of flowers.



Thunbergia mysorensis



Members judging



Sue Neil presenting Ruth Mountain with

On July 18th we visited the garden of our member Sarah Warner at Bawsey.

The August meeting on Friday 15th will be at Dersingham Village Centre for an illustrated talk by Rob Ashwell, who recently visited Japan and took lots of pictures on his exciting trip there, including those of Japanese gardens.

On September 19th we are going by coach to Gooderstone Water Gardens, which is en route to Swaffham. Members will pay £25.00, which includes entrance fee and tea. Visitors will be very welcome at £30. All other details will be available from Gloria nearer the time.

Meetings are held at Dersingham Village Centre between 2.00 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.** Information about talks and the venues can be obtained from our Secretary, Gloria Pantling, on 01553-671912.□



From your Ward Councillors Tony Bubb and Judy Collingham



Hot weather and cut grass! We have received various comments re grass cutting: some like it strimmed to extinction, some prefer a wilder look.

A reasonable compromise would appear to be a strim along the line of sight (which is what County need) and then a border of wild flowers and natural grasses behind. What is required is a Borough road sweep after the grass cutting has been done. We shall be asking for a bit of coordination.

A word on dogs on the Sports Field - we appreciate that many of you have exercised your dogs on the field for many years but the new Dersingham Sports Ground Association is now directly responsible for the health and well being of anyone using the field. This means that any health impacts which result from negligence on the part of the trustees, e.g. not controlling dog waste on an area where children and indeed adults are playing sport, could result in litigation. Added to which the clubs pay for the privilege of using the ground; subscriptions payments are not always easily affordable.

The clubs are constantly having to do private fundraising to cover extra expense such as new mowers. It would seem a bit unfair, to say the least, that recreational activity is adversely affected for those wishing to play sport by those who do not pay anything. We therefore ask dog owners to keep their pets on a lead.

The Guildhall renovation and the Road to River project (i.e. restoring all the buildings in the complex) is moving ahead. Major decisions as to how much to invest in this amazing addition to our heritage in King's Lynn are to be taken.

Your Ward Councillors are both on the Regeneration Panel and will have a vote as to how to proceed. Any views from our friends and neighbours would be welcome!

In the meantime, we continue to attempt to sort out issues as they are presented to us, so if there is something exercising you, do let us know.□



Taxpayers' misplaced belief is no excuse **Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton**

It is probably reasonably common knowledge that, in the hope of collecting more tax but with less work on their part, HMRC are simultaneously trying to reduce the number of Tax Returns which they need to process, whilst at the same time making more extensive use of external information (from banks, letting agencies, online

sales platforms etc). As a result, a number of taxpayers who have previously submitted annual returns have recently received letters from the Revenue advising them that they no longer need to self-assess. HMRC are, for example, wishing to “match” untaxed interest sources with sufficient accuracy such that they no longer need taxpayer input; and thereafter deal with any tax liabilities arising on such additional income through the PAYE system.

However, a recent case, which appeared before the First Tier Tribunal, reminds us that ultimately the responsibility for declaring income still rests with the taxpayer, notwithstanding correspondence from HMRC which is interpreted to mean something different. In this case the taxpayer was advised between 2015-17 (he could not remember exactly when) that he no longer needed to submit a Return. In 2021 HMRC opened an enquiry on the amount of his rental income and charged penalties for “Failure to Notify”.

On the face of it the taxpayer felt that he had a “reasonable excuse” – but the Tribunal found otherwise, stating that he could not rely on the opening paragraph of the HMRC letter stating that he did not any longer need to complete a Tax Return because he also needed to read to the end, and particularly the phrase “if you need to fill in a Tax Return in future you’ll still be able to use your original online account...” i.e. since he knew that he previously had to make Returns of his rental income, he could not reasonably have believed that he would never need to make a disclosure to HMRC again in this respect.

Whether or not one feels that HMRC are trying to “have their cake and eat it”, this case underlines the point that ultimately a taxpayer is responsible for giving the necessary information to HMRC accurately, and in good time. Even if HMRC have advised that Returns are no longer required it makes sense to have the position checked annually by your tax adviser - at the very least it will remove the risk of falling into the same trap as this taxpayer, but it will also bring certainty – and sometimes even a tax repayment!

If you require any tax advice, whether personal or business, particularly if you fear that you may have overlooked to report a source of untaxed income in similar circumstances to those set out above, please contact either Kate or Nic at Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

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Article written June 2025

N.B.

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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Thursday 7pm - 11:00pm

Friday 4pm—11.30pm

Saturday 12 noon—11.30pm

Sunday 1pm— 9pm

Events for August and September

27th July: 5pm Women's Euros Final on the big screen

We will be showing the Final, have England made it? At the time of this going to print we are still very hopeful!

2nd August: 8pm Northern Style Club Night

A night reminiscent of a typical club night 'up north' Three games of Cash Bingo, Play Your Cards Right and local singer Lee O'Brien.

10th August: 2pm Dog Show sponsored by Dersingham Veterinary Practice (part of the Sunnyside Group).

£2 entry per class. Rosettes for 3 places. Novelty classes including Waggiest Tail, Best Rescue, Best Veteran.

15th August: 8pm Opening Game of the Premier League

Liverpool v Bournemouth on the Big Screen.

16th August: 8:30pm Live Music with Two of a Kind

60s/70s easy rock party band. Playing all the favourites to fill the dance floor.

23rd August: 9pm Live Music with Midnight Jack

We look forward to welcoming back local band Midnight Jack, here to play all of your 90/00 rock favourites.

24th August: 12 midday Pirates and Princesses Themed Family Fun Day

Hog Roast. Female Sea Shanty group Sirens at the Helm 1pm, The Glitter Fairy 1-4pm providing either face gems or glitter plus party accessories like flashing headbands etc. Live music with band Style (evening). Competitions, games and workshops such as make your own pirate hat, walk the plank, fancy dress competition.

30th August: 7:30pm Quiz night

Our monthly quiz hosted by Steve Clynych. £2 entry pp. Cash prize for the winning team.

13th September: 12- 5pm Drag Brunch

Ticketed event. Zoe Promiscuous and Stealia Jobs back in Dersingham to entertain us. Party food and a welcome drink included in the ticket price.

26th September: 7:30pm Quiz Night

Our monthly quiz hosted by Steve Clynych. £2 entry pp. Cash prize for the winning team.

27th September: 8:30pm Double R UK - Ska and Reggae Duo

Roy and Ricky always go down well in the club - a high energy Reggae and Ska Duo playing all your favourite songs. Advance warning - their energy is infectious, you'll be on the dance floor all night, you won't be able to help yourself!

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

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 68

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GERALDINE	KIND	FINE LEG	FEDORA
OPENER	BERET	ETHEL	GULLY
KEEPER	MARY	BUSBY	SUZANNE

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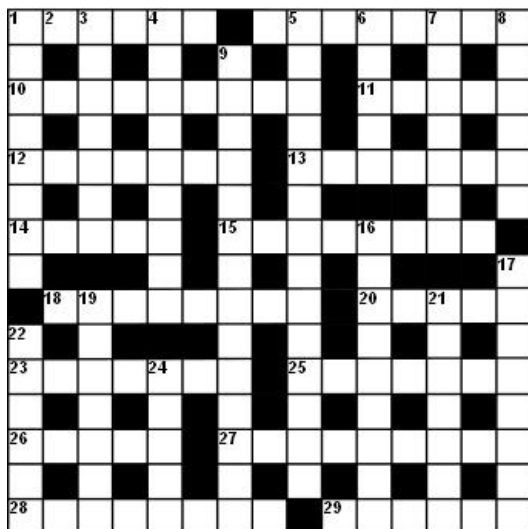
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Across

- 1 Exercise somehow in corner of secondary action (2-4)
- 4 U.A.R. teams training beginners (8)
- 10 Pop singing reformers plot on the first of September (9)
- 11 Province receding by the sea (5)
- 12 Confused mice end up widespread (7)
- 13 Wrong name for one bloomer (7)
- 14 Autumn and French group (5)
- 15 Respectful honour for policeman at hospital department (8)
- 18 Constrictly come broadcasting on Canada (8)
- 20 Could be mother of fruit left behind gemstone (5)
- 23 Game played in clarinet ballad arrangement (7)
- 25 Landlords alphabet (7)
- 26 Colder but more expensive in Puerto Rico (5)
- 27 Does it float on the dinner table or is it about case in disarray? (5,4)
- 28 Musician gets miserable roasting (8)
- 29 Go up – and with Scottish certificate of education (6)

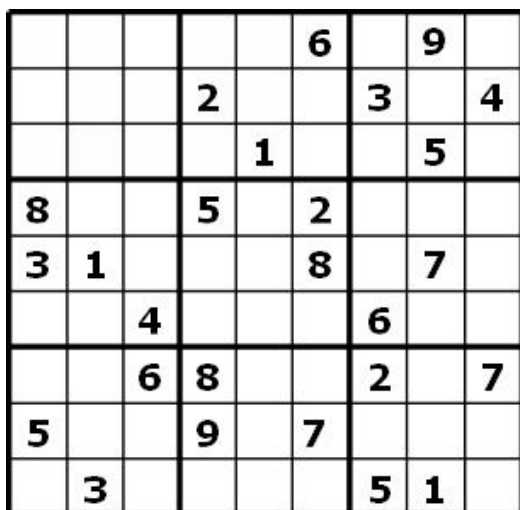


Answers Page 68

Down

- 1 Unattached composer with unusual role (8)
- 2 Place inspection wins round of applause (7)
- 3 Involuntary firearm (9)
- 5 Room where Sam and Paula Rogers feel better (7,7)
- 6 Story about book bench (5)
- 7 Foreign coin kept in urn in "The White Horse" (7)
- 8 Pop singer and actor make appearances (6)
- 9 Doctor says N.H.S. policy needs a top examination (14)
- 16 I'm dabbling in liquid paints for bizzie lizzies (9)
- 17 Led Tesco a merry dance while concealed (8)
- 19 No big deal working in thong (7)
- 21 Top man went round school and became solvent (7)
- 22 I train wild dog in special colour (6)
- 24 but pinny needed when working In spring (5)

Sudoku



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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Byplay. **4** Amateurs. **10** Chartists. **11** Briny. **12** Endemic. **13** Anemone. **14** Octet.
15 Obedient. **18** Anaconda. **20** Pearl.
23 Netball. **25** Letters. **26** Icier. **27** Sauce boat.
28 Organist. **29** Ascend.

Down

1 Bachelor. **2** Plaudit. **3** Automatic.
5 Massage parlour. **6** Table. **7** Unicorn.
8 Styles. **9** Psychoanalysis. **16** Impatiens.
17 Closeted. **19** Nothing. **21** Acetone.
22 Indigo. **24** Apron.

Word Wall Answers

...red: Hat..., Tie..., Kind..., Ethel...

Girls' names: Suzanne, Mary, Sarah,
Geraldine

Headgear: Beret, Bowler, Busby, Fedora

Cricket terms: Opener, Fine leg, Gully,
Keeper

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 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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